

# THE RAMBLER

## DECEMBER 2024



### — Global News —

#### Global Reactions to the American Presidential Election Ayaan Bali

On Tuesday, November 5th, millions of Americans made their way to the polls to select their next president. On the Democratic ticket was Vice President Kamala Harris and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, while on the Republican ticket was former President Donald Trump and Senator from Ohio JD Vance. In July, current President Joe Biden pulled out of the race after polling quite poorly against Trump and endorsed Kamala Harris. Ever since, polls had been extremely close nationally, and 50/50 in the vital 7 swing states: Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Arizona, North Carolina, Georgia, and Nevada.

After much campaigning, spending, and two debates between the Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates respectively, it was still anyone's race. The 2 parties were both confident in their candidates, but it was Donald Trump who would ultimately prevail. He swept all 7 swing states, while also leading in the popular vote, which he failed to do versus Hilary Clinton or Joe Biden in 2016 and 2020 respectively. Not only did the republicans see success in the presidential race, but they also saw major successes down ballot turning the senate red while flipping 4 seats in the process (Montana, Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania), and as of writing this they look poised to retain the House of Representatives. This big sweep for the republicans plus having 6 justices on the Supreme Court will essentially allow President Trump to pass whatever bills he wants and appoint whoever he wants into high government positions.

So as President Trump is set to reprise his role as the commander in chief of the world's largest economy and military, what does the rest of the world think? From enthusiasm to anxiety, let's have a look at some opinions of major politicians worldwide.

#### Russia

President Vladimir Putin is a man whom Mr. Trump has praised on multiple occasions. On Friday, November 8th, Putin congratulated the former president on his victory, calling him a "courageous man" at an event in the city of Sochi.

The former President has said multiple times that he will end the war in Ukraine "in a day" but has never described what that may look like. Putin said that these claims "deserve attention at least."

President Trump has also repeatedly

criticized America's aid to Ukraine.

These words from Putin come after the Press Secretary of the Kremlin said that there were no plans for Putin to congratulate Trump and called the United States an "unfriendly" country.

The head of the foreign affair committee in Russia's Duma (Parliament), Leonid Slutsky, was quoted by state-run news agency RIA Novosti saying that Trump's victory offered "a chance for a more constructive approach to the Ukraine Conflict."

In 2016, The Kremlin was accused of election inference and aiding the Trump campaign against Hilary Clinton. However, US Special Counsel at the time Robert Mueller found no evidence of collusion between Trump and Putin.

#### Ukraine

Since February 2022, Ukraine has been fighting for survival after a Russian invasion. Now with President Trump winning the election, Ukraine could risk losing its biggest financial backer.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy congratulated Trump hailing an "impressive election victory," adding that he looked forward to "an era of a strong United States of America under President Trump's decisive leadership."

"I recall our great meeting with President Trump back in September, when we discussed in detail the Ukraine-U.S. strategic partnership, the Victory Plan, and ways to put an end to Russian aggression against Ukraine," said Zelenskyy on social media.

But what do the people on the front lines think? The Associated Press talked to a commander known by "Mozart" who said, "I hope that the quantity of weapons, the quantity of guns for our victory will increase," and that "We don't care who the next president is, as long as they don't cut us off from help, because we need it."

The Kyiv Independent spoke to 6 soldiers on their opinions, and these were a few of their responses:

Serhii Koniukh, a 44 year old anesthetist on the front lines, said, "What about the future of Ukraine? Well, you understand, all this was some kind of pre-election talk between two different candidates. And it's clear that the Democrats supported us more. There was military support, which will be uncertain now (going forward)." He added, "But, I want to say that you have to rely on yourself first, not on someone else, not on your older brother, not on your friends, but on yourself. I've always said that in everything, in work, business, everyday life, rely only on yourself."

"Spys," a 35-year-old junior lieutenant, said, "Commenting on Trump's quote that he can end the war in a day, I can say this: Do I want the war to end? Every soldier in the Armed Forces and every civilian apparently wants it to end.

But if the war ends at this stage, in 10-20 years it will start again? Yes, It will start again."

"Bart," a sniper, said, "I think this is America's business. I don't think that with the election of Trump, support for Ukrainians will stop. I think that, on the contrary, there will be more decisive actions."

#### Israel

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described Trump's victory as "history's greatest comeback!"

"Your historic return to the White House offers a new beginning for America and a powerful recommitment to the great alliance between Israel and America," wrote Netanyahu on X.

When the Israeli people were polled on whom they would like to see in the White House, 65 percent of respondents chose Trump, and among those who identified as Jewish, a resounding 72 percent said Israel would be better served by Trump over Harris.

On Tuesday night before all polls had closed, and Trump had a lead in major swing states, Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir posted "Yesssss" with a flexing bicep emoji, as well as the flags of Israel and America.

Israeli analysts believe that a Trump presidency will help them end the conflict in Gaza on terms more favorable to Israel. Despite the fact that Trump has criticized Netanyahu's handling of the war, it was largely believed that Netanyahu favored Trump in this election cycle.

#### Palestinian Territories

The president of the Palestinian Authority, which administers the West Bank, Mahmoud Abbas congratulated Trump on his reelection and wished him success. In his message on the Authority-run news agency WAFA, Abbas spoke about his desire to work with Trump to achieve peace and security in the region.

The Gaza strip is controlled by Hamas and not Abbas. Hamas said that the election was America's matter, but also called for an end to the "blind support" towards Israel from the Americans. In a statement, Hamas said Trump must "listen to the voices of the American community itself rejecting the aggression on Gaza," and that the new administration "must realize that our people are continuing to confront the occupation and will not accept a path that diminishes their rights."

#### China

Mao Ning, a spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry said that "We will continue to view and handle China-U.S. relations in accordance with the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and cooperation for a win-win." She also congratulated President

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Trump and wished him success. President Xi Jinping also congratulated Trump and called for both nations to find the “right way to get along.” In the President-Elect’s economic plan, tariffs are to be placed on Chinese imports, and Trump has in his past often called China an adversary.

**Mexico** Mexican president Claudia Sheinbaum said that Trump’s victory was “no cause for concern” for Mexico. Trump has threatened to impose a 25% tariff on Mexican imports unless Sheibaum’s government halts the “onslaught of criminals and drugs” making its way across the southern border. Trump also intends on enacting a mass deportation of America’s 11 million illegal migrants, 5 million of whom, the MPI estimates, are Mexican.

**Europe** Secretary General of NATO Mark Rutte congratulated Trump on his election victory and said that his “leadership will again be key in keeping our alliance strong.” Trump has repeatedly criticised european members of the alliance for failing to commit at least 2% of their annual GDP to defense budgets. In his first term, Trump shocked European allies when criticizing their funding commitments. Calling on allies to pay up in defense spending is a policy he will likely aggressively pursue. French President Emmanuel Macron, UK Prime Minister Kier Starmer, Italian President Georgia Meloni, and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen all congratulated Trump and expressed their desire to enhance the trans-Atlantic partnership between them and the U.S.

In conclusion, America’s outlook on foreign policy will see big changes undertheupcomingTrumpadministration. Despite the congratulations, reports suggest major allies are concerned about Trump’s win. Donald Trump on the campaign trail threatened to impose new tariffs on nations such as Canada, Mexico, and China. In addition to tariffs, he claimed that he would resolve the war in Ukraine in a swift manner, while rethinking “NATO’s purpose and NATO’s mission.” These statements on foreign policy coupled with the reactions from world leaders only raise questions on what the next 4 years will hold. As a nation, we’ll have to wait and see.



Anonymous, 2 Giraffes

# Sports

## Sports Report Ben Foltz

*Author’s note: This sports section has information as of November 26th. To get more updated information about Bush athletics, you can go to BushBlazersAthletics.com. For more information on sports, you can go to ESPN.com.*

Welcome, everyone, to this month’s sports report! There’s a lot to go through, from a Bush fall sports recap and winter sports preview to an update on sporting news from around the world.

**Girl’s Soccer:** The Girls’ Soccer team had a breakout season, finishing with an 11-4-2 record. Additionally, they had an average goal differential of two goals, scoring 2.9 goals per game and allowing less than one goal per game. Four players got all conference honors, with Makenna Kim ‘27 and Flora Toledo ‘27 being First Team All Conference. Reya Goel ‘26 and Sawyer Franklin ‘28 made Second and Third All Conference Team, respectively. The team ended up making the State Quarterfinals, a big accomplishment. Key moments included a victory over UPrep to place third in the Conference bracket and a Round of 16 state win 4-1 against Naches Valley. The season ended after a 1-0 loss to Seton Catholic. The Girls’ JV Team finished 5-2-0, scoring on average 3.9 goals per game and allowing 1.7 goals per game, making them the best in the conference.

**Girls’ Volleyball:** The Girls’ Volleyball season is in the books, with the varsity team finishing with an 8-11 record. However, they also have an impressive 5-3 record in conference games. The season ended after a 3-0 loss to Granite Falls. Bush got two All Conference players, with Eva Freise ‘25 and Jojo Ziegler ‘24. The JV team is 6-8 with a 4-5 conference record and one game left in the season. They currently have a four game win streak. The JVC team finished 4-6 with a 4-3 conference record.

**Boys’ Ultimate:** The Boys ultimate finished 5-8 with a 4-6 conference record, significantly stronger than last year’s 0-10 finish. This rebound was partly thanks to Conference Coach of the Year Max Bommarito, All Conference 1st team member Kenzo Yocom ‘24, and 2nd team member Rafe Fox ‘24. This season was a large step forward for the Bush Ultimate program, along with a 5-0 season from the JV team.

**Cross Country:** The Cross Country season ended with a bang for Bush, as the Blazers finished 11th in State for Girls and 2nd in State for Boys. Duncan Frisbie-Smith ‘25 set a PR and broke his own school record in a very difficult State course with a 15:51 5k. Next year he will run for Brown University. Additionally, Lincoln Neiswender ‘25, Benjamin Hester ‘25, Kai Awaza ‘24, and Alexander Hajduk ‘25 earned All Conference Honors. Elise Fischer ‘25 finished 6th in State and earned a spot on the All Conference team alongside Elaine Zhang ‘28.

**Boys’ Tennis:** The Boys’ Tennis team finished 4-6, with a 22-28 individual

record. The season ended with a convincing 5-0 win against Bear Creek.

**Boys’ Golf:** After a breakout season, the



Boys’ Golf team finished undefeated with a 5-0-1 record. Many key contributors of the team will head to the postseason this spring.

**Winter Sports Preview:** The Boys’ Varsity Basketball team will begin their season on December 3rd with a road game against Eastside Prep. The team will still have 2023-24 All Conference players Paul Hutchison ‘24 and Phaniel Wodaje ‘24, along with last year’s coach of the year Ben Scheffler. They will aim to build off of last year’s stellar 15-7 record. Girls’ Basketball tips off their season also with a road game on December Third versus Eastside Prep. They’ll be led by last year’s all conference member Kate Hutchison ‘24. Nordic Skiing will also be in the Winter Season, with the first race being on January 12th.

**National Sports Overview:** With Week 12 in the books, the complexion of the 2024-25 NFL season is becoming more and more clear. Super Bowl contenders such as the Chiefs, Ravens, Lions, Bills, and Eagles are separating themselves from the pack. Meanwhile, teams that had moments of greatness, such as the Commanders, Texans, Vikings, and Bengals, have begun to skid. The Seahawks find themselves with a lot of optimism after a 16-6 win over the Arizona Cardinals, giving them sole position over an extremely weak NFC West. At 6-5, an up and down defense and terrible offensive line play contribute to an average start. However, a strong culture and playmakers such as Kenneth Walker, Jaxon Smith-Njigba, and DK Metcalf have led the Seahawks to a winning record. Mike McDonald and company hope to continue their recent success with an away stint against the Jets and after the Cardinals.

In college football, the UW Huskies are coming off of a huge 31-19 win at home against the UCLA Bruins. It’s been an up and down season for the Huskies, who knew they would have a tough time after many key contributors left for the NFL last year. However, they find themselves at 6-5 and have clinched bowl eligibility, so the Jedd Fisch era has been off to a promising start. Currently Oregon, whom UW is playing next week, is the only undefeated team, and other teams such as Texas, Miami, Ohio State, Boise State, Penn State, and more seem poised to make the newly expanded 12 team College Football Playoff. Currently two way sensation for Colorado Travis Hunter and running back Ashton Jeanty lead the race for the Heisman Trophy.

In the NBA, the key story is the 17-1 Cleveland Cavaliers, who’s only loss is to the reigning champion Boston Celtics. Other teams who have found success are the Warriors, Rockets, Celtics, and Magic.



# Review

## V&V: How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Lilly Price and Kaia McCready

For this month's Vice and Virtue we decided to compare the original 1966 *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* and the 2000 live-action *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* to give our beloved readers our opinion on what you should watch this Christmas season.

### Jim Carrey's genius interpretation of the Grinch is all you need this year.

Why see *Wicked* when there's an obviously better story about a green outsider? The 2000 live-action version of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* is undoubtedly the best version. Don't ask Rotten Tomatoes, though. What do they know anyway? Firstly, this movie feels as if it were pulled straight from the brain of Theodor Seuss Geisel himself. It's as wacky and eerie as anything he's written. This is not meant to be an endearing, heartwarming, awww-inspiring movie. It's gritty. It's gross. It's real. And if the visuals aren't your speed, you at least have to admire Jim Carrey's dedication to his craft: he had special CIA torture agents train him how to survive the pounds of prosthetics it took to turn him into the furry green character. Their advice? Smoke as much as you can. The prosthetics took two and a half hours to apply every day, and then eight-plus hours of filming followed. Carrey described it as "having a refrigerator strapped to your back." Besides Carrey, this movie has a stellar cast, from Taylor Momsen (*Gossip Girl*) to Jeffrey Tambour (*Arrested Development*), with *Apollo 13* director and *Happy Days* actor Ron Howard directing.

The societal commentary in this movie is strong. There are lessons on holiday overconsumption, conformity, capitalism, bullying, dictatorship, and the mistreatment of animals. Don't let the seriousness of this movie deter you, though. If you're looking for a fun holiday time, this movie is choc-full of funny quotable moments, facial expressions, and physical humor. It captures Suess' zaniness and off-puttingness in a way the animated one never could. Everyone in this movie is ridiculous and flawed but learns valuable lessons.

The final selling point (not that it needs it) is the soundtrack of this film. The other versions wish they had music from The Barenaked Ladies, Busta Rhymes, Faith Hill, \*NSYNC, and Smash Mouth. Yep, that's all your favorite artists in one green package. Additionally, Carrey and Momsen's vocals are featured. Highlights include the best version of *You're a Mean One Mr. Grinch* (I said it. Sorry, Tyler fans), and *Where Are You Christmas*.

Watch this movie. Don't bother with the others.

### Make yourself a cup of cocoa and be aesthetic watching the original grinch.

Do you need to get in the Christmas spirit but don't have 2 hours to do so? Or maybe you're baking some sugar cookies and need some background visuals and a

calm narrating voice. Either way, I have to point you in the direction of the original 1966 *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* This classic film has two adaptations for a reason, but it's pretty clear that none can beat it. Sure, if you're on a Jim Carrey filmography binge or you're craving that minions-style animation, then I guess you might like the other two. But the original Grinch film will always be the best.

When you think of 1960s animation, you may not expect the picturesque colorful techniques employed by this movie's animators, but any still of this film could be found on an "aesthetic late-night Christmas" Pinterest board. The facial expressions of the Grinch in this animated style go far beyond those possible in the other two films.

You may not know that the voice narrating this timeless movie and the part of the Grinch is Boris Karloff. The Grinch isn't the only green icon Karloff has played; he was also the original Frankenstein. Not only does the Grinch narrator speak in rhymes, but the movie also has the excellent voice of Thurl Ravenscroft singing *You're a Mean One Mr. Grinch*. Ravenscroft was the voice of Kellogg's spokesperson Tony the Tiger for over 50 years, while other singers Jim Carrey and Tyler, the Creator haven't voiced any cereal brand mascots. Not to mention, the soundtrack for this special won the Grammy Award for Best Album for Children at the 10th Annual Grammy Awards.

The story of the Grinch is not that complex, and all the two-hour adaptations have added cliché plot tactics in order to make their movie long enough for the box office. The original doesn't need all that mumbo jumbo.

Overall, I would definitely recommend watching this movie. If *The Mask* wasn't enough green Jim Carrey for you, or you really like Tyler's Grinch song, go ahead and watch those versions. But on any occasion, you should watch the 1966 *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

## What's Up?

This month we asked students: What have you been listening to recently?

Ella Will '25: "Recently I have been listening to the new Billie Eilish album because the concert is this Friday!" Boyan Holt '25: "Perchance a lot of GNX."

Anusha Sharma '25: "TV girl and Clairo" Lincoln Neiswender '25: "Johnny Cash and what's the one that will make me sound cool and mysterious... Laufey." Dylan Shingler '26: "I've been listening to a very 1999 christmas." Gabriel Bryan '26: "SKÁLD, an old norse band."

Tessa Derry '26: "I'll go with the killers and 21 savage." Capri Mawhinney '26: "Quitting time by Zach Brian."

Niamh Blish '26: "Dom Dolla."

Kai-Biko Evans '27: "Espresso by Sabrina Carpenter." Claire Pollock '27: "Noah Kahn." Gina Chickadel '27: "Maggie Rogers and the Wicked soundtrack." Bouba Cisse '28: "Christmas music! Micheal bubble." Lucy lessard '28: "Weekend and Kendrick Lamar."

Sasha Bilenko '28: "Partynextdoor." Holden Clarke '28: "Food by mf doom... like the album."



# Business

## The Executive Review

### Volume 2

Clement Hervet

*This article was written on December 1st, 2024. Things may have changed by the time you read this. For more information on stocks and the stock market, go to Trading View.*

### Independent Companies

Since the last Executive Review, the United States presidential election has taken place. President-elect Donald Trump's proposed tariffs on America's major trading partners—Mexico, Canada, and China—are expected to raise consumer prices, potentially prompting the Federal Reserve to halt interest rate cuts or even increase rates. While Fed. Chair Jerome Powell noted it is too early to assess the economic effects of these policies, Trump has pledged swift action, threatening steep tariffs on his first day of a second term. These tariffs would affect \$1.5 trillion in goods, leading to higher prices for items like cars and fresh produce. Wall Street is concerned about a potential inflation surge, with bond yields rising ahead of the election. Meanwhile, the Federal Reserve is preparing to model the economic impacts, considering potential retaliatory tariffs and shifts in consumer inflation expectations, as seen during similar trade disputes in 2018. Though inflation has cooled recently, consumer concerns about rising prices remain high. Despite these uncertainties, the Fed continues to cut rates, citing low unemployment, steady consumer spending, and a deceleration in inflation.

Elon Musk's social media platform, X, has taken an unusual step by intervening in the bankruptcy sale of Alex Jones' Infowars, which is being sold to help pay nearly \$1.5 billion in damages owed to families of Sandy Hook victims. The satirical news site The Onion won the auction with a seven-figure bid, but Jones is fighting the sale in court. X objected to the inclusion of Jones' social media accounts, arguing that its terms of service clearly state accounts cannot be sold and are ultimately owned by the platform. This move is significant because social media companies typically avoid getting involved in legal disputes over account ownership, leaving such matters to the courts. Experts believe Musk's intervention could be politically motivated and may set a legal precedent. However, critics warn that such actions risk eroding user trust, as it sends a message that X operates more as Musk's personal domain than as a neutral space for public discourse.

### Stocks

Please know that I am not an expert, so if I make any mistakes, please do not risk



# Business Cont.

your life savings on my advice.

In October 2024, markets faced heightened uncertainty ahead of the U.S. presidential election. Equities declined, with the S&P 500 down 0.9%, and only three sectors—Financials, Communication Services, and Energy—posted gains. Economic indicators were mixed: job growth slowed significantly, with just 12,000 jobs added, and unemployment held steady at 4.1%. Inflation showed contrasting trends as overall rates declined, but core inflation edged higher. Housing saw a dip in existing home sales and rising mortgage rates, while gold surged 4% to \$2,734.20 per ounce, and Bitcoin exceeded \$70,000, gaining 10.2% for the month. Despite the market volatility, the Federal Reserve prepared for a potential rate cut in November, reflecting cautious optimism in broader economic conditions.

In November, Wall Street saw one of its best months of the year, with the S&P 500 up 5.7%, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rising 7.5%, and the Nasdaq gaining 0.8%. The Dow's strong performance was boosted by significant gains in Disney (+22.1%), Goldman Sachs (+17.5%), and Salesforce (+13%). Tesla led the S&P 500 with a 38% increase, spurred by investor confidence in CEO Elon Musk's alignment with Trump administration policies. Retail stocks like Macy's and Best Buy benefited from holiday shopping expectations, while Apple rose 1.1% on hopes that new AI-powered iPhones would drive sales. Bond yields fell, with the 10-year Treasury dropping to 4.19%, and Bitcoin briefly hit \$98,000, up 10.2% for the month. Gold also rose 4% to \$2,734 per ounce. Globally, Japan's Nikkei fell 0.4% amid rising inflation, while China's markets advanced due to government support for consumer spending.

For December, several stocks are worth considering for investment. Tesla (TSLA) is a top pick, leading in electric cars and clean energy with a strong brand and innovative technology. Apple (AAPL) remains the most valuable company in the world, with its mix of products and services helping it stay strong, along with a lot of cash on hand. Boeing (BA) is a good choice as the aviation industry recovers, supported by a big order book and government defense contracts. Toyota (TM), the largest car maker by production, is known for its reliable cars and a growing electric vehicle line, plus it pays steady dividends. Johnson & Johnson (JNJ) stands out in healthcare, focusing on new medicines and medical devices after its spinoff of Kenvue. It has a strong financial position and reliable dividends. These stocks have strong financials and good plans for the future, making them solid options for investors in December 2024.

# Mycology

## A Mushroom's Mumblings ft. Eastern Destroying Angel Evoc Shen



Common Name: Eastern (North American) Destroying Angel  
Scientific Name: Amanita Bisporigera  
Notes: Luckily, for any science or grammar nerds, I have learned that scientific names should be italicized. Also, this article is [number] words long. Have fun readers who may give up.

Originally, this article was meant to be a short piece, like the last, about the death cap (you know, the super famous & deadly mushroom), but then my attention was wrested away by a stray Reddit post concerning an eastern destroying angel poisoning incident. While it may seem a bit morbid to be interested in a mushroom that caused a death, I already wrote about another deadly mushroom, so I might as well continue writing with this interest. Additionally, to warn readers who actually read the articles in the Rambler, while this may seem to be a perfectly innocent package of concise information about one mushroom, it will also converse with itself on topics moderately related to the mushroom at hand. But I swear, which an unwilling witness can also attest to, that every part of this article is pertinent to your life and definitely not an info dump on my part.

So, to start this wonderful exploration of facts, let us address the topic of the, le gasp, scientific name. The easiest thing to glean from the scientific name is that the eastern destroying angel is part of the Amanita genus, which consists of some of the most known toxic mushrooms, the prime example being the mushroom I so callously disregarded, the death cap. I know that while I declared we would start with the scientific name, implying that I would continue conversing with a nonexistent reader about it, further talk of the scientific name in this paragraph will be nonexistent. On to the third paragraph!

The eastern destroying angel is also

part of the phalloideae section. Sections are a taxonomic rank below genera and above species; sections are more specific than a genus and helpful when there are 500 species within a genus. And no, do not confuse genus with genius. I will be in your walls at approximately 11:23:08 pm if so.

I mean what?

The Amanita sect. phalloideae consists of the majority of identified deadly Amanita species. All mushrooms in said section derive from one common ancestor and contain amatoxin. Amatoxin, to put it briefly so as not to take away from the symptoms section that may eventually come up, inhibits RNA polymerase, causes disruption in the creation of mRNA, and can lead to liver failure depending on the dosage.

Then, back to dissecting the names, we may see that the eastern destroying angel contains the words 'destroying angel.' Hopefully, you can see that and not some amalgamation of weird images and blurring vision. So, vision permitting, the title "destroying angel" doesn't only apply to A. bisporigera (see top of article for clarification), but also the spring destroying angel, European destroying angel, and the western destroying angel to name a few. All destroying angels look similar to each other, are predominately white and, you guessed it, are all poisonous.

As for specific descriptions, the eastern destroying angel, not to be confused with the western one or, heavens forbid, the European one, has a smooth cap, lacking any warts or patches. Initially, the cap is convex, but, as time passes by, the cap becomes flatter. Comparing that to a human's back, you may be able to see that posture gets worse with old age; do ignore the slouching masses of teenagers for a few moments please, as one yourself might be—

Ahem.

The cap can grow to be 1-4 in. in diameter, and, with age, it can also gain a yellow or pink tinge in the center. The gills aren't attached to the stalk but are quite close to each other. The eastern destroying angel also has a bulbous base, which is white, and a skirt that is large, white, and flaring at the top part of the stalk. The stalk can grow to 2-5.5 in. tall and 0.1-0.8 in. thick. The spore print is, wager a bet, white.



Now let us revisit the scientific name. The eastern destroying angel differs from other destroying angels due to its geography, yes, but also its two-pronged





# Opinion Cont.

basidia, the round spore. That is where it gets its (scientific) name from. Also, unlike wine, this mushroom does not age well: the older it gets, the more repulsive it may smell, akin to rotting meat. The mushroom may become just a little sticky if it is humid; however, the mushroom is usually dry. And, when potassium hydroxide is applied, it'll turn yellow. Which, in my opinion, is very fair; if a base were placed upon me rather unceremoniously, I might as well decompose into a different color. Note that mushrooms turning different colors from applications of chemicals isn't a feature specific to this mushroom. Other mushrooms may also react in similar ways.

Disclaimer: I have never been interested in exploring forests or going mushroom hunting which is why, as a former East Coaster, I can say with 100% certainty that I cannot validate anything. You all should do your research and become mushroom enthusiasts like me. :D

The eastern North American destroying angel is found mainly in the eastern parts of North America, the name may suggest, but maybe that was a clever trick and its real habitat is in Antarctica. Either way, many sources have stated that these mushrooms can be solitary or social and are usually found in mixed oak-hardwood trees. The reason for being found in those forests is because they are ectomycorrhizal with oak trees. To dumb myself down, for you and me, the term ectomycorrhizal describes a symbiotic relationship between the trees and the fungi. The fungus receives moisture, protection, and nutrients from the tree and gives the tree greater access to soil nutrients. The eastern destroying angel is perennial and fruits in the summer and fall, from June to November.

Like the last toxic mushroom, people don't eat this mushroom on purpose, which might surprise some of you. Most times it is because someone thought it looked similar to another mushroom, the prime examples being *Leucoagaricus naucinus* (smooth parasol, or ma'am on a motorcycle) and *Volvariella volvacea* (straw mushroom). Others committed to the phrase "no thoughts, no brain" and ate a stray unidentified mushroom. Either way, I hope you, dear reader, won't follow in their footsteps. Do not use this as a motivation to purposefully eat a poisonous mushroom.

Now, onto the arguably interesting part, and unarguably the slightly skipped-over part, the toxins. Amatoxins, which the eastern destroying angel contains (chat, keep up, we already went over this), are only one of the toxins. And there is also only one person who writes this article at 1 am, so I am foregoing the discussion of the other toxin. There are three different types of amatoxins in the eastern destroying angel:  $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ -, and  $\gamma$ -amanitin. The principal amatoxin in the eastern destroying angel is  $\alpha$ -amanitin, which will be the main focus of the next paragraph. The others were not discussed in the limited 28 websites that I skimmed.

So, continuing,  $\alpha$ -amanitin, not to be confused with  $\alpha$ -amanitin, which, mind you, does not exist, has an oral LD50 (or lethal dose) of 0.1mg/kg. If you wish for me to convert that into our wonderfully odd American system, and, to that, I say "no" and "have a good day." But, to put it into perspective, 150 lb is around 68 kg, and, in a mature fruit body of the eastern destroying angel, there are 10-12 mg of  $\alpha$ -amanitin. Additionally, amatoxins have a mortality rate of at least 60%, according to Douglas S Lee, MD on Medscape.

Now, a nicely scheduled break with a quote. As an article so precisely states, one of the problems with the eastern destroying angel is that it is "poisonous to humans" (North Carolina Extension Gardener). Very aptly put, however, I have no problems with the mushroom and would be pleased not to admit that I found myself laughing. Did I mention that it is 1 am for me?



Now, for the symptoms of eastern destroying angel poisoning. Amatoxin is heat stable, meaning that cooking will not denature the toxin. The first phase occurs 6 to 12 hours after ingestion and is characterized by an onset of nausea, abdominal cramps, profuse diarrhea, vomiting, and dehydration. Before the first phase, patients do not have any symptoms. The next phase is where the patient appears to recover, aka a false recovery. However, during this phase, the amatoxins are still damaging the liver. This stage may last for two to three days. Finally, in the third stage, liver and kidney function are compromised, leading to liver failure. After and during the second stage, the death rate is above 60%. This means it is important to recognize the symptoms as early as possible and subsequently go to a hospital. Delaying a visit allows amatoxin to spend more quality time with your liver and damage it further.

Treatment for eastern destroying angel poisoning consists of various forms of supportive care. If you cared to read the last article, you would know that supportive care is care that addresses the symptoms of the poisoning. This is because there is no antidote to counteract amatoxin. The preferred method is stomach pumping, which is only effective within two hours of consumption. After that point, supportive therapy varies on the individual and case. Commonly, intravenous fluids are used,

and so is activated charcoal. Other potential medicines are penicillin, silymarin, and cyclosporine. Along with supportive

care, doctors and nurses will test a patient's blood regularly to monitor the buildup of toxins. Occasionally, the damage to the liver might worsen to the point where a liver transplant is required.

Now, I have some ending notes for the reader. First, it is critical to identify what mushroom caused the poisoning, as different types have different treatments. Additionally, bringing a piece of the mushroom may be helpful, as mycologists can officially identify the mushroom. Now onto some more comforting news. It is safe to buy and eat mushrooms from grocery stores; most of the poisoning cases are where people were mushroom hunting or found a wild mushroom nearby and ate it. Furthermore, an average of around three people die in the United States per year from mushroom poisonings, and only 15-20 mushroom species are lethal out of the 14,000 described species. I only happen to focus on toxic mushrooms, as is my interest, but that is not indicative of the actual scope.

Please don't fear fungi, they're just silly little guys who also look really cool. In fact, in my next article, I'll be talking about a nontoxic mush-

I really shouldn't be making promises I can't keep. :(



## Satire

### 10 Tips to Finally Accomplish Your New Year's Resolutions Teoman Champagne

Just around the corner, the holidays are a time to reconnect with family and share gifts with one another. This in-depth, scientifically-backed guide will discuss the most important gift you could possibly give yourself: a New Year's Resolution. These self-promises are notoriously difficult to stick to, but the processes here will lay the foundations so that you may actually carry out your New Year's Resolution in what will be an easy, fun, and eventually edifying journey of self-discovery!

**1. Sufficient Sleep:** High schoolers at Bush, and across the several states, lament that living up to the somnologists' dream of 8 hours of sleep is an impossibility. To resolve your sleep woes, consider using school time to make up for any missed sleep. The best times to accomplish this include: history lectures, english discussions, and Tom's math tests. To take it a step further, work to master the art of somnambulation so that your teachers still believe that you are awake and fully engaged.

**2. Exercise:** The long and arduous walk from Bush to Pagliacci's burns many calories. Using the mental image of a

# Satire Cont.

warm slice of pizza as your motivation, walking to and from this pizzeria will ultimately offset the calories you gain by eating there. Over the course of a few months, this will add up to improve your cardiovascular health.

- 3. Improve Your Grades:** This one's still a mystery.
- 4. Eat Healthier:** With the recent shift of power in our country's Executive Branch, there will be no need for you to make an effort to accomplish this goal! The new health commissioner, RFK Jr., plans on eliminating the harmful substances in our foods, which include baking soda, sugar, wheat, eggs, and milk.
- 5. Save Money:** Stop paying the Bush tuition.
- 6. New Year, New You:** With the 21st-century fluffy hairstyle, groups of teenage boys are beginning to resemble lively processions of alpacas. It is time to make a change. Start a new fad by asking your barber to give you a mullet, mohawk, or bowl cut. These unique hairstyles will allow you to differentiate yourself from the rest of your alpaca pod and will give you social credit.
- 7. A New Hobby:** Dude ranching is out, and ant hunting is in. Though students may believe that USS has been rid of its ant infestation, this is exactly what the small critters want us to believe. Take initiative by hunting any ants you see to make sure these sources of displeasure never haunt our hallowed halls again.
- 8. Another New Hobby:** Redesign the Bush Logo. Contact students currently taking Computer Art with Will Baber for guidance.
- 9. Travel:** Everyone seems to say they will soon travel the world, but never end up doing so. Break out of this; start your senior trip with your friends right after Cascades end.
- 10. Community Activism:** If you wish for the New Year to spark a mindset of devotion to others in yourself, consider starting your altruistic endeavors within your school community. Grab a group of friends and occupy the MLK Community Center. Set up tents, and become masters of sign-waving. Your steadfast devotion to the cause will likely result in the City of Seattle making this one last concession to the Bush School, allowing us to finally resolve our parking issue and be rid of the \$100 fines.

# Satire

## The Abridger Anonymous

### The Parking Situation

Early in the morning, during my commute, I always try to get a senior parking spot. But lately, I have been arriving later and later, and there seems to be fewer parking spots than before. Those pesky juniors and underclassmen need to stop parking in our spots! Not only do they park there, but they don't even have the gall to admit it. I have not even seen one of these students walking confidently from their car up the hill on their short stubby legs they must use as a flimsy excuse to park there. When reached for comment no seniors elected to respond. It is clear that we, as a senior class, must take some drastic action to clear out these adjunct cars from our holiest of parking areas. We must once again make senior parking for the seniors and institute the \$100 fines for any non-senior caught parking there.

### Sports

The Bush School, while throbbing in some sports departments, severely neglects others. The ping pong club, smash team, spike ball ballers, and many others deserve their rightful place in the limelight alongside our more prestigious teams, like cross country. One notorious student commented, "It's not fair that we are shunned to the side just because we don't do a productive sport like doubles tennis." This student is justified in thinking that we need to invest more in these clearly important teams. And while the ping pong club is getting some of the attention it deserves through funding for a new table, this pales in comparison to the budget the "real" teams get. Another individual concurs: "I mean, have you seen how much money it takes to just refinish the floor in the gym? I mean my god." While they continued to start each sentence with "I mean," we at the editorial staff of The Abridger elected to conclude the interview there. "But, like, they should really let us compete internationally," local spike ball baller and smash club clubber rightfully asserted. But it is inevitably up to the Senate to decide this, and we hope they pick the right side.

### Thanksgiving

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, it's time to look ahead and get ready to make excessive amounts of food. Today, we at The Abridger bring you the most requested dish made by teenagers at the Bush School: "I Don't Care." To properly prepare "I Don't Care" for you and your family, the first thing you're going to need to do is drop by Costco, or whatever the closest convenience store or gas station is, and pick up either a bag of candy or chips. Then drive home in your car and consume!

I would like to take a break from this paper to bring you an announcement from our very own bake sale club, which will be once again hosting a bake sale in the foyer of Upper School South. Proceeds will go

towards buying the Upper School South building a new name.



### The Bush Senate

Virtually nobody

is unhappy with the Bush School Senate. However, many rumblings have been heard in the hallways about how our two-party system, electing only from the students and teachers, should be abolished. It is even enshrined in the Student/Faculty Senate Constitution. In Article II, Section A: Membership, part 1 details the only parties deemed acceptable to this government: "The Senate shall be composed of six members of the Upper School faculty or staff and six Upper School students."

One individual says, "We need more parties in our Senate, like a Bush Neighbor's Party, or a Parents' Party. And don't even get me started on the stranglehold seniors have over the Students' Party," I, for one, agree with this person. It just doesn't seem right that only people who physically attend this school should have a voice in the most influential and important administrative process on campus. Some might say that a governing body like this should only be made up of its constituents. I disagree; it should include anyone and every one whom it might affect with any of its decisions.

# — Global News —

## Peace in Haiti Clement Hervet

Haiti, the first independent Black republic and the first country in the Americas to abolish slavery, has a rich history. However, it has faced ongoing struggles, including political instability, poverty, and natural disasters, that have perpetuated a cycle of crisis.

Haiti's challenges have grown worse in recent years. The assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July 2021 caused severe political chaos. Without strong leadership and with elections delayed, interim governments have been unable to restore stability. Armed gangs now control large parts of Port-au-Prince and other areas, worsening the nation's instability.

Economically, Haiti is in a dire situation. Over 60% of the population lives in poverty, and unemployment rates remain high. Inflation has risen sharply, and the country is heavily reliant on money and foreign aid. Public services, such as healthcare and education, are underfunded and unable to meet the people's needs.

Haiti's location also makes it highly vulnerable to natural disasters. Hurricanes, earthquakes, and floods have caused repeated devastation, with the 2010 earthquake resulting in over 200,000 deaths and the displacement of millions. Environmental problems, like deforestation, have made these disasters worse and left the country more vulnerable to climate change.

Despite these significant challenges, there are ways to bring stability and peace



Global Cont.

to Haiti. A mix of domestic actions and international help is needed to address the country's problems.

Building a stable government is key to Haiti's recovery. Holding free and fair elections is essential to create legitimate leadership. International organizations like the United Nations can help ensure these elections are transparent. Efforts to fight corruption, improve public services, and hold leaders accountable are also crucial to rebuild trust in government institutions.

Enhancing security is an urgent need. Armed gangs have taken control of many areas, leading to violence and lawlessness. Disarming these groups and creating programs to reintegrate their members into society can help reduce their influence. Strengthening the police force with better training and resources is also vital to restoring order and reclaiming areas controlled by gangs.

Economic development is essential for lasting peace. Investments in agriculture, infrastructure, and small businesses can create jobs and reduce poverty. International aid should focus on long-term projects that empower local communities instead of temporary relief efforts.

Haiti's deep social inequalities have created divisions. Promoting education, encouraging dialogue, and adopting inclusive policies can help bridge these gaps. Involving women, youth, and marginalized groups in decision-making processes can strengthen social unity and build a more inclusive future.

International support is also critical for Haiti's recovery. Regional organizations like CARICOM (Caribbean Community) and the OAS can provide expertise and help mediate political negotiations. Partnerships with global organizations should respect Haiti's sovereignty while supporting its institutions. The Haitian displacement also plays an important role by sending remittances and advocating for international attention to Haiti's issues.

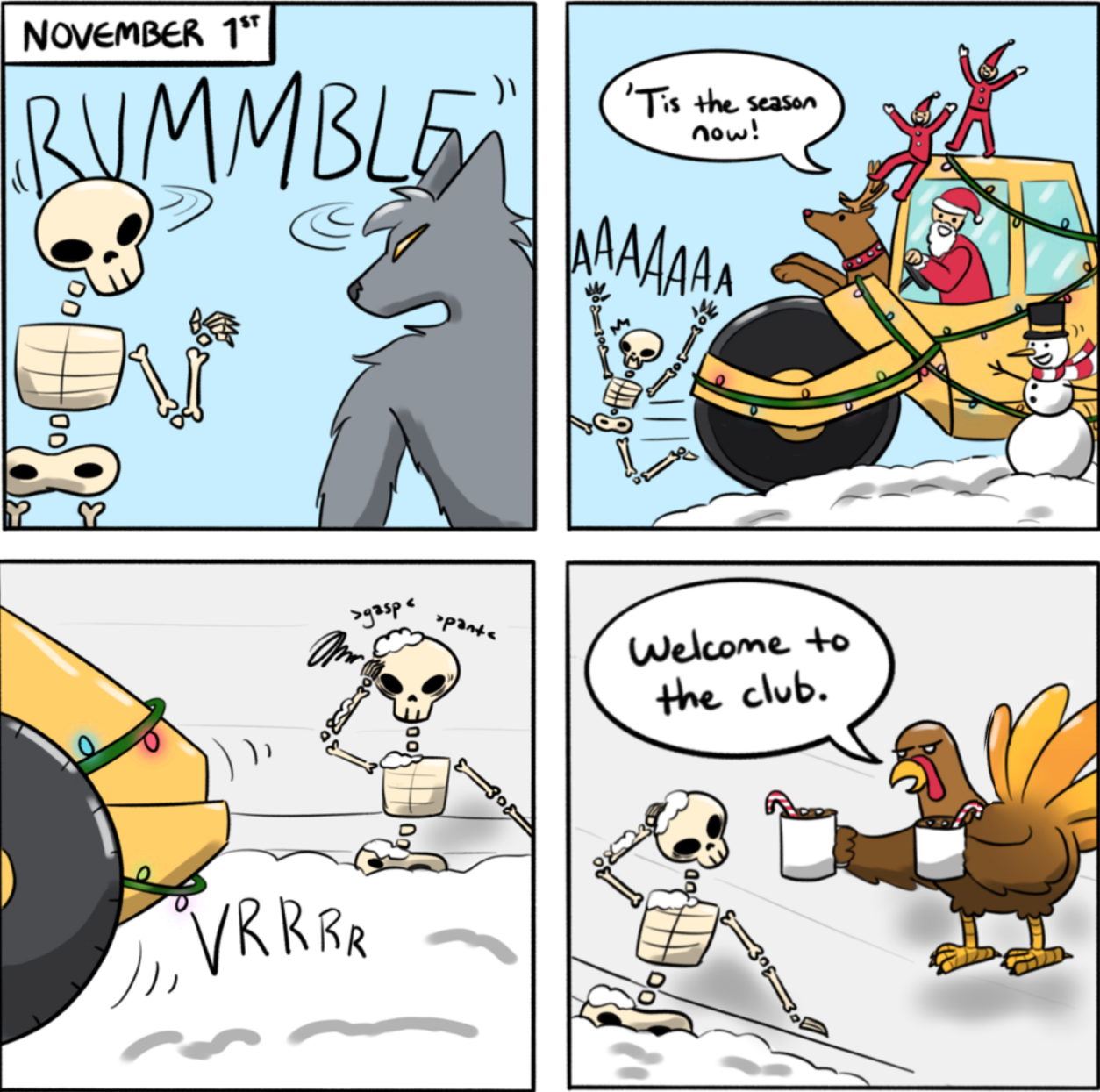
Haiti's path to peace is difficult but possible. Addressing political instability, insecurity, economic struggles, and social divisions will require coordinated efforts from Haitian leaders and the global community. By focusing on stable governance, improved security, economic growth, and social unity, Haiti can move toward a brighter and more peaceful future.



Anonymous, 2 Penguins



Comic Amelia Hart



Word Search Kaia McCready

G	F	D	L	F	V	W	S	S	E	B	C	J	A	H	R	Z	C	M	F
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- Snowflake  
Frost  
Icicle  
Blizzard
- Hibernate  
Sledding  
Fireplace  
Mittens
- Snowman  
Polar  
Iceberg  
Evergreen
- Snowfall  
Scarf  
Skating  
Glacier



Word Search Answer Key:



Want to have your art/photos published in our next issue? Submit your art to our google form with this QR code!



H	I	I	V	R	M	Z	S	H	M	Y	I	H	J	U	Z	S	V	T	M
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O	F	C	C	H	I	B	E	R	N	V	T	E	V	E	V	I	I	M	Z
F	C	G	I	S	N	N	T	J	E	R	V	T	N	R	N	M	H	N	P
F	M	C	Z	R	H	V	A	J	C	B	E	S	S	V	F	T	D	F	G

Songs for each sign

# HOROSCOPES

## ARIES

Girls All Around The World by Greg Street, Lloyd, & Lil Wayne

## TAURUS

Here Comes Your Man by Pixies

## GEMINI

Better in the Dark by Jordana & TV girl

## CANCER

Tummy Hurts by Renee Rap

## LEO

Pink + White cover by Remi Wolf

## VIRGO

Creep by TLC

## LIBRA

Convention by Julia Jacklin

## SCORPIO

Eyes without a Face by Billy Idol

## SAGITTARIUS

Paranoid Android by Radiohead

## CAPRICORN

Passin' Me By by The Pharcyde

## AQUARIUS

Baby, I Love Your Way by Big Mountain

## PISCES

M.E. by Gary Numan

Kaia McCready, Amelia Hart and Evoc Shen

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