

THE PAW PRINT

MARCH

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Liora Krause (Editor)
David Averbah (Editor)
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Back Cover: Sonja Aschenbrenner

Editors-in-Chief

Parth Gupta
David Averbah

Editor's Note — March Edition



The sun has come out, the ice has melted, we have survived this season and can safely get to school to... enjoy the indelible pleasure of the new March edition of our newspaper! This time:

- Among other things, **News** in this edition contains the amazing achievements of BBIS students and current global events.
- **Opinions** contains several responses to articles from the previous edition, as well as opinions not only on international issues, but also on everyday questions that affect each and every one of us.
- In **Paw-litically Speaking**, Parth presents an overview of the issue of migration and deportations, unafraid to face the inconvenient truths.
- **Culture** continues the tradition of diversity: games, films, anime, music – everything you need to enjoy your free time.
- **Features** provides something entertaining, as always, but this time also something... forbidden by Linus Choi.

The twelfth grade is preparing for final exams, while the rest still have just a few months of study ahead of them. We can only hope that the modest efforts of our writers and editors will help you brighten up this time, learn something new for yourself, and even give you something to think about. If you have your own thoughts, ideas, funny stories, unusual observations, or anything else you want to share, feel free to write to pawprint@bbis.de, and you will be heard!

Enjoy the sunny weather, and have fun reading!

— **David Averbah & Parth Gupta**
Editors-in-Chief 🐾

Positive News Around the World

Vivan Gupta & Henri Bertram | Staff Writers

Further in Europe, the Berlinale brings global culture together.

Germany recently hosted the Berlin International Film Festival, also known as the Berlinale. Every year, filmmakers and actors come together to showcase their movies to a large audience.

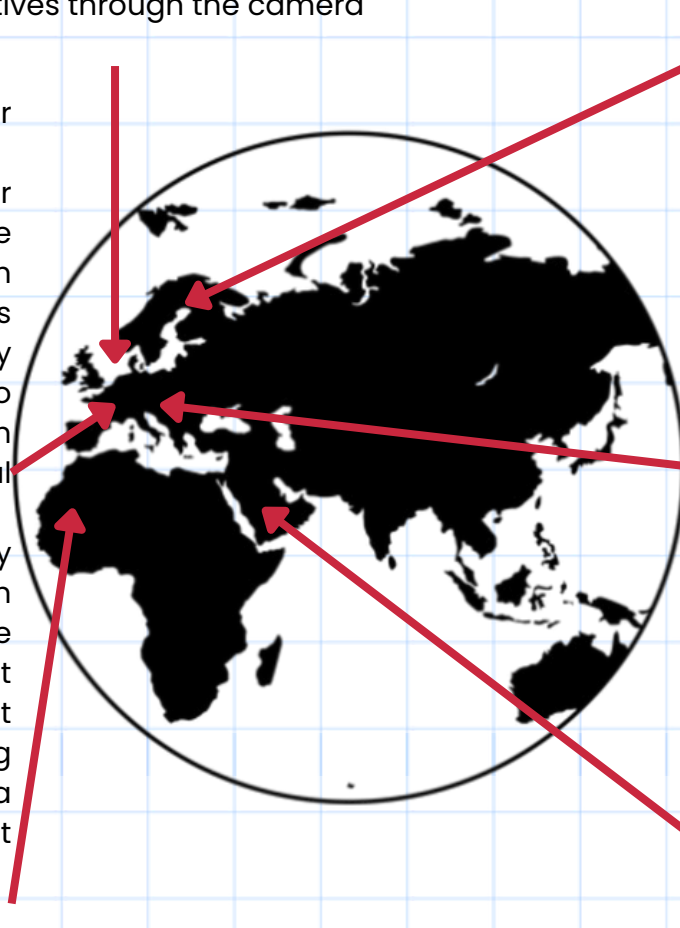
At this festival, there are awards for a wide range of movies from many different countries. Students and movie fans are more likely to learn about cultural diversities and perspectives through the camera

Finland — education innovation

Finland is introducing new school reforms to make its school system adaptable. Starting in August 2026, upper secondary schools will introduce final exams and courses written in English to make students with weaker Swedish and Finnish skills more attractive to international schools.

Poland — major language reform

Poland has seen major developments in the language reform movement. Poland's parliament has recently approved a law to recognise the Silesian language as a regional language, acknowledging the way many people speak in the South-West. The Polish President exercised his veto right on the reform, arguing that Silesian is not a separate language but a dialect.



Switzerland — World Economic Forum

Switzerland has recently hosted the 56th World Economic Forum from the 19th–23rd January 2026. This event brought together over 3,000 leaders from governments, businesses, and civil society. In times of tension, global issues were discussed under the theme 'the spirit of dialogue.' The focus lay on respectful listening and exchanging ideas.

Morocco

Morocco is building the world's biggest green hydrogen program, aiming to produce clean fuel using solar and wind energy. The goal is to become a major exporter of renewable hydrogen to Europe and other markets. Green Hydrogen is made by splitting water using renewable electricity. The mega project is estimated to be worth \$30–32 billion dollars.

Saudi Arabia — major solar expansion

Saudi Arabia is accelerating solar power projects as part of its Vision 2030 goal to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels. Recently, the country's solar capacity tripled, and projects like Sakaka and Sudair have set the pace for more expansion.

Italy

The 2026 Winter Olympics (Feb 6 - Feb 22) are being held in Italy. With the locations being Milan, Cortina d'Ampezzo, Livigno, Bormio, Anterselva/Antholz, Predazzo & Tesero (Val di Fiemme). 92-93 countries are playing, and over 3,500 athletes are competing. The Winter Olympics feature 16 disciplines and 195 medals.



Japan

Japan has begun investing in robotics to support its elderly population, which makes up 30% of its population. Due to a shortage of caregivers, robotics might help address that problem. The main types of robots in Japan include social and companion robots, physical-assistance robots, and monitoring and smart-care robots. A major Japanese project aims to develop humanoid robots that assist with dressing, preparing food, and physical therapy.

China

China has been part of a major global push to find alternatives to fibreglass-made wind turbine blades, which are extremely hard to recycle, and many end up in landfills. Researchers and manufacturers in China developed new recyclable wind turbine blades made of special resins and composite designs that allow the fibers to be separated and reused.

Austria

Scientists in Austria made headlines after discovering unexpectedly advanced intelligence in birds — especially in cockatoos — that showed abilities similar to those of primates. The research was led by the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna. The studies focused on the Goffin's cockatoo, a small white parrot species from Indonesia. The species surprised the researchers by demonstrating complex problem-solving, planning, tool-making, and social learning.

United States

On February 8, the Superbowl LX (60), the annual championship game of the National Football League (NFL) was held in Levi's stadium, Santa Clara, California. The teams competing against each other were the New England Patriots vs the Seattle Seahawks. Kickoff (starting of the game) was at 6:30 pm ET. The halftime performer was Bad Bunny. The winner of the 2026 superbowl was the Seattle Seahawks.



Snow and Ice Grip over U.S. and Canada

Vivan Gupta - Staff Writer



A huge winter storm (Winter Storm Fern) flooded across large parts of North America from the Rocky Mountains to the Midwest, Northeast, and into Canada. The storm brought heavy snow, ice, freezing, and blizzard conditions. The event lasted five gruelling days. The storm was caused when two major weather systems collided. A huge mass of freezing air moved south from the Arctic, and warm, moist air from the south, making the “perfect storm” setup. Millions of people across North America faced travel disruptions, school closures, and power outages. The days before the winter storm hit, it caused crowded stores with people rushing to buy essentials. Panic from people started buying things off store shelves, such as bread, milk, eggs, bottled water, and frozen foods. Supply chains were disrupted, causing deliveries to be delayed and stores not being able to restock fast enough to meet the demand of the people. Stores often had long lines of people waiting to check out, and some locations even reported hours-long waits.

Thousands of flights across North America were cancelled, roads became slippery and dangerous, and many travel commuters were stranded. Trains like AMTRAK and freight trains were cancelled across the Midwest and Northeast of the United States. Some roads were closed due to many accidents involving skidding on the slippery road. Several ports, including the Port of New York and New Jersey, Virginia, and Houston, experienced suspended or limited operations due to icy conditions. Businesses and retailers faced huge economic losses because of dozens of disruptions and no customers during the storm.



Some areas lost electricity during the storm, leaving people with no light nor heating. Because of the long stretch the winter storm lasted, people were stuck in their homes, and emergency services were stretched thin. Several dozen deaths were reported across North America. Many are linked to traffic accidents, hypothermia, and medical emergencies during power outages. The cities hit the hardest by the storm were mainly in the Midwest and Northeast. Chicago faced heavy snow, extreme wind, and dangerous wind chills. New York City had dozens of flight cancellations and transportation closures. Buffalo endured blizzard conditions and lake-effect snow. Toronto had grocery shortages and transportation chaos. Ottawa with extreme snowfall and cold. Montreal is facing outages and icy conditions.

Experts describe the storm as a high-impact, large-scale winter storm. Storms like these are becoming common, scientists say mainly because of three factors: Arctic warming can weaken the polar vortex, which allows cold air to spill south more often and warmer oceans add extra moisture which create heavier snowfall.



Why the Arctic Is Becoming the World's New Military Flashpoint

Vivan Gupta - Staff Writer

In recent years, especially in 2025-2026, the Arctic has come into the sights of many countries. Many experts warn that the Arctic could become a future global conflict zone. Why is the Arctic called "the next geopolitical hotspot"? The Arctic combines huge untapped wealth, strategic military value, new trade routes, and rising global power competition, making it one of the few places in the world to have all of these factors at once. Arctic ice is melting due to climate change, opening new sea routes and land access that were previously unreachable. This transformation is changing the Arctic from a natural barrier into a new global frontier. The Arctic is believed to hold immense natural resources. According to geological estimates, the Arctic holds about 13% of the world's undiscovered oil and 30% of undiscovered natural gas. Countries see this as a massive energy prize.

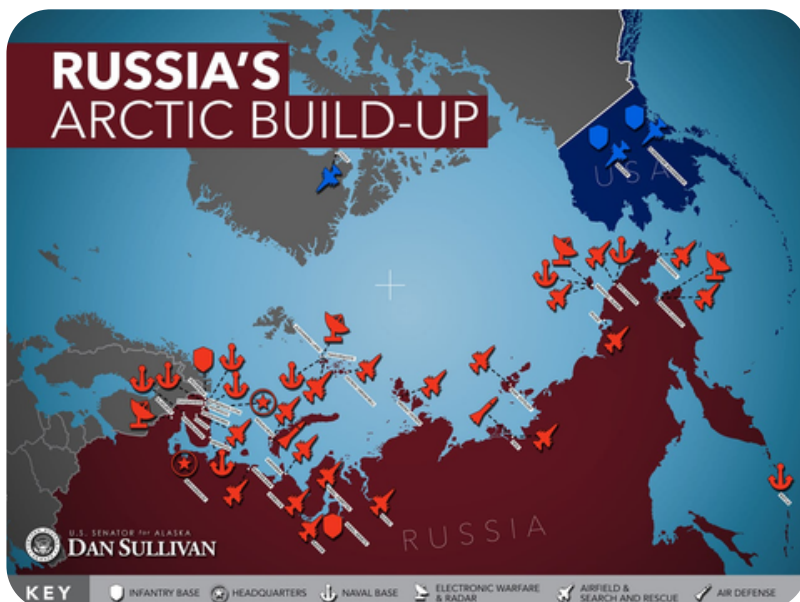


The Arctic also contains many critical minerals needed for modern technology. Rare earth elements, nickel, copper, and cobalt are all needed for batteries, renewable energy systems, and military electronics. This also makes the Arctic crucial for global economic and technological competition. The melting ice opens up sea routes, cutting travel times. Two of the key routes are the Northern Sea Route (runs along Russia) and the Northwest Passage (through Canada). The Northern Sea Route cuts travel between Asia and Europe by up to 40%. The Northwest Passage creates a shorter Atlantic-Pacific route. These routes could reshape global trade and save shipping companies billions of dollars.

Countries are already militarizing the region. Russia controls most of the Arctic's coastlines. Russia has started reopening old Soviet-era bases, building new airfields, deploying advanced weapon systems, and expanding nuclear submarine patrols. Russia already operates the world's largest fleet of icebreakers, 55+, which are key to making paths in the ice for other ships to pass through. Russia even has 8 nuclear-powered icebreakers that can remain for extended periods. The United States is conducting more military exercises, investing heavily in new icebreakers, and strengthening its strategic defense. Currently, the U.S. operates 3 icebreakers, all of which are part of the Coast Guard. The United States has also partnered with Finland and Canada to create and design icebreakers. Finland is highly regarded for its expertise in designing advanced, modern icebreakers. Finland itself has 8 icebreakers and has designed 80% of all icebreakers currently in operation. China, the "near arctic state," is starting to invest in ports and infrastructure near the Arctic, researching shipping routes and seeking resource partnerships. China sees the Arctic as a part of its global trade strategy. NATO countries like Denmark, Norway, and Canada have also increased military patrols and exercises. Denmark has increased its military presence in Greenland and hosted exercises with allied participation. Denmark also deployed F-35 fighter jets to ensure air safety near Greenland. Sweden has deployed JAS 39 fighter jets and ranger units near Greenland as part of the Arctic Sentry mission. Other allies are demonstrating a shared commitment to Arctic defence. 8 countries have territory that borders the Arctic Ocean or lie in the Arctic Circle.



Countries are competing to extend their territorial boundaries under international law. The Arctic is also highly critical from a military perspective. It creates nuclear submarine routes, early missile detection, and global military positioning. The Arctic, unlike Antarctica, has no strong international treaty preventing militarization and is governed mainly by competing national claims, which makes conflict very possible. But is war likely? Most experts say a full-scale war is unlikely to happen anytime soon, but tensions and military rivalry will continue to grow. But future possible risks include resource disputes, naval confrontations, and strategic standoffs. In short, the Arctic may not erupt into war today, but it's a region where geopolitical tensions are likely to intensify in the years ahead.



Economics in Action: New Podcast Episode

Economics Team



Hi everyone, we're the Economics in Action podcast team from the Economics Club. We've split up into two groups of 11th graders (Group 1, hosted by Parth with Vito, Linus, Angelina, and Elvin, and Group 2, hosted by Iaroslav with Stas, Rynat, and Vova). We started this podcast because we genuinely enjoy economics and want to make it more relevant, easier to understand, and more interesting for students at our school.

Our newest episodes examine the German supermarket industry and the high costs of our school cafeteria from an economics point of view. The former discusses oligopolies, when a few large companies control the market. Furthermore, we explore the practical methods by which supermarkets compete, including the implementation of loyalty programs, discounts, branding, product variety, and store expansion.

If you want a quick and clear explanation of a topic that also connects to everyday life, we'd really encourage you to give this episode a listen. The next time you're in a supermarket or having lunch in the school cafeteria, you'll probably start spotting the economics behind it.

BBIS on Track for Another Record Breaking Year

James Schneidratus - News Editor

BBIS is having another outstanding season, and it's already showing signs of another record-breaking year from our school. Currently, BBIS is sitting in first place with roughly 143 points. This is really excellent for us, considering we have earned 20 more points than we did at the same point last year. This improvement is a direct result of the dedication, hard work, and commitment of our amazing athletes.



Several teams delivered exceptional performances this season; however, according to Mr. White, one of the most important factors behind our success this year is not just our athletic ability, but something even more powerful: our Panther spirit. He explained, "While we have high-performing athletes, we have an even better Panthers Spirit this season. Even when we didn't fill spots in, we had athletes who stepped up and ensured we still scored those vital points".

With our strong performances, our dedicated athletes, and our unmatched school spirit, BBIS is not just competing but building towards history once again, so be sure to come support our teams.



Building on last year's school record of 236 points, which secured us second place overall just behind BERIS, our athletics department set a new standard. With 14 competitions still remaining this season, we are now seven points ahead of BERIS and have upcoming teams showing great potential. According to Mr. White, the new teams for the main competitions look strong and competitive, giving us a real chance to surpass that school record once again.



My House, My Rules.

Uncomfortable Truths from the Radical Center

Parth Gupta – Editor-in-Chief



America has always been a nation of immigrants. Not metaphorically — literally. The country was built by people who arrived with nothing and built something. That history is real, and it matters. My own parents arrived as legal immigrants in the early 2000s, worked hard to integrate, and eventually became naturalized citizens, living the ‘American Dream’.

But there is another story, quieter and less celebrated, that matters just as much: the history of laws that made that arrival meaningful.

The immigration debate in 2026 (as with all other political issues) has been reduced to a monochromatic partisan issue. Say you support deportation and you are painted as cruel. Criticize enforcement tactics and you are accused of wanting open borders. The nuance has been strangled out of the

conversation, replaced by political performance on both sides. But this is not theater class. It is a crucial argument — and something that everyone should understand.

Let me best explain by simplifying the issue... Your neighbor's house is smaller than yours. Their heating doesn't work. Their roof leaks. You genuinely feel for them. But one morning you wake up and they are sitting in your kitchen. They did not knock. They did not ask. They simply entered because your home was better.

Do you have a moral obligation to help your neighbor? Many would say yes. But that obligation — however sincere — does not include surrendering your right to decide who enters your home. Your sympathy for their situation does not transfer ownership of your front door to them. Those are two separate things. And conflating them is exactly where this debate goes wrong.

A country is not just a landmass. It is a legal structure, a social contract, a set of rights and responsibilities that citizens have built and maintained over generations. When someone enters without permission, they are not simply crossing a line on a map. They are bypassing an agreement that millions of others have honored — people who waited years, filed paperwork, paid fees, and followed the due process. The moral weight of someone's circumstances, however real, does not automatically override that framework.

And it's not that Latin America is uniformly unsafe in the way Syria was in 2015 or Ukraine in 2022. The primary migration driver here is economic — people pursuing a more prosperous life, which is entirely their right, but not necessarily a physical need. And that right does not come with a barrier-free entry ticket. If it did, no border anywhere on earth could be enforced by anyone, ever, and half of Latin America would be empty by Friday.

Which raises the question: why is the United States treated as though it does?

Germany deports rejected asylum seekers. Canada enforces visa overstays. Australia detains unauthorized maritime arrivals offshore. Japan's immigration acceptance rate is among the lowest in the developed world. None of these policies are described as moral catastrophes. There are no viral campaigns demanding the end of German border enforcement. There is no international movement condemning Ottawa for upholding its visa laws. The outrage is not universal. It is selective, directed at the United States specifically, disproportionately, and often by countries enforcing identical policies more quietly — sometimes more harshly. And this was a pattern observed even before the expansion of ICE last year. This is not a reason to abandon critique of American enforcement. It is simply a call to apply it consistently, or admit the concern was never really about principle. That double standard is worth naming plainly.

What is equally worth naming is what America actually does for the world — because the critics rarely mention it.

Even though the Trump administration has cut the US government's flagship aid programme, USAID, the USA still leads the way in terms of foreign aid. Just a few days prior to me writing this article, a recent Memorandum of Understanding was developed in which the U.S. is committing up to \$900 million over five years to the Democratic Republic of Congo, targeting HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and maternal and child mortality. This is investment in the root causes of migration: poverty, disease, instability. And at home, the H-2A temporary agricultural program already allows American employers to legally bring foreign workers into the country for seasonal jobs when domestic labor is insufficient — with required housing, transportation, and competitive wages built in. The scale of this pathway proves it works: H-2A visas grew from approximately 48,000 in 2012 to over 370,000 in 2023. That trajectory dismantles the claim that legal pathways don't exist or can't be expanded. It also proves that the United States is not hostile to immigration. It is hostile to the abuse of it.



That distinction matters enormously. Even at BBIS, when I consider support for enforcing immigration law, peers often respond with visible shock and disgust — often calling me an ICE supporter. So I want to make something clear: Deportation is not inherently cruel. It is the predictable legal consequence of entering a country without authorization — retributive justice, as we call it in Global

Politics. But how enforcement is carried out is not a minor detail. It is the entire difference between a government that commands respect and one that commands only fear. Raids without due process, detention without oversight, deaths in custody dismissed without investigation — these do not strengthen the law. They corrode public trust in it. A state that is confident in the justice of its laws enforces them firmly, transparently, and with restraint. That is what legitimate authority should look like.

There is also an economic dimension that shapes this debate. The estimated annual cost of illegal immigration to federal, state, and local governments is \$182 billion (almost double the amount paid in taxes by undocumented immigrants — \$96.7 billion — through ITINs in the same year) — a figure that reflects real fiscal pressure on public systems that serve citizens and legal immigrants alike. This is not an argument for indifference. It is an argument for sustainability. A nation that cannot manage these numbers is justified to start questioning their generosity.

And finally the 'home' analogy holds all the way to the end.

You decide the rules of your home. You can choose to open the door wider, through proper channels, on agreed terms — and the United States already does, through programs like H-2A, through billions in foreign aid, through one of the largest legal immigration systems on earth. But that choice belongs to the homeowner. Not to the person standing outside. Not to the neighbors watching from across the street and passing judgment.

Whatever the United States decides — stricter enforcement, expanded legal pathways, or both — that is its sovereign right. One that every other nation exercises without apology. I'm not saying condemnation of ICE's excessive brutality is wrong (as you can see by my last Paw Print article in the February Edition) but the matter of enforcement is separate from the principle I'm advocating for here.

The door to America is not closed. It never has been. But it is a door — and the right to open it, on what terms, and to whom, belongs to the people who built the house.



Should we be able to listen to music in class?

Cameron Milda Pakkiri – Staff Writer

We've all been there. You're in the middle of a lesson, and you're given a long task to work on for the next 40 minutes or so. And you just think, "Wow, I could really use some music right now". No, it's not because every Gen Z is addicted to having one AirPods, and it's also probably not because of our declining attention spans. In fact, the real reason may have nothing to do with our generation at all, and forbidding the use of headphones during lessons may be completely more harmful than beneficial to our learning.

The effect of noise on our attention span has been a subject of discussion for many years in the world of psychology. The general opinion you'll hear the most from your teachers and parents is that you need "silence" for productive work. All noise distracts you and occupies your brain anyway, so why is listening to music when there is work to be done deemed "unproductive"? However, I have reviewed various scientific papers and compilations of scientific knowledge, and what I found came as a pleasant surprise, although I can say for certain that this view may not be entirely true.

Firstly, without considering music, how does background noise affect how we focus? The first paper I read was a paper by Hubert and Jeffery Huang. The study aimed to establish a correlation between these background noise and people's performance through observing their attention. Participants were told to do various math questions while listening to different levels of conversational noise and also traffic tunnel noise while they worked.

The results yielded something interesting; yes, while there was indeed a decrease in performance from participants exposed to higher levels of background noise, certain groups actually performed better with background noise. In particular, a case study of participants with ADHD showed that both performance and attention significantly increased with the noise.

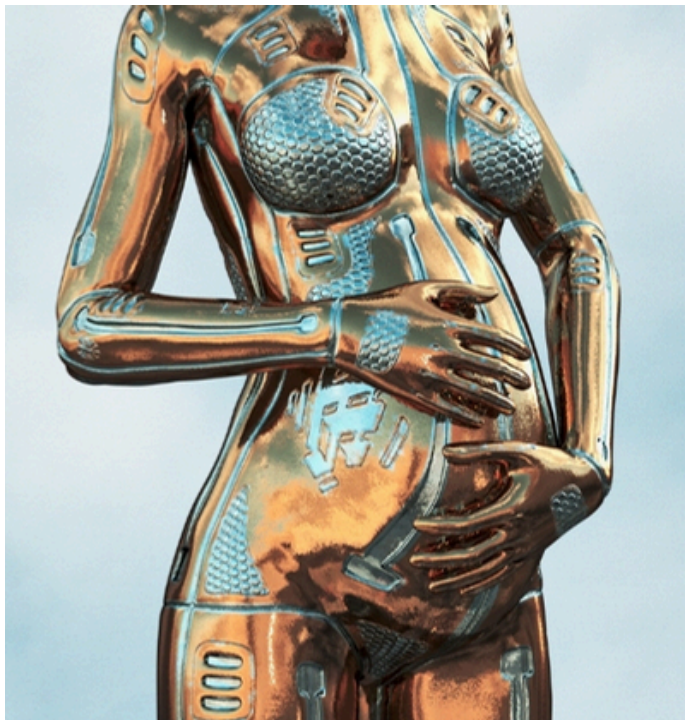
If this is the case, is it really fair to make us all work in the same noise environment? The assumption that everyone works better in silence clearly fails to account for individual differences, and may be the outdated standards of systems of the past which did not account for different learning abilities. Perhaps if we were allowed to use our headphones, we would be able to curate more effectively what works better for us, and helps us perform better as a whole.

Now we have addressed the concern of background noise, but what about the music that we'll be playing in our ears? This is where the second study I want to discuss comes in. Luca Kiss and Karina J Linnell wrote a paper investigating the effect of preferred background music on focus. Students from London were asked to listen to their preferred background music while doing a set of tasks. Listening to preferred background music was found to increase focus and decrease mind-wandering on low attention tasks. The increase in task-focus states provides evidence for music's ability to improve focused attention and performance and suggests that music listening while performing low-demanding tasks can be beneficial.

Can A Robot Replace Pregnancy?

Shira Ben Anat

Imagine being born without a mother's body being involved in the process. The baby is comforted by an artificial womb, their innocent ears first sounds are ticking and beeps. As dystopian as this concept sounds, this might be the new norm. A Chinese tech company, Kaiwa Technology, is developing a humanoid robot designed to carry a baby from conception to birth, though using an artificial womb.



How does it work?

The robot, called "GEAIR", uses "synthetic amniotic fluid, nutrient systems, and a plastic umbilical cord", all to replicate natural pregnancy. The idea sounds like science fiction, yet Kaiwa Technology might release it as early as next year. According to reports, the robot is meant to support fetal development and would cost over \$14,000. This technology is not designed to assist pregnancy; it is designed to replace it completely. Some may argue this could be a life-changing opportunity for infertile couples and could spare women the physical pain and risks that come with pregnancy.

Why did China invent this?

China is facing rising infertility rates, with numbers increasing over the past decade. At the same time, surrogacy is illegal in the country. Which limits options for people wanting a child. In that context, a robotic surrogate might seem like the practical solution. An invention that blends technology with real-life necessity. Still, practicality doesn't erase the ethical implications behind this idea.



What are the issues with this technology?

Critics worry about what could be lost if pregnancy is moved from the human body to a machine. Pregnancy isn't just a biological process. It's emotional, it involves complex hormones, and it's a deeply human experience. Scientists aren't sure if a machine could truly replicate what happens naturally in a mother's body, or how developing in an artificial environment might affect a baby's brain. There's also the question of connection. If a baby grows entirely inside a machine, how does that change the bond between parent and child? How might it shape someone's sense of identity in their future or their understanding of where they came from? How would parents explain this to their child?

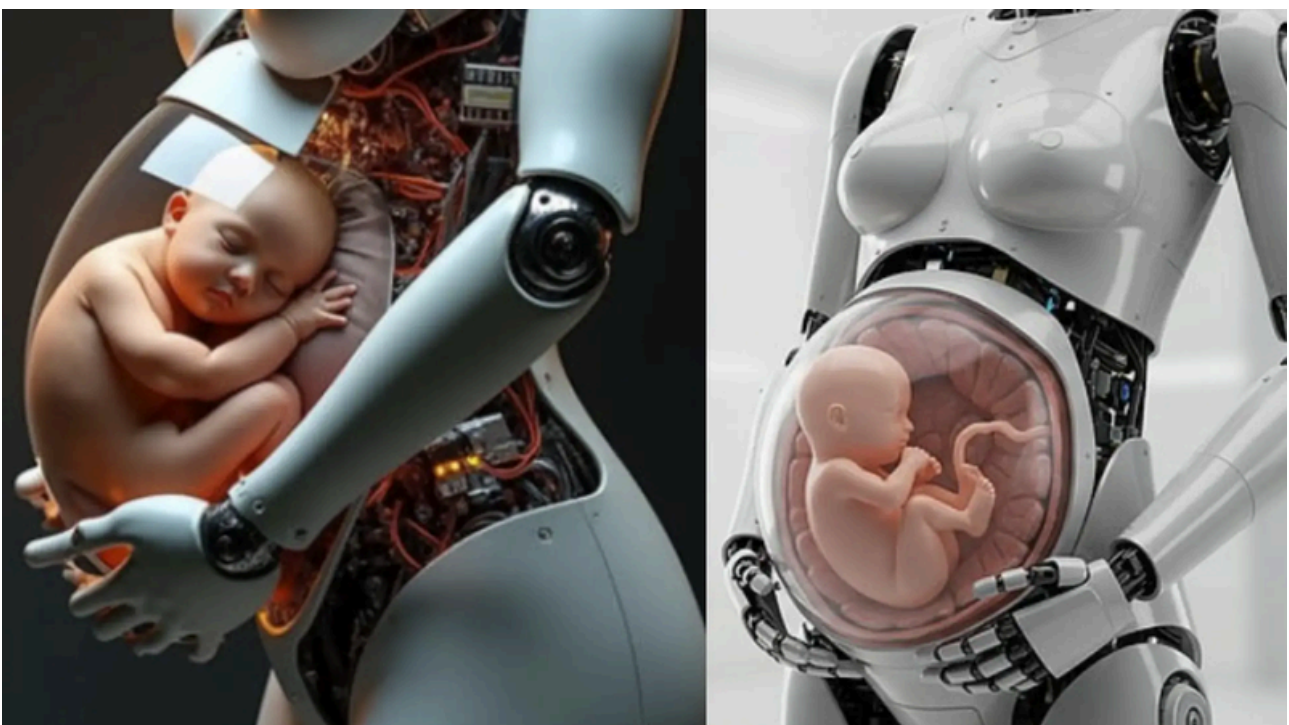
Previous testing of the artificial womb

Artificial wombs have been tested before. In 2017 where scientists successfully kept premature lambs alive in fluid-filled "biobags". But lambs aren't humans. Applying this technology to a full human pregnancy, brings up questions we simply don't have answers to yet.

How does the public view this invention?

Public reaction has been far from unified. Some see the pregnancy robot as progress and liberation, while others find the concept unsettling and unnatural also because AI has been taking over the world, and they do not support that. Feminist thinkers have warned that removing reproduction from women's bodies could strip pregnancy of its meaning, turning an intimate human experience simply into a product.

Just because technology allows something to exist does not mean we are prepared for its consequences. A robot that can give birth forces us to question pregnancy, motherhood, and what it truly means to be human. The real question isn't whether robots can give birth. It's whether we're ready for a future where being born in a machine feels normal.



Why the Death Penalty Fails Justice

Vittorio De Cristo

Around the world the death penalty continues to be used as a form of justice, deterrence, or social order. People who support it would argue that it's the only fitting response to the most serious of crimes, a logical reflection of an "eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth". They argue that it sends a message, protects society and that those who destroy life do not deserve the right to it, however, the death penalty ultimately fails in upholding the inherent dignity of human beings and fails serving true justice, ultimately not making society more humane or secure.

Justice is not the same as Retribution

Supporters of capital punishment often disguise it as justice. They argue that executing a murderer is not the same moral evil as killing an innocent person, because the state possesses moral authority, which individuals do not. In this article I will discuss arguments from the Christian perspective, as well as many secular philosophies which reach the same conclusion. In both traditions, justice is not simply about inflicting harm on those who have caused it, but rather it is about restoring order, protecting the innocent and when possible, repentance and forgiveness.

If we analyze the question, "what is the reason for punishment?", we can usually agree that punishing people for violating laws is done to protect citizens, correct the offender, and restore balance. The death penalty does none of these things if the offender cannot repent, cannot change, and cannot make any form of restitution.

It is definitely the case that some are waiting on death row and have no intention of repenting, however, this should not undermine the fact that there are multiple people who are willing to turn their life around.

This also does not mean that they don't deserve the right to live. Following an execution, order is never restored in a meaningful or lasting way. This is because the purpose of restoring order is to prevent further harm and protect society, and like this, no person serving life in prison without parole can harm the public again. If society can be protected without killing the offender, then taking their life is not justified. Furthermore, an execution can never restore the damage done. True order requires more than just removing the offender. It requires acknowledging the harm done, supporting the victims and their families, and allowing for repentance and reconciliation. An execution ends the offender's life, but does nothing else to repair relationships, heal victims, or eliminate any trauma.

From a Catholic perspective based on faith, every human being retains their dignity, even after committing grave moral evils. Historically, there has been a lot of debates whether the Catholic Church should support the death penalty and, in 2018, Pope Francis amended the Catechism of the Catholic Church to state that the death penalty violates Catholic moral teaching, as it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the individual. This change was made in light of the modern context, where high-security prisons often render the death penalty unnecessary.

The Possibility of Redemption

One of the central themes of Christianity is that no one is beyond redemption. The gospels are full of stories of people who were deemed irredeemable and transformed. For example, one of Christianity's greatest missionaries, Paul the Apostle, actively

persecuted Christians, approved of their executions and sought out believers to imprison them. However, he later became a Christian missionary who spread the teachings of Jesus in the first century AD. By the logic of absolute retribution, he would have deserved death. Instead he experienced conversion and became one of the most influential Christian figures, writing much of the New Testament and spreading Christianity throughout the Roman World. Paul's life is a perfect example of the principle that we are not defined by our actions. The death sentence completely eradicates that possibility forever. Another example of people turning their life around is John Newton, who was deeply involved in the transatlantic slave trade, one of history's greatest moral evils. Later in life, he underwent profound conversion, became an Anglican priest, wrote the hymn Amazing Grace and became a strong advocate for the Abolitionist movement. A good way to think about this idea is a quote that I like by American Attorney Bryan Stevenson, who stated in his book titled Just Mercy; "Each of us is more than the worst thing we've ever done"

Another argument is that the death penalty deters crime by instilling fear. This logic seems straightforward: if people fear death, they will avoid committing the most serious crimes. However, decades of research have failed to produce clear and sufficient evidence that capital punishment deters crime more effectively than long-term imprisonment. This doesn't seem surprising since many serious crimes are committed in moments of passion, desperation, or impaired judgement. If deterrence were the only principle, the most harsh punishments would always be justified, but modern societies recognize that cruelty does not create justice and hence, the ratification of the 8th amendment to the United States' Constitution banning cruel and unusual punishments. The question is not simply whether the punishment is harsh enough, but rather if it is necessary, effective, and consistent with human dignity.

Some argue that society should not spend resources on keeping those alive who have taken lives. But the value of human life cannot be measured in purely economic terms. If we were to measure moral worth on usefulness, then demographics such as the elderly, the disabled, and the poor would also be at risk of losing their life or be less worthy of life than the "majority". If we are to eliminate perpetrators we are stooping down to the very thing we are claiming to be against. The refusal to execute criminals is not an endorsement of their crimes, but rather a statement about who we are as a society. It says that even in the face of evil, we refuse to become agents of death. That said, fiscal conservatism demands we scrutinize wasteful spending. Numerous studies show the death penalty costs taxpayers exponentially more than life without parole. Often costing \$1-2 million extra per case due to lengthy appeals and specialized trials. These resources could fund more police, victim services, or crime prevention. Why pour money into a broken system when life without parole protects society at a fraction of the cost? Opposing execution does not mean opposing strong punishment.

Lastly, the problem I have with the argument that the death penalty "sends a message that certain crimes forfeit one's right to live in society" is that it also sends another message; that some lives are beyond redeemable and that killing can be an acceptable tool of justice.

A society is not only defined by how it treats the innocent, but how it treats the guilty. If justice and revenge become indistinguishable, then it ceases to be justice at all. We are called to something higher: justice that protects the innocent while still recognizing the dignity of the offender. Justice should seek to restore what it can restore, protect what must be protected, and uphold the dignity of all human beings by leaving room for repentance, mercy, and change.

Bad Bunny showed the world the real America

Alexander Schmitz

Conservatives and MAGA followers have lost their mind after Bad Bunny performed in the Superbowl this year. They railed against the fact that the performance was done fully in Spanish, didn't incorporate "American music" (whatever that's supposed to mean), and the fact that Bad Bunny has spoken out against the ICE raids. Although on one side I see pure culture war narrative and immature adults who cannot accept a twelve minute performance in a different language, it does open a more interesting question on what qualifies as "American culture".

The fascinating part of this question is the belief that many on the right hold, which is that the U.S. is monocultural, and that any deviation from this core culture is an existential threat to the nation. This core culture often revolves around rural Southern "white" traditions, such as country music, apple pie, NASCAR, college football, pickup trucks, and barbecue. This is American culture, and as a person who grew up going to Virginia, it's been a part of childhood for me. But it's not the only American culture, and that's the part that MAGA fundamentally sees wrong.

Just by definition, Puerto Rico is a part of the United States. Puerto Ricans have been U.S. citizens since 1917, and Bad Bunny (and anyone born on the island) is as American as someone born in Alaska, so there is no question that Puerto Rican culture is in fact American, at least in the most legalistic way. But over 6 million Puerto Ricans live in the mainland U.S., and around 20% of the American population is Latino.

Over 40 million people's first language in the U.S. is Spanish. In many parts of the country, it's the default language; where my cousins live in San Diego, and where my grandma lived in Miami, Spanish is the norm. People speak to you in Spanish first, then in English when needed. Los Angeles is around 48% Hispanic, a huge portion of that first generation. Would you call Los Angeles, Miami or San Diego, not part of the United States?

Apart from the clear racism and contempt that many of these people hold against individuals of Latino heritage, there is just a fundamental break with reality that exists in this conversation; the alternate show presented country music and Kid Rock as the real America, but for the majority of Americans, **it's not**. Go to the average person in Manhattan and ask them if they can relate to guns and pickup trucks. They'll look confused at you. Even in rural Virginia, ask the average African American if they can relate to NASCAR or county fairs. They'll probably say no (this does not mean that every member of either group didn't grow up with these things, it's a generalization).

The point is that American culture has always been pluralistic, and denying this is just pure delusion. America's cultural strength has always lied in its ability to absorb cultural aspects from every newcoming group. If you would have ignored that, what is left? Burgers came from German immigrants, burritos came from Mexican immigrants, Hip Hop and Jazz came from formerly enslaved African Americans, and deep-dish pizza came from Italian immigrants. Pluralism has always and will always be a part of the American fabric, regardless of what MAGA says or wants.

Minnesota and Minneapolis showed that this is not the version of the country they want to live in. They thought they could break the city, oppress it, and bring it to its knees, but Minnesotans fought back valiantly; people from all corners of society banded together to defend their neighbors, city, state and country. They raced to announce ICE's presence in vulnerable neighborhoods, protested in subzero temperatures, and shut the entire city down for a day. These people showed a very different vision of America: a country of empathy, respect, rule of law and democracy. They proved that it is a country of immigrants, and a nation that welcomes the oppressed, instead of oppressing them.



They showed that living next to people different from you is a gift, not a danger. They showed that masked agents roaming the streets are fundamentally antithetical to this country's promise.

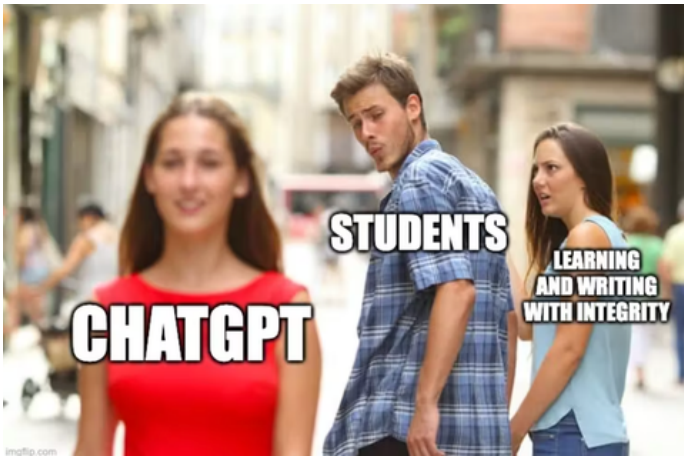
In the first year of this administration, I have had a heavy heart seeing the destruction of American values playing out, but the people of the Twin Cities have given me hope that they're not entirely dead. A wannabe king wants to break a nation into pieces, yet royalty has been rejected once already 250 years ago. As it was rejected 162 years ago amid the Civil War and the abolition of slavery, and 72 years ago at the end of the Korean War and the end of segregation. I'm confident it will be rejected again.



Our IAs fearing AI, or AI fearing our IAs?

Flavia Luca

Top 10 things everybody at BBIS has said; “I’ll just put it into chat”. You’re guilty, I’m guilty, we’ve all been guilty. But what exactly happens in the thought process from the point of reading the exercise question, the attempt at doing it on our own, and the acceptance that we actually can’t do it on our own. And... that’s fine. Sometimes.



Almost everything around is AI, ranging from some videos that we would use to study on YouTube, the Google overview, maybe even some textbooks, all the way to the ads that convinced you to buy whatever it was you bought 2 days ago. AI is everywhere, so why shouldn't it help us in class?

You've probably heard teachers or your parents say how using AI platforms like ChatGPT or Gemini is considered “cheating” and “lowering your potential” by simply allowing a huge limitless machine to do all your work, while you just sit there watching the words flood right before your eyes with your hand behind your head and your legs crossed. Hey, they're right.

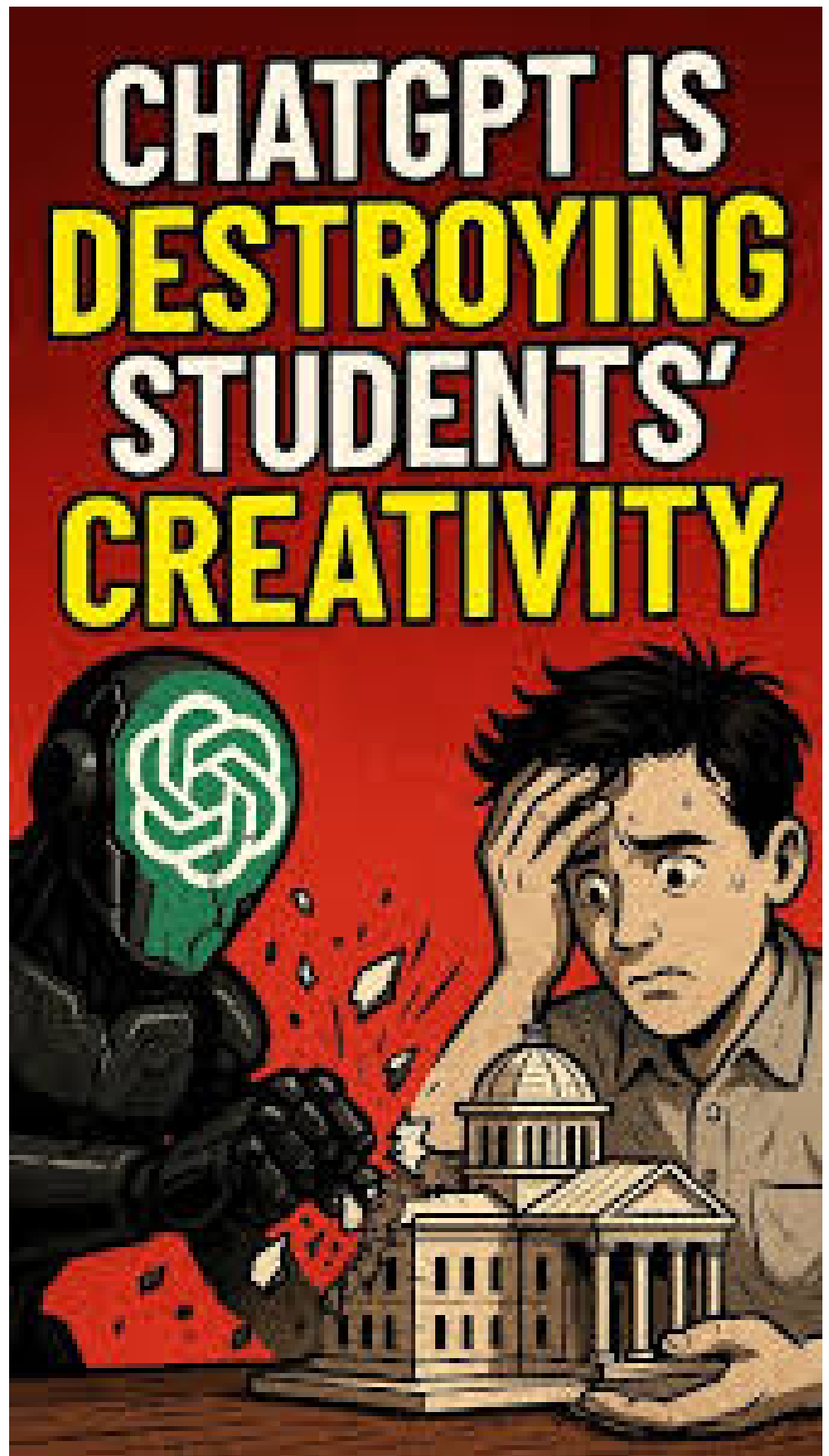
By allowing artificial intelligence to do work for you, you are cheating and lowering your potential. Keyword; you. You're only cheating yourself. Honest question now, how many times have you fully given into an assignment and succumbed to the wonderful world of fast responses and more free time to doomscroll on your phone, copy-pasting everything the big happy robot gives you without even reading it through? One too many times, which makes it a problem.

Our school, and many others around the world, are debating whether or not to “ban” the use of AI. Some completely, some only partially, but how exactly would this impact the way we learn and how would it impact the way in which we now have to alter our way of studying?

Ok, maybe “ban” was too harsh of a word. To be fair, we do live in the 21st century and it's almost too tempting to know that you could just have someone else do the work for you, but what's the point of that then? Here's something else that we can all do that can still make life easier for us, still help us do our work, and still help us retain some of the information we learn. By using these devices with measure and only partially, we can ensure that all of that happens. No more command terms and copy pasting, but rather expanding the question and figuring out if you actually only need help with one aspect of the task, not the whole thing.

Asking AI to simplify the wording, explain to you in a different way what the problem wants from you, or even giving you definitions for words you don't know, can make the approach to studying and learning a whole lot more productive and allow you to sit much more comfortably in your chair without the fear of being held back after class on suspicion of academic misconduct.

Word to school now, once again, we live in the 21st century. It's hard out here guys. Tools like ChatGPT, Gemini and everything else under the sun, are right under our noses and whisper all of our favorite words in our ears. This doesn't mean we should fall victim to temptation, but rather learn to grow together with the help of the resources we have available, and use them to help us become better. Engaging with the current environment is part of our journey, and this doesn't include cheating or anything of the sort, but rather us as students knowing how to help ourselves make learning work.



Why military conscription should not return back to Germany

Constantin Voss

On 19th of December 2025 the reinstatement of the mandatory military conscription for German citizens aged 18 passed the Federal Council and is to enter force on the 1st. January 2026, for the first time since its suspension in 2011. During the debate over the topic in November and December 2025 there have been a lot of protests against the reintroduction, especially from the younger part of the population, which makes sense since they are the ones who are going to be mostly affected by it. As a German citizen who would be directly affected by military conscription, I oppose its reintroduction. In the following text I want to state my case and explain why I oppose this.

In recent years the concerns about national security have increased, making the reinstatement of compulsory military service an easy option to increase military power and strategic influence, therefore deterring other countries. But I do not think that bringing back compulsory service is the right solution for Germany. Mandatory conscription restricts personal freedom since it forces young people to put their education, career, or personal plans on hold at a crucial point in their lives. When they're starting their first job, beginning university or vocational training. All that compulsory service would put an unnecessary burden on the young German population.



Another point is that modern warfare does not need large numbers of soldiers, but rather well trained professionals, advanced technology, and soldiers with good international cooperation. A good example for this is the Russia-Ukraine war. The Russian soldiers outnumber the Ukrainians about 1.5 million to 900 thousand, yet the Russians still failed to gain any significant territory over the nearly four-year-long conflict. The short conscription time often does not allow for profound training which is needed to contribute effectively to a complex military system. This means that investing in a professional army would be more helpful and realistic, ultimately leaving the option to the young German adults, and to them only.

Additionally there is a concern about fairness of conscription. In previous years of conscription it did not apply to every one equally, sometimes exempting specific social groups. Reintroducing the conscription might lead to repeating these inequalities, which could ignite national frustration instead of unity. Finally forcing young people to serve might actually diminish the feeling of national unification and patriotism. This is especially contradictory because a lot of conservative people hope it will actually increase patriotism. I don't think that honest engagement will come from forcing the younger population to it, but rather through voluntary programmes such as social services which give them an option out of which they can choose, rather than forcing them.

In conclusion, I think that Germany should care about security and that the Bundeswehr (German armed forces) definitely needs modernization, but forced conscription is not the way to reach that goal. I believe that in a modern society every individual should have their own right to choose their future. What I rather suggest is putting more money into training of existing staff, upgrading equipment and advertising the Bundeswehr is such a way that people actually find the job appealing.

Finally I have to make one thing clear! Up until now there is NO forced military conscription, instead every male turning 18 receives a questionnaire. All men are required to answer the questions truthfully. Persons of other genders are free to answer or not. The questionnaire focuses on two main things: interest in military service and basic suitability, particularly in terms of health. This means that those who do not want to join the Bundeswehr do not have to. Although this is not a full military conscription, this is the first step towards it, and the German government is willing to go this step if they're aren't enough voluntary conscripts. To prevent that I think that strengthening voluntary service and professional defense forces offers a better way to protect the country while respecting the rights and futures of its young people.



Pros for Germany's New Service Act

James Schneidratus

In 2022, the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Gutierrez, warned the world that global security challenges are “more complex and likely higher than during the Cold War”. This highlights the evergrowing complexity and threat of the world. Many, including myself, are asking whether Germany is properly prepared to protect itself and its NATO allies. This claim is further supported by many NATO members criticising Germany's current army, including the United States, Poland, as well as others. This has led Germany to raise its national defence budget from 2% to 5% and Germany to promise an army of 260.000 soldiers by the 2030s, quite a large promise considering its current 185.000-soldier strong army. To achieve this high goal, the German Bundestag has introduced a new Military Service Act to maintain fairness without reintroducing mandatory conscription, while increasing recruitment incentives and ensuring equality.

The new military service act, otherwise known as the “Wehrdienst-Modernisierungsgesetz”, was passed in December 2025. This act introduces a new military service framework to identify suitable individuals for the Bundeswehr and offer them career opportunities, thereby increasing the number of soldiers. This is done by making it mandatory for all 18-year-olds to complete a digital questionnaire that includes aptitude, suitability, and medical tests to determine whether they are a good fit for the Bundeswehr. If the candidate is considered suitable, the Bundeswehr offers them career opportunities, including skills development, ranging from 12 to 23 months. They are also offered a 3,600 euro monthly salary, which is 400 euros more than the 2025 contract offered. If the annual target is not met, the German government can choose to implement a lottery-based conscription system, yet this will only be done if voluntary

conscription fails to meet that yearly goal. This lottery system was modelled after the Danish system to ensure fairness by randomly selecting candidates from those deemed suitable through the mandatory questionnaire described earlier. By involving voluntary and fair selection with offering extra incentives, it results in the Bundeswehr not only fulfilling the troop promises made but also strengthening the Bundeswehr in a more modern and sustainable way. To add on, the questionnaire results in selecting only motivated and suitable candidates, would result in better trained soldiers as those who are motivated are more likely to achieve higher skill acquisition, retention and overall performance than those who are not motivated. The German Bundeswehr has also recently begun shifting training to provide more skills development and career opportunities, thereby incentivizing more volunteers and creating a more professional and capable force.

Even though the new Military service presents a modern solution to the troop count Germany has promised, people argue that the questionnaire can introduce structural bias and potentially prevent certain individuals from educational or socioeconomic opportunities. In principle, this concern is valid; however, the new system in place aims to minimize those risks by using medical and standardized tests for all 18-year-olds, with the Bundeswehr focusing more on aptitude and motivation than demographics. Furthermore, the voluntary systems in place before the lottery systems reduce the likelihood that people who are unsuited or unmotivated are disproportionately selected.

People also argue that expanding the size of the Bundeswehr Military may potentially lead to prioritizing “quantity over quality”. Critics often argue that in modern-day warfare, the most effective methods are technological advances and cyber capabilities. Furthermore, they argue that rapid response units are more effective than large troop formations. Oftentimes, technology, cyber capabilities, and also rapid response units are more effective than large troop formations. From this perspective, it might seem ineffective to increase the size of the military; instead, we should prioritize quality of training equipment, modernization, and finally, research. Furthermore, maintaining a larger force requires significant long-term funding for salaries, infrastructure and pensions, which may lead to the straining of Germany's federal budget. However, this criticism assumes that the expansion of military personnel will automatically “decrease” the quality of troops; this is not reflected in the Wehrdeinst-Modernisierungsgesetz. The policy does not aim to create mass conscription, but rather to choose selected people who would fit well and prosper in the Bundeswehr. This is seen as a strategic necessity given changes in Europe's security dynamics and Germany's NATO commitments. This thoroughly expands Germany's recruitment through a controlled and modernized framework, enhancing preparedness without abandoning quality.

In conclusion, the new military service act is an imperative step for Germany to take to fulfill its security responsibilities within NATO. By implementing this modernized recruitment framework, which balances voluntary service, increases incentives, and uses systems that ensure fair selection and processing, Germany aims to increase its overall military capacity while maintaining stability and professionalism. Although concerns remain about potential biases and challenges in prioritizing between quality and quantity, the Wehrdienst Modernisierungsgesetz seeks to mitigate these risks. To recap the policy positions, Germany, to me, is an alliance committed to adapting to ever-changing security concerns not just on a European scale, but also on a global one.



Make America “Great” Again?

Milo Philip

One of Donald Trump’s most infamous slogans is MAGA; “Make America Great Again”, which was his campaign slogan in 2016 and 2020. This saying was originally coined by the former USA president Ronald Reagan. Now let’s break down what “Make America Great Again” actually entails in the context of Trump’s administration. Trump’s administration aims to target minorities, especially people who aren’t caucasian. In 2015, he made a call for “total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States,” which is highly discriminatory when actually scrutinized. Because BBIS values critical thinking, let’s try to practice some of ours.

What do people mean when they say great? When do they want to return to? He and his supporters want to turn back the clock to what they would call a happier, simpler, better time. They often think of the time right after World War Two, when the US was doing “wonderfully” in economic, political and military terms. But the US had all this because it had just won the war, not because there were no immigrants or because there were more conservative gender roles. But this was a time with a lot of problems too - segregation based on race, massive discrimination against women and minorities, homosexuality a criminal offence. Why would we want to go back to that?

Donald Trump said; “To me, it means jobs. It means industry, and it means military strength. It means taking care of our veterans. It means so much”.

But how are these things coming back? Jobs are being lost because of major global trends that the US alone cannot reverse. To distract from this inconvenient truth, the MAGA movement has focused on immigrants as the big problem. Kick out the immigrants, they argue, and jobs will return.

This overlooks the fact that many immigrants work hard and build businesses, create jobs, pay taxes, and also do the work that Americans don’t want to do.

If he was going to make America great again, we would expect to see a long run of successful improvements. Instead, we have seen a string of lies. He falsely claimed that the US was losing \$2 trillion dollars a year in trade. He falsely claimed that Ukraine started the war against Russia, and that the Biden administration had been perpetuating the war by supporting Ukraine. He falsely claimed that the US was the only country to grant automatic birthright citizenship. Countries like Canada and Mexico do it as well. He falsely claimed that after he left office for the first time in 2021, that there was “peace all over the world,” this is not true. There were dozens of armed conflicts going on at the time. He falsely claimed he got rid of the ISIS terrorist group in just “three weeks”. They were fully liberated two years into his presidency, and the group continues today. He falsely claimed that two gold medalists in women’s boxing in the Olympics in Paris in 2024 were just “men who transitioned”. This is not true, they are both women, and were raised as such. He dramatically overstated the rise in number of children with autism, the number of drug deaths in the US, the crime rate and so on.

The big picture is that he claims that the USA was a disaster before he came to office, and that he has improved things. But he is not basing any of this on the truth, just false claims. Many people were left disillusioned and tired after the Democratic party, which is understandable. That being said, Donald Trump is doing undiplomatic things to the country and the people in the country.

Those who voted for him may not have done it with malicious intent at all, they wanted access to things they couldn't have before due to inflation and such, and they believed he could give it to them. But he didn't. And what he's doing now is continuing to deviate and blame minorities for the fact he isn't doing what he promised to do, while people of lower socioeconomic backgrounds believe him, typically because they don't know that he's not the best option.

Outside of just lying, he's abusing people outright. For example, some people reading this might know about what ICE is doing right now in America. ICE (the Immigration Customs and Enforcement agency) has detained over 50,000 people, 71% of whom had no criminal convictions. He claims that they are the worst people, but this is clearly another false claim. They are not threats to national security. They're targeting people that match their idea of an immigrant, no matter if they're a child or an adult. And their idea is typically someone who isn't caucasian. ICE detention facilities are riddled with abuse. People are left shackled in buses for weeks, with no access to bathrooms or showers, with barely any food or water.

Is all this really making America great? When citizens use this slogan, they get a sense of belonging and unity, fighting back against "the enemy" that is "ruining their country", without actually taking a second to understand what they're saying and what it does; separate, divide and people. It says "this group of people are dangerous, we have to get them out" without actually explaining why they're dangerous. The reason for Trump giving no (honest) explanations is because of the fact there is none. He targets people that are already in danger worldwide, such as Black people, transgender people, Indigenous people, and immigrants, and blames them for everything wrong with the country.

He does this so that he can hurt them in place of actually fixing anything that he said he would. And when people get rowdy, he deviates from the topic. And because the people don't know better, they believe him.

"MAGA" is a statement used to justify unfaithful promises. Supporters believe he will in fact make America a better place to live in, but he isn't doing that as of right now. He's hurting people who live in America and are American citizens. Trump uses the "Make America Great Again" statement as a way to give American citizens a common enemy to blame the problems of the country on (sound familiar?), instead of actually addressing where these problems come from.

When citizens use this slogan, they get a sense of belonging and unity, fighting back against "the enemy" that is "ruining their country", without actually taking a second to understand what they're saying and what it does; separate people. It says "this group of people are dangerous, we have to get them out" without actually explaining why they're dangerous. The reason for Trump giving no (honest) explanations is because of the fact there is none. He targets people that are already in danger worldwide, such as Black people, transgender people, Indigenous people, and immigrants, and blames them for everything wrong with the country. He does this so that he can hurt them in place of actually fixing anything that he said he would. And when people get rowdy, he deviates from the topic. And because the people don't know better, they believe him. Maybe there's no true cruelty in their beliefs, because they don't know, but they support him nonetheless.

An international school such as BBIS has people of so many different backgrounds. We of course believe in free speech, but we should also think about the impact that our words and the slogans we use impact other members of this community. So we need to take a hard look around and ask, is "MAGA" a slogan which aligns with our values? I would encourage people at the school who support Trump to think about this, and what "MAGA" really means.

I understand the world may seem in shambles at times, America included, but blaming and harming innocent people isn't the way to fix any of this.

How Minnesota proved this administration wrong

Alexander Schmitz



Amidst freezing temperatures, the Trump administration decided to go for retribution in the state of Minnesota. The episode began under pretenses of fighting fraud in the state, but has obviously quickly evolved into a full scale conflict with the state's residents. It first started with the use of racist and inflammatory language, attacking American citizens, many of which were born in the United States, based solely on their Somali heritage. They were told to go "back home". Their home is Minneapolis. The sheer hatred this administration had against people of color and those that do not conform to its rigid concept of "americanness" became obvious in the brutality federal agents started to engage in. They entered homes without warrants or procedure, detaining American citizens and legal noncitizens en masse.

They attacked protestors who were exercising their First Amendment rights, concealing their identities to disguise the constitutional violations they were committing left and right. This brutality met an extreme after ICE agents murdered Renee Good, and only weeks later Alex Pretti. Both had not caused bodily injury to an officer, and in Pretti's case, video footage shows how he was killed after already being restrained. It's a dystopian version of America that Trump's administration wants to create. A country where you're belonging is based on your race, your speech and your willingness to bear the inflicted suffering of your compatriots. A country where the enemy is the Somali mom picking her kids up from school, not the masked ICE agent pepper-spraying individuals speaking out..

THE PAW PRINT



Letters to the Editor

Would you like to have your say in response to something in the Paw Print?

We know that the articles we publish generate debate among staff and students at BBIS, and we would like to hear from you. We welcome letters of around 100 words from staff and students, and response articles from students of between 400-800 words. Please write to us at pawprint@bbis.de to let us know what you think.



The Paw Print believes in free speech, as well as reflecting the school's ethos at BBIS. Please note that the views of our columnists do not necessarily reflect the views of the magazine, the editors or the school.



Wuthering Heights

Scarlett Morin – Culture Editor



You may know *Wuthering Heights* from the new exciting movie coming out with Jacob Elordi and Margot Robbie. However I know it as a classic yet thrilling book from Emily Brontë. If you would like more information about the book or even some context for when you see the movie keep reading.

Heathcliff was adopted by the Earnshaw family as an infant. He then forms an unbreakable bond with the fierce Catherine Earnshaw who lived on the outskirts of society. They quickly fall in love. Social divides and betrayals tear them apart. Catherine eventually marries the refined and high status Edgar Linton for stability, driving Heathcliff to years of exile. The novel explores obsessive love. It explains the difficult choice between stability versus passion. Responsibility, class and history all played a part when deciding.

This insightful novel was written by Emily Brontë (1818–1848) who was the middle Brontë sister from a Yorkshire parsonage. She lived a very private life that mostly consisted of writing poems and other stories. She was self-published under the male persona of Ellis Bell to evade prejudice. She wrote *Wuthering Heights* out of her personal loss and pain she has experienced in her lifetime. She eventually died young of tuberculosis at 30 just a year after its release.



Wuthering Heights earns 4.5 out of 5 for it is full of emotional depth and excitement. It is however a somber book that brings up realistic hardships that many couples faced due to the very normalised classism at the time. If you are interested in the book you can find it in the library.

Sombr - Berlin Concert

Nina Dressler – Culture Editor

The venue Sombr performed at is the Velodrom, known to be one of the more iconic venues in Berlin, it opened in September of 1997 and is used for track cycling and multi sport events, during the 90s it was used for international cycling competitions using its 250 meter indoor track that can still be seen and used today. The venue has the capacity to hold 12,000 people making it the 3rd or 4th biggest venue in Berlin.

The European leg of this tour was lucky enough to have “Charlotte Lawrence” as the opener, she's been in the music industry since 2014. She recently released a new album called “somewhere” in 2025, it consists of alternative pop/rock music. She mixes with analog and digital instruments and a lot of the songs on the album have a very distinct melody that immediately gets you hooked. My favourite song off the album would have to be “Dog” and I would have never heard about her if it weren't for Sombr.

He's not even 20 and a popstar sensation. If you don't know who Sombr is, let me introduce him. He received the “best new artist” nomination at the grammys, he won the VMA for best alternative music video and both “back to friends” and “undressed” reached the top 20 on the billboard top 100. And Berlin was lucky enough to have him for one night on his world tour: “**The Late Nights & Young Romance Tour**” in honor of his new album “**I barely know her**” which came out in 2025



Sombrs set lasted an hour and 30 minutes, it was full of his discography with a wide range of songs. He opened with a very popular song off of his new album, "I wish i knew how to quit you", it got that crowd going as the song has a big build up and it was followed by a personal favourite song "we never dated" where Sombr told the crowd to jump and got everyone's blood flowing. He had personal moments with the crowd by getting on to the barricade and hugging some fans. But it wouldn't be a Sombr concert without his infamous ballads, he played fan favourites like "perfume" and "canal street" having an emotional moment with the crowd as everyone sang the lyrics word by word.

Sombrs set design was also very interactive and it felt like we were inside his set rather than at a concert, it consisted of a stereotypical talk show set, with a couch and a band playing in the back dressed in formal attire. The set was modelled after his hometown NYC and followed a lot of the characteristics of NYC. Sombr made sure the music was 100% live and had his band play all the backing music, but also giving them space to breathe and play comfortably. they were very diverse musically and many instrumentalists got solos



The best part of the show would have to be the encore, where he played two of his most popular songs "12 to 12" and "back to friends", the 2 songs people were most excited to hear, everyone was jumping and giving back the energy Sombr gave us.

It was a great show, and Sombr, his band and Charlotte Lawrence really proved their love for performing and music and it was incredibly enjoyable. Im very excited to see more of Sombr in the future and listen to the music he makes, highly recommend if you want some alternative/pop

Faith, Fasting, and Festivals

Vivan Gupta – Staff Writer

Ramadan

Ramadan is the holiest month in the religion Islam. Ramadan follows the lunar calendar of Islam, so the dates change with every year. People who celebrate Ramadan fast from dawn to sunset, which means no food or drink in the daylight. You can eat two main meals: Suhoor (pre dawn) and Iftar (post sunset). At these times you can eat or drink as much as you want. People pray or read the Quran (holy book of Islam). It is very important to read the Quran because it is said that the Quran was revealed in this month, serving as a guidance for humanity. Other people also help others and donate and aid charity organizations. Ramadan ends with the celebration Eid al-Fitr, a happy holiday with prayers, food and gifts. Ramadan is about spiritual discipline, gratitude, and closeness to the Islamic God (Allah).

Holi

Holi is a Hindu spring festival often called “The Festival of Colors” that celebrates love, spring and the sprout of new life. Holi is determined by the Hindu lunisolar calendar, specifically falling on the Purnima (full moon day) of the Phalguna month. While it is mostly celebrated in India and Nepal, nowadays people celebrate it all over the world. Holi is connected to an old Hindu story about Prahlada, Holika and the demon king Hiranyakashipu. The story shows how good and devotion wins over evil. On the evening before Holi, people light bonfires to represent the burning of evil. The next day they celebrate together by throwing colored powders (gulal) and water at each other. Streets are filled with music and dancing.

People eat foods like Dahi Bhalla, Samosas, Pakoras and Malpua, special sweets like Gujiya and drinks like Thandai. People often visit friends and family and say “Happy Holi!”. Holi represents spring, new life, forgiveness, friendship, joy, and community.

Lent

Lent is an important period in Christianity that lasts 40 days before Easter. Lent remembers the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert while being tempted by the devil. Christians use Lent as a time for reflection, prayer, and self-discipline. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (determined by counting back 46 days back from Easter Sunday, 40 days fasting plus 6 Sundays) and ends just before Easter, during Holy Week. Many Christians choose to fast or give something up, such as sweets, meat, or social media. People pray more often and help others through charity. Some reflect on their actions. Important days during Lent include Palm Sunday (remembers Jesus entering Jerusalem), Good Friday (remembers the crucifixion of Jesus), and Easter (celebrates the resurrection of Jesus). Lent represents sacrifice, spiritual growth, preparation for Easter.

What connections do they have to each other?

All celebrations focus on renewal and reflection. They also emphasize kindness and community. They often occur at the same time of the year. These holidays also show the diversity of world religions: Ramadan – Islam, Holi – Hinduism, and Lent – Christianity.

Why is Gen Z so obsessed with the 2000?

Julie Monnet – Culture Writer

First off, Gen Z are the people born between 1997 and 2012. Even though generation Z is most likely not even able to remember the early 2000s, or weren't even born yet, they are the ones bringing back the trends and experiencing the nostalgia.

Many people of generation Z appreciate and enjoy movies made in the 2000s. I've experienced this personally. For example I watched *Twilight*, *Mamma Mia* and *A Series of Unfortunate Events* without really realizing that all these movies were made 4 to 8 years before I was even born. Nonetheless I really enjoy these movies because they have iconic personalities and intriguing storylines. Another example of 2000s movies still being relevant is the movie *"The Devil Wears Prada"*. This movie is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year and the book was written 22 years ago.

Series such as *Gossip Girl* premiered in 2007 and many teenagers still watch the show to this day due to the luxury and the timeless outfits. Movies and Series from the 2000s obviously also included the traits of its era for example flip-phones, low rise jeans and many more trends. This gives off a special vintagey feeling, like travelling back in time and experiencing something new and perhaps that is the reason why Gen Z loves 2000's movies and series.



Teenagers nowadays experience the need to have a perfect online image on Tik-Tok or Instagram and Snapchat. This (often) means never showing yourself vulnerable and posing perfectly. Watching other people and constantly comparing yourself to people is really draining and emotionally exhausting. Therefore, the idea of a flip phone, a technical gadget that you can communicate with, without being captivated into an endless loop of videos and social media, sounds intriguing. The demand for flip phones has increased by 148% from 2021-2024. Many companies such as Samsung and Motorola expect another increase in demand for nostalgic flip phones in the coming years. The "dumb-phone" concept, a device being the opposite of a smartphone, is also very interesting. The main idea is going back to the basics, there used to be phones where you could only call someone or send text messages, no other apps. There were even phones not much larger than tic-tac boxes.

Berlinale 2026

Constantin Voss – Culture Editor

The Berlin International Film Festival, also known as Berlinale, is one of the biggest film festivals in the world. It takes place every february in berlin and for about 10 days, movie

fans can watch the new films in different cinemas across Berlin. There is a red carpet, famous guests, and awards like the Golden Bear, which is the festival's biggest top prize.

Berlinale 2026 - What was special?

The Berlinale 2026 felt very emotional. There were a variety of films which showcased a lot of personal struggles, such as fighting for freedom and trying to find hope in difficult situations. And it did feel like the filmmakers wanted to tell important stories, or bring difficult topics such as the consequences of sexual assault. Again, the movies came from all over the world. You could see films from Africa, Europe, Asia, North and South America. This makes the film festival even more exciting because the mix of cultures show different perspectives of nationality and therefore lifestyle and social priorities.

And you could definitely feel that the movies shown were not just about entertainment. At the award ceremony some of the speeches were very political which caused discussions in the media. Again, this underlines that the Berlinale isn't afraid of difficult topics. At the Berlinale Art and real life meet to provoke emotions in the audience and to give them something to think about.



Final thoughts:

In my opinion, Berlinale 2026 was a full success. Again the topics were controversial or rather unusual and more than entertainment. The films can start conversations, share different cultures, and reflect on global problems of society. I also think it makes clear that story telling is powerful.





PG1

SAMUEL HORROCKS

DON'T BE DUMB

ASAP ROCKYYY

ASAP Rocky's *Don't Be Dumb* marks his long-awaited return to music after an extended break following 2018's *Testing*. In the years between albums, Rocky focused heavily on fashion ventures, creative direction, film projects, and building his family life, all while navigating legal issues and the pressures of global fame. The album was teased for several years through interviews, festival appearances, and unreleased snippets, building anticipation among fans who had grown used to his genre-blending style. Delays reportedly stemmed from sample clearances, leaks, and Rocky's perfectionist approach, as he made it clear he didn't want to rush the project. By the time *Don't Be Dumb* finally arrived, it represented not just a new body of work, but a carefully crafted comeback shaped by years of personal growth, experimentation, and artistic refinement.

TOUR

JUL 04 CALGARY, AB
 JUL 06 DETROIT, MI
 JUL 08 NEWARK, NJ
 AUG 25 BRISBANE, AU
 AUG 27 AMSTERDAM, NL
 AUG 30 LONDON, UK
 SEP 02 DUBLIN, IE
 SEP 04 GLASGOW, UK
 SEP 05 MANCHESTER, UK
 SEP 06 COLOGNE, DE
 SEP 10 MILAN, IT
 SEP 11 MUNICH, DE
 SEP 13 LODZ, PL
 SEP 16 HAMBURG, DE
 SEP 18 COPENHAGEN
 SEP 20 OSLO, NO
 SEP 21 STOCKHOLM
 SEP 24 RIGA, LV
 SEP 25 KATINAS, LT
 SEP 26 BERLIN, DE
 SEP 28 PARIS, FR



STANDOUT TRACKS FROM "DON'T BE DUMB"

- STAY HERE 4 LIFE (feat. Brent Faiyaz)
- STOP SNITCHING (feat. Bossman Dlow)
- STOLE YA FLOW
- HELICOPTER
- PUNK ROCKY



All About Capybaras

A guide to the world's largest and most laid-back rodent.

Jian Ahn – Staff Writer

Capybaras are known as the most laid-back animals, possessing a calm demeanor and a friendly personality. They have been nicknamed "nature's chairs" for their habit of allowing other animals to sit on their backs. How do they survive out in the wild with their style of living?

First of all, what exactly is a Capybara? These animals are the largest rodents in the world, typically growing from 100cm to 140cm in length. They can weigh from 30kg up to 70kg. They are also semiaquatic, meaning that they live on both land and water to survive.

Capybaras are native to South America, but they have been introduced to different countries. For example, Capybaras in Florida were introduced in the late 20th century due to illegal pet trades and accidental escapes. However, in Japan, the giant rodents were introduced peacefully in the 1960s on boats.

The Capybara's preferred habitats are locations that are humid and are extremely close to bodies of water.



Not to mention, the habitats also need a surplus of aquatic plants, grass, and roots, which are their main diet. Some of the main habitats they reside in are swamps and grasslands near bodies of water. Florida is a perfect example of this, as it is full of aquatic plants and typically full of water.

Capybaras ascended to popularity mostly because of their calm demeanor. They went viral on many doomscrolling apps due to their popularity with memes affiliated with their laid-back personality. Japan, a popular tourist destination, introduced capybara soaking in their traditional baths (onsen), which became a must-see for many tourists.

Italian (White) Strike

David Averbah – Editor-in-Chief

An Italian strike is a form of labour protest in which workers strictly comply with all regulations and instructions stipulated by law, employment contracts and regulations, but do not show the slightest initiative or flexibility. In simple terms, during an "Italian strike," workers formally continue to perform their duties, but productivity drops sharply. The difference between an "Italian strike" and traditional forms of protest is its legality, which protects employees. It also does not imply a complete cessation of activity, which protects consumers and limits damage to the company.

Such strikes in different countries around the world often lead to success. In 2007, the Royal Mail decided to modernise and close a number of branches across the country. Employees were dissatisfied with possible layoffs and low wages. One form of protest was "Italian strikes": employees stopped coming to work early, transporting parcels in their personal cars, and agreeing to work overtime. The unrest continued from June to October, but in the end, the parties managed to reach an agreement: in particular, employees received a pay rise.

The name "Italian strike" (*sciopero bianco* in Italian, which translates as "white strike") originated in the early 20th century and is associated with the trade union struggle in Italy. This method first gained widespread popularity after the Second World War, during a period of mass labour disputes. Workers wanted to express their dissatisfaction with working conditions but were afraid of losing their jobs or part of their wages, so they began to use the "white strike" as a legal alternative to conventional protest. Sometimes strict compliance with all legal requirements without the slightest deviation became a powerful tool for putting pressure on management and the authorities.

According to some sources, the first recorded "Italian strike" in the form we understand it today took place in Italy at the beginning of the 20th century, specifically in 1905. The workers were dissatisfied with the violation of their labour rights (after the nationalisation of the railways, they lost the right to protest), so they decided to organise an unusual action. They did not stop performing their duties, as was done during ordinary strikes, but on the contrary, demonstratively followed every point of the regulations.

Railway workers followed safety instructions to the letter, carried out checks and completed paperwork strictly according to the rules, which were usually partially ignored for the sake of speed and efficiency. As a result, train traffic slowed down significantly and there were disruptions to the timetable. However, it was impossible to formally find fault with the workers – after all, they were working in strict accordance with the instructions. The strike worked: management made concessions, raised wages and reduced fines.

The "Italian strike" is an elegant tool of struggle. It allows you to protest without violating your employment obligations. It is effective when traditional methods (such as a complete work stoppage) are impossible or risky. The success of an "Italian strike" depends, however, on competent planning – it is important to choose instructions that, if followed meticulously, will actually hinder work. I cannot help but note that such tactics work not only in commercial enterprises. And if some rules and requirements seem excessive, a white strike can help to achieve a revision of the rules in official institutions: universities, schools... But I am not hinting at anything, of course.

Matcha

Linus Choi – Staff Writer

What is Matcha?

Matcha is an external made for Roblox. An external only changes features on your side of the game, making it hard to detect, and be banned. It enables a user to have unfair advantages, in other words, Matcha allows you to cheat/hack. There is a user interface when Matcha loads, allowing cheats such as No-clip, silent aim, ESP, and a couple other features. No-clip, silent aim, and ESP are the most notable ones I will talk about later.

What do I think about Matcha?

Matcha is an incredible advanced piece of software, allowing anyone to “hack” on Roblox. The ESP, silent aim, and No-clip are very useful features. Starting with ESP, this allows you to see another player through walls, buildings, anything. You can know the exact location of anyone. This enables you to know where to shoot, where to look, you can in a way, predict what your opponent will do. Silent aim is likely the most fun, and most useful feature. If I could only choose one feature, it would be Silent aim. Despite the name, it has nothing to do with being silent, it simply directs all bullets to your opponent regardless of where you look. Essentially, you don't have to aim when it comes to Silent aim. Lastly, No-clip. No-clip allows anyone to walk through anything. Walls, buildings, cars, anything in a game, you can go through it like a ghost.

With this in mind, I would not recommend using it. While flying around, going through walls, and hitting only headshots is fun, Matcha comes with some serious drawbacks.

My stance on hacking.

In a perfect world, I would want no one to hack. I don't think anyone should have an ability to have an unfair advantage over another. This however is of a perfect world. In real life people that cheat or find loopholes face little to no consequences, and still reap the rewards. That's not just in Roblox. That's why I don't see why I shouldn't have the same ability as others. In the real world, I just level the playing field, making it more fair for me, while also making it more unfair for others.



1. For one, you never know what you're downloading when you install a software to cheat. There are instances of other types of software that claim to give cheats, but instead take control of a user's computer. Personally I have hacked before, using an executor called Synapse X. This executor has since been shut down due to internal arguments in the developer team. However a fake Synapse X was going around that had a Trojan file, a file that seems legit, but contains malicious code. This can give the developer of a software personal information, of a user's computer, or worse. Even with Matcha, I don't know if it contains malicious software, intended to leak my personal information, or use my computer for nefarious purposes.

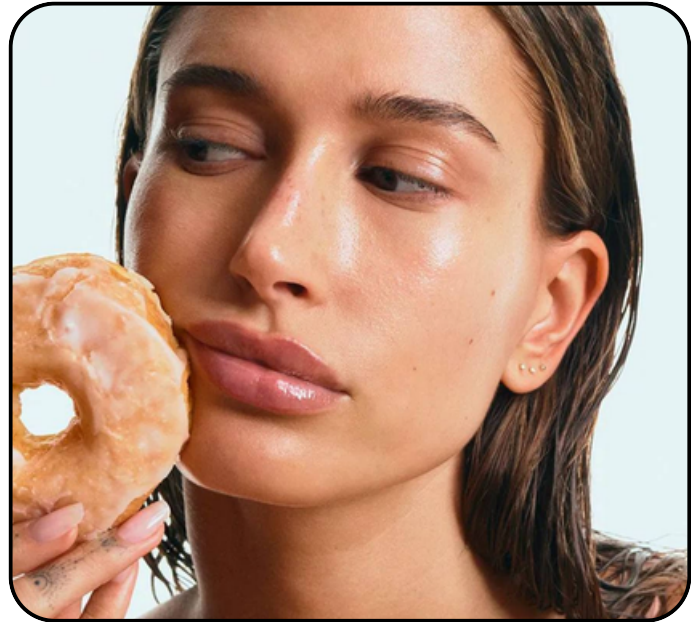
2. Using Matcha significantly reduces my ability to play a game. Frames per second, or FPS dictates how smooth your game will run, ignoring lag and ping for now. When Matcha is running on my computer, the game becomes very slow, people move slower, and sometimes my game has even quit on me. This is very inconvenient when I do want to hack, I can't really because it makes my game very slow, almost unplayable.

Does Social Media Influence Fashion Trends?

Gigi Klemenčič – Staff Writer

Social media plays an important role in influencing fashion trends today. Apps like TikTok, Instagram and Pinterest allow people around the world to share photos or videos and their outfits and are instantly accessible to millions of people. Instead of waiting for fashion runway shows and magazines, teenagers can now use social media for fashion inspiration. They can find out what celebrities, influencers or other teens are wearing using social media.

One major reason why social media influences fashion trends is because of influencer promotion. For example, when an influencer decides to post about a certain clothing item or brand and speak positively about it, many teens may feel encouraged to purchase the item. This is because influencers often have large, loyal supporters and followers, and their opinions can strongly impact what becomes popular. An example of this is Hailey Bieber, who is a successful businesswoman and a socialite who impacts many fashion trends. Her modern “cool girl” minimalist aesthetic influences many people around the world.



Another major reason why social media influences fashion trends are microtrends. Microtrends are niche aesthetics, styles, color themes or patterns that gain popularity for a couple of weeks or months and then quickly die out. An example of this is when polka dots and bows were a major microtrend in 2025. These trends spread quickly online, but they also disappear just as fast when something new replaces them.

Another major way social media influences fashion trends is through targeted advertising. Social media platforms use the algorithm to show their users different clothing or brands based on their activity and browsing habits. This makes it more likely that people, especially teens, will see and buy certain styles of clothing. Because these ads are personalized, they can strongly influence what individuals decide to buy and wear.

Overall, social media has a powerful influence on fashion trends by spreading ideas quickly, promoting brands using celebrities or influencers, creating short lived microtrends, and using targeted advertising to shape consumer choices.



10 Foods We Live By

The first entry in Dasha and Claire's "Top 10" series.

Dasha Burma and Claire Teichmann



1. Miso Ente/Duck (Kuchi)

Claire's favourite food to order (and never finish), a delightful dish with rice, sauce, and fried duck. Without exaggeration, it has been our Friday night dinner without fail for the past 3 months. If you ever wonder what our plans are on Friday evening, it's probably sitting at home and eating miso ente and sushi.

2. Starbucks Brown Bear Cakepops

One of the best snacks we've tried in a while. If you've never tried the brown bear cakepop, you simply haven't lived.

3. Sushi

Also our Friday night staple, sharing food and a good laugh is our favourite activity :)

4. Chocolate (Dairy milk, Lindt, Kinder)

Since the start of this month (and probably before), I think we have gotten at least one of these chocolates 3 times a week (maybe more). During a rough school day nothing brightens up our mood like a beautiful piece of chocolate. Along with our wonderful indulgence, we also get to share among our peers, allowing for everyone to feel the blessings from this wonderful snack.

5. Coke Zero

Doesn't need to be explained. IF YOU KNOW. YOU KNOW.

6. Cookies (cafe, homemade cookie dough, Leibnitz, round and edgy).

Now, each one of these was hard to fit into one specific category because they all hold a special place in our hearts, but cookies will always be remarkable snacks. From cafe cookies brightening up our schooldays, to homemade cookies enlightening our afternoons, every single bite is an extraordinary experience.

7. Chips (Pombär, salt and vinegar)

Although our different tastes, chips remain very important to us within our school days. Relating to chocolate, nothing is better than tasting your favorite chocolate during a long and tiring school day.

8. Haribo Cherries

Ever since we tried these candies we never turned back. On our Swim GISST trip, this snack got us through all our races, and even on the train back we had the thought of making them sour cherries instead of just the normal candy. We searched long and far through store upon store, ending up in the Harbio Store in Ku'damm. The look on our faces when we finally found the beloved candy was priceless. This snack will always hold a special place in our hearts, from the grueling swimming we had to accomplish.

9. Leftovers from Dasha's kitchen

What to do when you're starving at Dasha's house? Well, I guess the only option is to dive through the fridge and pantry and see what's left. From walnuts, to oranges, to bread with leaves in it, you'll never know what you're going to find next. Not once has it not been a surprise.

10. Bread

A staple in every meal.



Recipe for Shrimp Muwash

By: Hanin Abulhasan (originally as MYP Personal Project)

Ingredients

- 12 cups basmati rice (washed and soaked 20–30 minutes)
- 500 g (1 lb) shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 2 tomatoes, chopped
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 teaspoon turmeric
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1 teaspoon mixed Gulf spices (or machboos spice blend)
- 2 dried limes (loomi), pierced
- Salt to taste
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 3 cups hot water or shrimp stock
- Fresh coriander for garnish (optional)



Servings

4 - 6

Time

45

minutes

Directions

- heat oil in a large pot and sauté the onion until golden.
- add garlic and stir for a few seconds.
- add tomatoes and tomato paste, cook until softened and slightly thick.
- add spices, dried limes and salt, stir well.
- pour in hot water or shrimp stock and bring to a boil.
- add drained rice, cover and cook on medium heat until most liquid is absorbed.
- reduce heat to low, place shrimp on top, cover and cook 10–15 minutes until rice is fluffy and shrimp is pink and cooked through.
- gently mix before serving.

Women's History Month - Influential Figures in STEM

Liora Krause - Features Editor

March is Women's History Month, a time to acknowledge the struggles and celebrate the successes of women all over the world. To mark the occasion, I'll be taking a look at some of the most influential women in STEM, from daring scientists to ...



Ada Lovelace - Engineer of the First Computer Program

Ada Lovelace was an innovative Engineer who was born in 1815 as Augusta Ada Byron. From a young age, Ada showed an interest in engineering, strongly supported by her mother Annabella who wanted to see her go in a scientific direction. At 17, Ada met the mathematician Charles Babbage, with whom she would work together for many years to come. Ada, intrigued by Babbage's prototype for a "Difference Engine", would later go on to write a calculation method that is known as the very first computer.



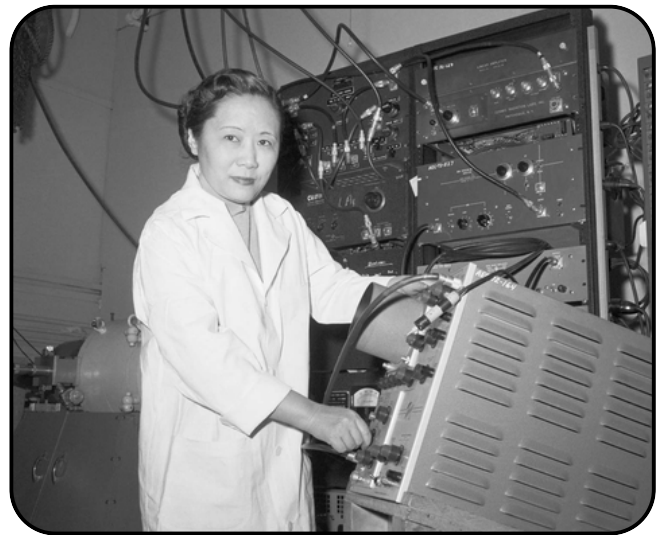
Katherine Johnson - Mathematician and Human Computer

Born on the 26th of August, 1918, Katherine Johnson was a mathematician and "human computer" - someone who solved complex mathematical calculations before electronics were used for the same purpose. She was the very first African American woman to study at West Virginia University, and the third African American woman to attain a PhD in mathematics. She worked as a teacher at first, but later went on to work for NASA, performing trajectory calculations for Apollo 11 and Project Mercury, helping the first spaceship travel to the moon. She was awarded The Presidential Medal of Freedom by Barack Obama in 2015.



Marie Curie - Nobel Prize Winner

Marie Curie, born Maria Skłodowska in 1867, was a scientist who became famous for her work with radioactive substances. In 1891, she moved to Paris, obtaining her Doctor of Science degree in 1903, and later becoming the director of the Curie Laboratory in the Radium Institute of the University of Paris. Curie worked with her husband Pierre Curie to discover the radioactive elements of polonium and radium, which she studied for their potential therapeutic uses. She received a Nobel Prize in physics in 1903, and another Nobel Prize in 1911, this time for her studies in chemistry.



Chien-Shiung Wu - Groundbreaking Physicist

Chien-Shiung Wu was an experimental physicist known for her contributions to the laws and principles of physics. She was born in 1912 near Shanghai and would move to the United States in 1936, later studying physics at the University of Michigan. One of Chien-Shiung Wu's greatest accomplishments would come in 1956, when she disproved the law of the conservation of parity. This law had suggested that at a subatomic level, events in physics will occur symmetrically, and a real event and its mirror image would be identical. However, Chien-Shiung Wu's experiments showed that parity is not conserved in weak nuclear forces, a groundbreaking discovery. Despite being nominated 23 times, she never won the Nobel Prize and also did not receive a share of it when scholars Mats Larsson and Ramon Wyss would win one for verifying parity violation, even though they had built their findings on her work. Whether she was overlooked for being a woman in a scientific field is a disputed topic, but these days many believe that Chien-Shiung Wu was and still is deserving of commemoration for her contributions to our modern understanding of physics.



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