

THE RAMBLER

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Opinion

Are The Freshmen Really That Bad? Freshman Advisories: Yes or No?

Luke Marcuss and Ryan Frisbie-Smith

“When you put 10 bloodthirsty kids in the same room,” said Andrew Blankenship ‘28 on the topic of the new freshmen advisories, “with crossbows and maces and other various medieval weaponry, don’t be shocked when only one of them walks out.” It didn’t take much time to learn that students have quite strong opinions about the new freshmen advisories. We immediately knew we had to investigate it, and as we explored through the darkest depths of Bush’s haunted halls and learned the truth about one of Bush’s most frequently asked questions -- “Are the freshmen really that bad?” – we uncovered the truth.

It is known that the grade has gone through much, and although the freshmen’s maturity is below average, what other lurking reason is there as to why the freshmen are being held separate from the other grades? So now, using our anonymous sources, we will expose Bush once and for all and determine the REAL reason behind why the freshmen are being kept in the confinement of their own advisories.

To know the answers to these questions, we knew that we had to interrogate our teachers, and answers we did find. One teacher, who was depicted by a student as having a “kill count [of] 587.2,” explained that the reason the freshmen are in their own advisories is because, “When you have people of mixed grades in advisory together, sometimes the freshman struggle to make new friends with people who are older than them.” The teacher then went on to explain that the purpose of the new advisories is to allow the freshmen to bond with each other better, but is this really working? Abby Goldberger ‘26 claims that “[in] freshman year the thing that really helped [her] become a part of Bush was being friends with the seniors in advisory.” Meanwhile, when Gareth Widlansky ‘25 was asked about his memories from whole grade advisories, he reminisced about bonding with his older peers by playing UNO with them. It’s well known how valuable the all-grade advisories are to the upperclassmen, but how do the freshmen feel?

The freshmen are very divided on the issue of freshman advisories. Some love it, some hate it, but most genuinely don’t care. When asked about the freshmen advisories, Esme King-Bagley ‘28 said, “I honestly don’t care too much,”



Eli ‘28, Untitled

which was similar to most responses that freshmen had on the topic. On the other hand, Oliver Donovan Pape ‘28, when we were interviewing another student about freshmen advisories, shouted, “They’re all bad!” Lastly, we have freshmen like Caroline Einstein ‘28, who remarked that she “like[s] them [because] they have snacks.” As we interviewed students, it became abundantly clear that most freshmen do not care about the new advisory changes. However, after having interviewed Lothar Ederer ‘28, we know that at least he has strong feelings against the freshmen advisories, stating that he “want[s] to be like the cool kids” and join the same advisory as the upperclassmen. Lothar also declared, “I HATE freshmen advisories because I am in love with a sophomore [Kingston Wray] and how am I ever going to see him?” What a surprising confession! Let’s hear what Kingston Wray ‘27 has to say about freshmen advisories.

Once we interviewed Kingston, it became clear that Lothar’s love was one-sided. On the topic of freshmen advisories, Kingston shared that “it’s kind of nice not having freshmen in our advisories,” as most upperclassmen find them annoying. Turns out Lothar didn’t make as strong a connection with Kingston as he thought. Once we informed Lothar of the news of Kingston’s confession, he replied, “I’m devastated, and, uh, I don’t really want to be interviewed anymore.” What a surprising turn of events for Lothar Ederer. Aside from Kingston, let’s hear what other sophomores have to say about the new advisories. We’re sure everyone is dying to know, was their freshman year really that bad? Were they truly unable to make friends to the point that the school had to put the current freshmen in their own advisories? Did the current sophomores cause the switch from all grade advisories to freshmen advisories?

First of all, the answer is yes, the sophomores are the ones to blame for the switch to freshmen advisories. This was explained to us by a teacher who said that the sophomores “wish[ed] that they could have made friends faster,” but how do the sophomores feel about this? The first sophomore we interviewed was Nicola Lombardi ‘27, who said she didn’t know the reason for freshmen advisories and thought that all grade advisories were important because, “It’s good to

have friends in different grades.” Another sophomore, Edi Rotival ‘27, claimed that his advisory was “welcoming freshmen year.” Edi also said, “I don’t know if I would appreciate [being put in a freshmen advisory] if I were freshmen,” showing once again how valuable the all grade advisories are to the upperclassmen. It’s clear that the sophomores disagree with the new advisories just as much as all the other grades! So, if no one likes the new advisories, why are they a thing? That’s a good question, and counselor Maria Mathiesen sheds some light on this by saying she “ha[s] been here for 8 years and ha[s] been through 6 schedules... nothing is permanent.” It seems to us that all the grades are crossing their fingers and knocking on wood, hoping that like the new schedule, these new freshmen advisories won’t be permanent either.

Mycology

A Mushroom’s Mumblings ft. Poison Fire Coral Evoc Shen

Common Name: Poison Fire Coral

Scientific Name: *Trichoderma cornu-damae*, formerly *Podostroma cornu-damae*

Mushy Mumblings: A hastily written blog filled with the research of some article online, that is what this is (but did those articles do any research?).

The poison fire coral is one of the deadliest mushrooms in the world, and I’m quite sure that the mushroom loves the acclaim. In fact, a good deal of clickbaity new articles spawned on the wide wide web in 2019 due to its then-recent sighting in Australia. There were a small amount of false claims mixed in with eye-catching facts in those articles, which caught my interest. So here I am, writing a hopefully not too obvious ramble of completely true information, or so I can claim, about the poison fire coral! It’s totally not poisonous. I totally have no interest in poisonous mushrooms.

Physically, the poison fire coral is described as tough (which I cannot personally confirm) and it is orange-red, but it can age to an orange-brown color. As for a physical description, one of my friends, ever so enlightening stated that it looked like “fingers digging up from the earth” or “upside-down short carrots.” But on the internet there are multiple photos of it, so you too can come up with your own equally amusing descriptions. Additionally, this mushroom can look similar to some clavarioid species and *cordyceps militaris*, a mushroom used in traditional Chinese medicine, which

Mycology Cont.

are all edible, whereas the poison fire coral is not. That similarity is the reason that the Poison Fire Coral is consumed; surprisingly, people do not ingest this poisonous mushroom on purpose, and I also doubt the mushroom wished to be consumed either. So, in our next issue, we shall have a tell-all interview with—

—Hm, I see, it seems that the mushroom is unable to talk, and I am unwilling to fly to Asia or Australia to find some rare poison fire coral; let's move on.

The poison fire coral contains trichothecene mycotoxins, which, to the average reader, is just a 'fancy name for a type of toxin.' But for the not so-average reader, the specific types of trichothecenes are multiple forms of satratoxin H (12', 13'-diacetate, 12'-acetate, and 13'-acetate), verrucarins J, and roridin E. Roridin E has been researched as a potential anticancer agent, however there are multiple safety issues, such as the fact that it can only be harvested from poison fire coral mushrooms.

Now, onto the arguably more interesting part: the effects of consumption. Right off the bat, depending on the amount consumed and method you would use to (hopefully accidentally) consume the mushroom, the symptoms could take anywhere from a few hours to a few weeks to kick in. Some symptoms include desquamation (peeling skin), alopecia (hair loss), stomach pains, and a shrinking in the cerebellum, which can lead to speech impediments, changes in perception, and problems with voluntary movement. Other symptoms include a decreased number of white blood cells and platelets, disseminated intravascular coagulation, and, eventually, multi-organ failure. There is no antidote for poison fire coral, so the most that doctors can do is supportive therapy, which only addresses the symptoms. However, there isn't a 100 percent fatality rate, meaning there is hope for survival.

Additionally, there are some old articles that state the poison fire coral can cause skin irritation or death if touched. This is based on the fact that its toxins (the trichothecene mycotoxins, if you remember), can be absorbed via touch. However, that is the case for the toxins, not the actual mushroom itself. Some blogs stated for a fact that touching the poison fire coral does not cause skin irritation, as the writers were mushroom hunters and had found and touched the mushroom. Although, personally, I still wouldn't recommend being too rash if you find a poison fire coral out in the wild: don't touch it and then lick your hands or touch your eyes right after. However, if you're in the mood to tempt fate, don't let my words guide you away from some foolhardy decisions. Free choice and all.

And speaking of free choice, here is the paragraph where I choose to end this ramble. I purposely didn't include any mention of the fatalities it caused, but if you are interested: there were some in Japan and Korea in 1999 and 2000. Either way, I will now awkwardly shuffle out with the hope of having more poisonous

mushroom facts or just facts about a non-poisonous mushroom if you all so desire. However, to any potential emailer, I may be unable to respond, as I will be prodding at the idea of taking a plane flight to Japan and finding a poison fire coral myself.

Satire

10 Alternative Bush Logos Amelia Hart and Lauren Staiman



In the spirit of celebrating old endings and new beginnings, we present 10 logos that represent some core aspects and values of our school. Which one would you vote for?

1. This splendid topiary would look phenomenal on campus! Now that The Rock is admittedly outdated, we are in the market for a new symbol of school spirit. Where shall we put it? Hedge your bets!
2. Enough with the clever acronyms and witty play-on words. We're a proud literal arts school!
3. True Bush Blazers must always strive for more Blaze appreciation. We're also somewhat lacking in cheerleaders, so let's kill two birds with one stone (but please don't aim at Blaze).
4. The Rock's uncertain fate has become a hot topic of discussion in the Upper School campus. Proposal: ensure its legacy lasts forever as the new face of the Bush School.
5. Perhaps sticking the green bins on every sports jersey and school planner would remind students to return them punctually. A student body can dream.
6. This compass' navigational design is accurate to the layout of the Bush School. Whether you're napping in USS, stuck in the Commons line, or sprinting to Schuchart, Bush is in every direction, and sometimes your destination is very, very far away.
7. This simple and shiny design was etched into a discarded piece of cardboard on the floor of Wissner 101. The people have spoken, and we have simply delivered.

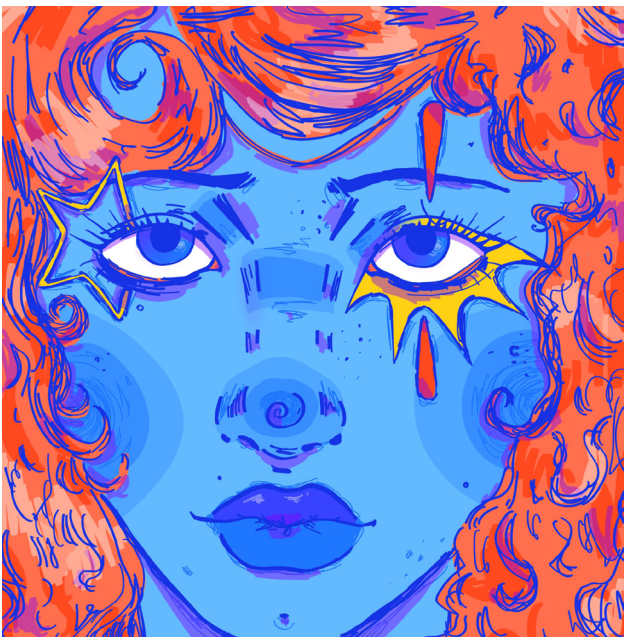
8. A good logo represents the community for which it stands. This beloved mobile game is adored by at



least half of the student body, and the phone ban is enthusiastically followed by every student.

9. Our school possesses a wide range of experienced staff and honorable alumni. Let us celebrate those who came before with an old friend from a senior source of entertainment: Fortnite. Anyone who recognizes this vaulted disguise is 5 years behind the times.

10. What better way to commemorate our beloved head of school than to give him the everlasting crown he deserves? His legacy shall prevail in the 101 years to come.



Anonymous, Doodle of a Face

Opinion

Teens and the Future of Social Media Samuel Checkal

"Teens are spending nearly 5 hours daily on social media," according to APA reports. Social media has become a crucial part of teenage life. The most popular social media platforms, such as YouTube, TikTok, and Instagram, have millions of teen users. Recent debates about privacy, mental health, and national security have sparked scrutiny about the future of these apps, particularly TikTok. As the U.S. government moves to ban TikTok due to concerns over its Chinese ownership, millions of teens may lose one of their favorite apps. As the scrutiny of TikTok has increased, so has the attention paid to U.S.-based social media platforms like Instagram. In response to mounting pressure, Instagram has introduced new "teen account" settings in an attempt to protect younger users. However, are these changes enough to safeguard teens online, or do they raise even more questions about the role of social media in our lives?

TikTok Ban: Why?

In April 2024, Congress passed and President Biden signed legislation to ban

Review Cont.

TikTok, marking the culmination of years of bipartisan concern in Washington over Chinese threats tied to the ownership of the app. With over 42.5 million teen users, TikTok has become a powerful platform for entertainment, social connection, and content creation. However, according to AP News, “lawmakers and administration officials have expressed concerns that Chinese authorities could force ByteDance, TikTok’s Chinese parent company, to hand over U.S. user data, or influence Americans by suppressing or promoting certain content on TikTok.”

TikTok is a place for teens to participate in viral challenges, create content, and connect with friends. According to Pew Research, 63% of all U.S. teens use TikTok, with nearly 1 in 5 saying they use it “almost constantly.” Its simplicity and algorithm-driven content make it a go-to app for many. However, the government views the platform as a potential risk to national security, creating tension between its massive popularity and the need for regulation. “Congress is not acting to punish ByteDance, TikTok, or any other individual company,” Senate Commerce Committee Chairwoman Maria Cantwell said. “Congress is acting to prevent foreign adversaries from conducting espionage, surveillance, and harming vulnerable Americans.” According to NPR, while the ban seriously threatens TikTok’s future in the U.S., legal challenges and complications in selling the app are likely to cause delays.

TikTok has already asked a federal appeals court to overturn the ban on the plea that free expression surpasses Congress’s national security concerns. A correspondent for NPR notes that the panel of three judges has not shown which way the court is leaning in this case.

TikTok’s Other Legal Troubles

Recently, according to a CNN report, 14 attorneys general sued TikTok over allegations that the platform has “addicted” young people and harmed their mental health. “TikTok’s underlying business model focuses on maximizing young users’ time on the platform so the company can boost revenue from selling targeted ads,” the attorneys general said in a statement. TikTok is accused of using an addictive, content-recommendation system designed to keep minors on the platform as long as possible and as often as possible, despite the dangers of compulsive use. Kentucky Public Radio found documents where company officials admitted that features like a time-on-app reminder are not expected to reduce screen time as advertised; instead, it aimed at “improving public trust.” Another document quotes an anonymous TikTok executive talking about the app’s algorithm potentially addicting minors. The executive says we need to consider how the app might deprive young people of opportunities: “And when I say other opportunities, I literally mean sleep and eating and moving around the room and looking at someone in the eyes.”

Instagram’s Response: The Rise of Teen Accounts

In response to growing concerns over online safety, Instagram introduced new “teen account” settings in September 2024. These settings automatically make millions of teen accounts private and restrict the types of content that users under 18 can view. The changes are designed to protect teens from harmful or inappropriate content and encourage them to adopt parental supervision through the app.

While Instagram’s move to protect teens reflects a broader concern for online safety and mental health, some have questioned whether the platform’s intentions are genuinely selfless, especially considering the leaked documents from TikTok previously mentioned. Instagram’s primary goal is to keep users engaged, and companies like Meta, which owns Instagram, make money by collecting data and selling targeted ads. Vox mentions that although parents might feel more in control thanks to these new restrictions, the reality is that teens’ attention is still a valuable product in the social media economy.

Are These Changes Enough?

I believe Instagram’s “teen account” settings are a step in the right direction, but they fall short of fully protecting teen users. While these settings might offer more privacy and content restrictions, they do not address the inherent addictive nature of these platforms. Simply making accounts private is not enough to protect teens in a digital world that prioritizes engagement and attention above all else.

I do not believe tech companies should treat teens’ data as commodities. The current business model for social media platforms exploits teens’ engagement for profit. This raises concerns, as revenue conflicts with the well-being of young users. Social media companies must shift their focus from maximizing engagement to creating safer, more ethical digital spaces for teens if they truly care about their well-being.

What to Watch For and Why You Should Care

As these issues develop, you might wonder why it matters to you. Beyond the headlines, what’s at stake is your control over your digital life. Beyond privacy settings and content restrictions, your data—what you watch, click, and share—is being collected and sold. Have you thought about who profits from your online behavior and who controls your data? National security concerns may seem far off, but if governments are worried about foreign-owned apps using your data, shouldn’t you be? And then there’s mental health. How much time are we actually spending on these platforms? Are they making us feel more connected, or just more isolated? These are questions worth thinking about now because the future of social media is being shaped by these very issues.



Review

Vice and Virtue: Casablanca Lilly Price and Kaia McCready



Lilly Price

Virtue

Casablanca is truly a masterpiece. With the combination of romance, betrayal, and a devastating war, we see the main character struggle with sacrificing his own dignity for a greater cause. And, this movie is done in an aesthetic black and white screen, which really made me feel fancy while watching it. When Rick—iconic name btw—is faced with his former lover Ilsa Lund who ran out on him (scandal!), what is he going to do? Well, you’ll have to find that out on your own, but here’s why you should watch it.

There are so many iconic lines in this movie, and I’m going to have to highlight a couple. When Casablanca’s Captain Louis Renault is telling Rick not to tell this guy Lazlo that he is going to be arrested by the Nazis, Rick says, “I stick my neck out for nobody,” to which Renault responds, “A good foreign policy.” The lines are so subtle, and they just eat every time, like wow that is so true Captain. And while Rick starts off pretty focused on himself and his saloon, we see him come around to realize that his own problems aren’t that deep.

Another amazing quote is said by Victor Laszlo, the husband of Ilsa Lund—the one that ran out on Rick—and it is, “If we stop breathing we’ll die, and if we stop fighting our enemies the world will die.” These are the kinds of things that stick with you after watching the film.

It’s so clear that Ilsa loves Rick more than her own husband—which is weird since Paul Henreid (Victor Laszlo) is way better looking in my opinion—and yet

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her husband needs her to fight the war against the Nazis, so she will go with him to do that. In the end, the two lovebirds put their issues aside for the greater good of the world, and Rick says, “I’m no good at being noble, but it doesn’t take much to see that the problems of three people don’t amount to a hill of beans in this crazy world.” Basically, he seems neutral and acts like he’s only looking out for himself the whole film, but really we can see that Rick is a sentimentalist.

Vice

Casablanca: A classic, but should it be? Watching this movie, I couldn’t help but wonder why, more than 80 years later, we endure over an hour and a half of greasy comb overs and comically large shoulder pads. This movie had me yelling “Get over it, dude!” at my television, and not only was Rick’s yearning obnoxious, but it was based on a lie. This movie romanticizes infidelity and lung cancer. Is the gloomy, avant-garde look of cigarette smoke in the black-and-white bars of sunlight through window blinds worth the risk? The man himself, Humphrey Bogart, died tragically young of esophageal cancer. The “peak of cinema” promotes both adultery and cigarette usage indoors.

Another thing: the best character in the whole film, Sam the piano player, disappears without explanation from the last third of the movie. I spent the whole time trying to figure out where he had gone. Had Rick sold him out? Ultimately, yes. I coveted Sam and his piano, which he was apparently literally attached at the hip to, as he never even so much as walked across Rick’s without dragging it along with him.

Here’s a question for the reader: are you fluent in French, Russian, German, Spanish, and English? Oh, you’re not? Good luck! This movie features all of these languages, heavily, with such helpful subtitles as: [speaking French], leaving us to scrutinize the characters’ gesticulation in order to have any idea what is going on.

Casablanca, the city, is famously in the country of Morocco. A fun fact about Morocco: The Metric system has been compulsory since 1923. Why, pray tell, in the year 1942, were the people in this movie using miles? Rick says “Ah, that’s the new German 77. And judging by the sound, only about thirty-five miles away.” Though it’s clearly established he’s an American, he’s lived abroad for years and is surrounded by Europeans, to whom “thirty-five miles” means nothing. Making even less sense, an orderly refers to the runway visibility as “one and one-half miles.”

Casablanca is an inconsistent and altogether confusing film, whose status as the pinnacle of the art should be rethought.

Sports

State of the U.S. Men’s National Team Ayaan Bali

Despite the women seeing many World Cup and Olympic successes, the United States men’s national team has been pretty poor for as long as time itself. However, recently, there has been a surge of hope within this team to possibly see some success in the 2026 World Cup, which will be hosted by the USA, Mexico, and Canada. So, how has a team that has not seen much success on the international stage throughout its history given hope to many that the tide could be turning?

To understand the national team as we know it today, we must rewind to October 10, 2017, a day that will forever haunt American soccer fans. The USA played Trinidad & Tobago in Couva. All the USA needed to do was win, and they would have qualified for the 2018 World Cup. The game finished 2-1 to Trinidad, and the USA failed to qualify for the World Cup since 1986, a new historic low in the team’s history.

This event forced major changes to be made within the US soccer federation. Going after dual nationals (players eligible to play for the USA as well as for other countries) was made a priority, aging veterans were removed from the program for a new young generation, and manager at the time, Bruce Arena, was fired. In 2018, the keys to this new generation were handed to Gregg Berhalter, the then highly regarded manager of the Columbus Crew in the MLS.

Under Berhalter, the USA reigned supreme in CONCACAF (the North American soccer federation), winning two continental championships: The Nations League and the Gold Cup, both in 2021. Later that year, the USA also secured qualification to the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar. This was big after the failures of the previous qualification cycle and would be Berhalter’s first real test as manager. They reached the Round of 16, where his team suffered defeat at the hand of the Netherlands.

Simultaneously, Berhalter had also been building a roster of very exciting young players who were playing for Europe’s top clubs. These included Christian Pulisic, Tyler Adams, Yunus Musah, Folarin Balogun, Sergiño Dest, and Antonee Robinson, just to name a few. However, despite reaching the knockout stage of the World Cup, winning regional trophies and reshaping the team, many fans wanted Berhalter gone. His play style was bland, he always picked his favorites, and it felt as though he was holding this team back and not letting these young players reach their full potential.

After the 2022 World Cup, Berhalter’s contract expired on December 31, 2022, and the federation let him walk. The US soccer federation conducted a long, detailed search for a replacement. On June 16, 2023, the federation re-hired Gregg Berhalter to lead the team through

to the 2026 World Cup. At this time, the US was invited to compete and host the 2024 edition of Copa America (the South American



tournament), which would give them a slate of competitive games against top competition prior to the 2026 World Cup.

After the re-hiring of Berhalter, there was a lot of resentment among Americans, and he was made the scapegoat if anything went wrong. He had a chance to change that narrative when Copa America rolled around in the summer of 2024. The Stars and Stripes won their first game 2-0 against Bolivia, but it all went downhill from there. Losing to both Panama and Uruguay, the USA was eliminated in humiliating fashion in the Group Stages. A week later the federation decided they had enough of Gregg Berhalter once and for all and decided to fire him, which was music to American ears.

Then the extensive search began for a new American head coach. The US Soccer sporting director Matt Crocker said he was targeting a “serial winner” for the head coaching role. Candidates ranged from legendary former Liverpool Manager Jurgen Klopp (who quickly said no) to Steve Cherundolo of LAFC in the MLS. On the 10th of September 2024, the federation had come to its decision to hire the Argentinian Mauricio Pochettino as their next manager, to lead them through 2026.

Pochettino is exactly the guy the United States needed to compete. A world class manager, who has experience managing some of the top teams and very best players in the world. He had success at some of Europe’s finest clubs, such as Tottenham, Chelsea, and Paris Saint-Germain. Some of the top players he managed include Harry Kane, Kylian Mbappe, and Lionel Messi.

Despite Mauricio Pochettino’s questionable reputation in big matches, Americans are excited, and have every right to be. After the failures of Copa America, the team needed a manager who could develop these young talented players into world class superstars and have the USA challenge top teams in the world. Mauricio Pochettino is that guy, and with him at the helm, I believe this team can go far in 2026.

Opinion

What Does the Film Industry Look Like a Year After SAG-AFTRA Agreements? Lilly Price

This time last year, after more than six months of tumultuous negotiations, the Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (known as SAG-AFTRA) and the WGA (Writers Guild of America) came to an agreement with Hollywood studios. The strike began in May 2023 and ended on November 9, 2023. For the first time since 1960, actors and writers walked out simultaneously. As the longest SAG-

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AFTRA strike to date, it resulted in the loss of over 45,000 jobs and halted many Hollywood productions. Following the disruption in the industry felt by the pandemic just three years earlier, this was devastating for many “below-the-line” workers, who don’t meet the minimums for union medical care and are having to take extreme economic measures like mortgaging their homes.

Workers in the industry don’t feel that their job is done, though. Many saw these negotiations as temporary solutions to problems like A.I. and unfair wages. Writers and actors are still feeling the adverse effects of the hiatus, and others are nervous that more issues are soon to come.

One of the key points of the negotiations was A.I. usage in films, from writing to post-production. SAG-AFTRA secured many key protections for writers and actors, but ended up settling with studios that actors must consent to employers creating a “digital replica” of them for a job. Stunt actor Marie Fink told The Hollywood Reporter that when she showed up on the first day of her job for a show, they asked to make a digital replica of her. She was taken aback, and was under the impression that actors were to be given advanced notice. She had not been told beforehand. After negotiations, she was ultimately let go from the show for refusing a digital replica.

There are very few shows and movies in production right now. Production in the U.S. in the last six months is down 37 percent compared to the same period in 2022. Writers especially are having difficulty finding work, and many shows were indefinitely postponed during the strikes. Rules about residuals were put in place, or the money writers get every time something they wrote is streamed, but it is too soon to see the effects of that. Writer Lannet Tachel told NPR that “the union’s gains are helpful, but, in the long run, you still have to be one of the lucky few to get in so that help applies to you.” While writers who can find work reap the benefits of the strike, like entry-level writers receiving “script fees,” or bonuses for each script produced, most writers are out of jobs completely and have been for some time.

Studios are cutting costs, making up for the “lost year” of cinema, where essentially everything in production was postponed months or even years (some movies slated to come out in 2023 or early 2024 have been postponed to 2026). Some movies were canceled completely, a huge blow, especially if they were already in the early stages of production and had been invested in.

The SAG-AFTRA and WGA strikes could mean good things for the future of protections for film workers, but as-is, the immense effects of the lack of production mean work is scarce, making the day-to-day lives of writers and actors difficult.

Business

The Executive Review: Season 1, Episode 1 Clement Hervet

Welcome to The Executive Review, a brand new series in the Rambler. This series discusses everything related to business and economics. From world news to insider stories, we will explain it all and help you navigate this complicated part of our economy.

This article was written on October 17th, 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

With the presidential election coming up, Elon Musk, the founder and owner of Tesla, has chosen to endorse Trump for the White House. Just after a speech in Butler, PA, on Saturday, October 5th, Musk decided to use all the resulting media attention to unveil his new ‘Cybercab’ robotaxi. Tesla released images of multiple different robotaxis, with no steering wheels, aimed to revolutionize driverless taxis. Musk also unveiled a new Tesla Robovan, which is also a driverless taxi but can fit up to twenty people. Both of these designs are heavy on the metallic, shiny sci-fi aesthetic of the future. Musk himself even referenced the classic science fiction movie “Blade Runner.” Investors seemed unimpressed by, or at least doubtful of, these prototypes, and shares of Tesla (TSLA) were down more than 8% in late afternoon trading on Friday, October 11th.

Now onto a Seattle-based company that has been going through rough times lately. Boeing is now set to lay off 10% of its workforce. “Our business is in a difficult position, and it is hard to overstate the challenges we face together,” said Kelly Ortberg, who started as CEO of the troubled aircraft manufacturing company two months ago. Since then, he has been dealing with a strike by 33,000 hourly workers. This announcement doesn’t even scratch the surface of what Boeing has been going through over the past 5 years. They have faced losses of more than \$33 billion; a string of severe, sometimes fatal lapses; and increased scrutiny from regulators and law enforcement as a result.

7-11, a global chain known for offering a wide variety of everyday items, is now set to close more than 400 locations. These North American locations are said to be underperforming, as was announced by the CEO of 7-11. The chain has more than 13,000 stores across the United States, Mexico, and Canada, so the number of closures amounts to 3% of their North American portfolio. The leaders of 7-11 have also released a statement saying that they noticed a “more prudent approach to consumption” from middle- and low-income earners because of persistent inflation and high interest rates.

Stocks

As you read this, please know that I am not an expert, so if I make any mistakes, please do not risk your life savings on my advice.



The world of stocks is a complicated one. But what makes it so complicated? Is it the numbers, the percentages, the money, or the part where you risk your life savings? Well, this part of the Executive Review is made for you to understand this.

The stock market is a marketplace where investors can buy and sell shares of publicly traded companies. Companies issue stocks as a way to raise capital, offering investors partial ownership in exchange. Each share represents a percentage of the company’s ownership, and the value of this ownership fluctuates based on market demand, company performance, and broader economic factors. For example, if a company issues 1 million shares, and an investor owns 10,000 shares, they own 1% of the company. Once a company’s shares are listed on an exchange like the NYSE or NASDAQ, they can be traded among investors in what is known as the secondary market.

Stock prices rise or fall based on the company’s performance, investor sentiment, and economic conditions. If a company shows strong growth, such as increasing sales or profits, its stock price might go up, benefiting shareholders. On the other hand, poor performance or negative market conditions can lead to a decline in stock prices. Investors can make money by selling their shares for more than they paid, or through dividends, which are periodic payments made by the company based on its earnings. The overall market can grow as more companies go public or expand, and as more people invest, increasing the total value of all shares in the market. Market indices like the S&P 500 or Dow Jones track the performance of groups of stocks to give a snapshot of how the broader market is performing, with growth measured in percentages over time. For example, if the S&P 500 rises by 5% in a year, it indicates that, on average, the value of stocks in that index has grown by that percentage.

U.S. stocks ended in September and the third quarter with new record highs as investors responded to Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell’s promise to keep the economy strong, while also signaling that he won’t rush into more interest rate cuts. The S&P 500 went up by 0.4%, setting a new record, and the NASDAQ Composite gained close to 0.4% as well. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose slightly, ending the day at its latest all-time high. Despite September usually being a difficult month for stocks, Wall Street saw solid gains. The S&P 500 recorded its best year-to-date performance by the end of September since 1997 and had its best quarter since late 2021. Over the past three months, the Dow led the charge with an 8.2% increase, while the S&P rose by 5.4%, and the NASDAQ added nearly 3%. The Federal Reserve’s large interest

Business Cont.

rate being cut, combined with signs of strength in the U.S. economy, gave investors more confidence, helping stocks see three consecutive weekly gains. As the month and quarter wrapped up, there was also some profit-taking and rebalancing among investors. Looking ahead, the focus is now on the upcoming September jobs report, which is expected to provide more clues about the state of the labor market and whether the Fed's recent moves are helping to maintain economic growth. Investors are particularly interested in how fast the job market is slowing down and whether the Fed's actions are meant to protect a strong economy or to support a weakening one.

For this month of October, analysts are saying that important stocks to invest in are ServiceNow, Goldman Sachs, Nvidia, and Uber, as they are all reaching all-time highs. ServiceNow is a small startup in Silicon Valley with a bright future. As of 2023, they have had a revenue of 8 billion dollars a year, and their stock has increased by 3.34% (\$29.71) over the past month. Goldman Sachs is an investment banking company with a 46.25 billion dollar revenue expected in 2024. Their stock has increased by 10.05% (\$48.50) over the past month. Nvidia is also an important stock to invest in as they work with the up-and-coming rise of AI. This sector of business is expected to skyrocket and already has. Nvidia's stock has increased 18.12% (\$21.22) over the past month. Lastly, Uber is expected to work on and revolutionize robotaxis and electric vehicles, as said by their CEO, Dara Khosrowshahi. With investors looking into the area of business, Uber's stock has already gone up 12.47% (\$8.94) over the past month and is expected to continue growing.

This concludes it for this month's Executive Review. Please read the December issue for November and October's monthly roundup.

Sports

The 2024 Mariners: The Buildup, What Happened, and What's Next Ben Foltz

Author's note: This sports section is a recap of the 2024 Mariners season. For information about Bush athletics, you can go to [BushBlazersAthletics.com](https://bushblazersathletics.com). For more information on sports, you can go to ESPN.com.

The Buildup: The Seattle Mariners came into the 2024 season with high hopes. In 2022, the Mariners' seemingly never-ending rebuild was expedited by a breakout season. Breakout stars such as center fielder Julio Rodriguez and catcher Cal Raleigh led the Mariners to a 90-72 season, including a 14-game win streak. Young pitchers George Kirby and Logan Gilbert teamed up with trade deadline acquisition Luis Castillo for

a young, dynamic pitching rotation. A Cal Raleigh walk-off homer clinched the playoffs, ending the longest playoff drought in American sports at the time. The impossible had happened, and the Mariners made the playoffs.

After a Wild Card win over the Blue Jays and a brutal Divisional Series loss to the eventual champion, the Astros, things seemed to be looking up for the once-defective franchise. 2023 came along with mixed results. The good news was that the young, exciting rotation became a solid reliable rotation, as Kirby, Gilbert, and Castillo were joined by rookies Bryan Woo and Bryce Miller. The Mariners quickly became the team with the youngest pitching rotation in the MLB, full of potential. That, combined with superstar closer Andres Munoz, made it difficult for teams to consistently score in Seattle. However, the other bullpen pitchers had shaky moments and the young rotation had moments of wavering. While stars Rodriguez and Raleigh were still stellar and veteran JP Crawford had a career year, the rest of the lineup did not perform. Overall, the Mariners pitching finished 6 percent above average and the offense finished 8 percent above average. However, a close playoff race ended with the Mariners one game away from the playoffs at 88-74. 2023 ended up as a less magical season, but the key building blocks were in play for a great 2024 season.

What Happened: Going into the offseason, the Mariners were focused on reducing strikeouts. The Mariners were 2nd in the league in strikeouts in 2023. However, veteran additions Jorge Polanco, Luke Raley, Josh Rojas, and Mitch Garver gave the lineup a new veteran presence. The Mariners started off by far last in the league in strikeouts, and Garver and Polanco were struggling, alongside JP Crawford and Julio Rodriguez. There were bright spots, though. Complimentary pieces Josh Rojas and Luke Raley were quickly breaking out and moved the offense closer to average. Meanwhile, the pitching was the best it had ever been. The Mariners won games off of good pitching and the occasional offensive outburst. Just as importantly, division rivals such as the Astros and Rangers were having perplexingly bad starts to their 2024 campaign. This culminated in the Mariners being 44-31 and having a ten-game division lead, which was at the time the largest division lead in the MLB.

The next two months did not go as planned. What was at one point the best rotation in the MLB was still good but no longer dominant night in and night out. Meanwhile, the offense continued to struggle. Games that the Mariners would've won 2-1 in May turned to a 2-5 loss in July, as the pitching could no longer carry a dormant offense. Meanwhile, the Astros went on an absolute tear, leading to a quick change of the tides within the AL West. After being 10 games back, the Astros went 32-15 over their next 47 games and quickly took a five-game divisional lead. The Mariners tried to fix some of their problems by trading for veteran hitters Randy Arozarena and Justin Turner, but to no avail. The Mariners went on a 20-33 run, punctuated by a 1-8

road trip. This led to the definitive moment of the Mariners season, the firing of long-tenured manager Scott Servais.



This move came with mixed reviews. On one hand, Servais had led an undeniably successful rebuild up to that point that resulted in the Mariners first playoff berth in over 20 years. Additionally, Scott Servais was always loved by his staff and players. However, it was time for a change, and the Mariners brought in former Catcher Dan Wilson to become the new manager. Additionally, Mariner legend Edgar Martinez became the new hitting coach and tried to revitalize the Ms lackluster offense. The rest of the season went very strongly after this move, as the Mariners went 21-13 with Dan Wilson. It was a valiant effort, but the Mariners finished just one game out of the playoff race for the second straight year, at 85-77.

What's Next: The 2024 Mariner season was a tumultuous one, starting off promising, collapsing in the middle, then finishing off strong. Overall, this season will always be remembered as the season where Scott Servais got fired. In the big picture, next season will be crucial for President of Baseball Operations Jerry Dipoto, who has made undeniable progress over 10 years but hasn't been able to lead the Mariners to more than one playoff performance over that time. On a smaller scale, the team has the personnel to get it done. The same undeniably top-five pitching staff is under contract, and another year of development should bode well. Additionally, the Mariners outfield looks extremely strong, with 2024 breakout players Victor Robles and Luke Raley joining stars Randy Arozarena and Julio Rodriguez. The outfield and pitching will likely be the strengths of the Mariners, alongside catcher Cal Raleigh. The infield is extremely shaky with question marks at all four positions, and while JP Crawford and Josh Rojas may be back, all four positions could use more pop and more depth if they're going to stand up to the standard of the rest of the team. Overall, the current team's core is as strong as it's been since the early 2000s, which makes missing the playoffs the last two years all the more frustrating. This isn't the same old Mariners; this is a fun, exciting team that can't make the most of their opportunity. Next year will be the final straw for this regime, and if they don't make the most of it, serious changes will be coming in Seattle.



Eli '28, Untitled

Crossword

Charlotte Park

Answers are on the last page

1	2	3	4			5	6	7	8
9					10				
11				12					
13									
14				15				16	
			17				18	19	
	20	21				22			
23									
24						25			
26					27				

ACROSS

- 1 Holey footwear
5 Ticket scrap
9 Something freshmen might say plus or minus
10 Cold symptom
11 Typical pregnancy length
13 Remaining unknown
14 Spring forward
15 Distress signal
17 Lifesaving procedure that can be done to the beat of “Stayin’ Alive”
18 10 down’s cont.
20 Where chocolate comes from
23 Disappearing acts?
24 Protein option in a taco
25 Iowa college town

26 Minor hitch

27 Private journal

DOWN

- 1 Justin Bieber and The Weeknd’s home country
2 Machu Picchu or Pompeii, now
3 “Ready _____?”, Hide-and-seekers alert
4 Battle of Normandy city
5 Palindromic wireless speaker brand
6 Skirt found in ballerina’s closet
7 Noises of frustration
8 In your friends from Bellevue or Ballard’s insta bio
10 Island nation between Madagascar and Mozambique



- 12 Social media of the 2000s
16 Like clothes at formal occasions
17 Keeping in the loop, electronically
18 Fragrance
19 Smaller in number
20 Actor James of “The Godfather”
21 Indian city with the Taj Mahal
22 Language spoken in Bangkok
23 Hosts

What’s Up?

For this issue of What’s Up we asked 16 students about their thoughts on the new schedule; it was surprisingly a mixed review.

- Audrey Lehto ‘25: Not my favorite.
Edwin Duong ‘25: I don’t like it.
Caroline Sherley ‘25: I like the schedule, but the homework load is a little much sometimes.
Henry Kinney ‘25: I think it does a poor job of accomplishing what it wanted to accomplish.
Nyomi Bennett ‘26: I personally like it. I think a lot of people disagree with me, but I like not being stuck in a class for an hour and a half. Overall I like it. Also like the longer lunch.
Amelia Hart ‘26: I like the shorter classes but it’s less of a break during the day. It feels like a lot more class time overall, kind of going going going.
Eva Friese ‘26: I like the 75 minute classes but I wish we had community time and I think the back-to-back classes are really hard with homework.
Ligaya Santos ‘26: I like the 75 minute classes because we got used to classes being so short but I don’t like back-to-back classes because the homework is too much.
Lewis Nettleton ‘27: Four classes a day is too many, especially with the homework afterwards. 20 minute breaks are a weird length.
Hava Minkove ‘27: I’m honestly okay with having four classes but the homework load is kind of absolutely abysmal.
Samuel Checkal ‘27: I guess it’s ok. I wish advisory was longer, you know? I’m glad that I got to be with upperclassmen last year.
Kieren Chen ‘27: I think the first three classes in the morning are a bit long. It would be cool if we could have two and then two, just the morning is the hard part.
Jaya Shah ‘28: I actually really like it, I like the long breaks and I feel like we have a lot of time especially with conferences.
Sammy Schreiber ‘28: We never got to experience the old schedule but we had it on the four day weeks and I liked it.
Maxton Heindel ‘28: The old schedule is better because you get less homework. It makes it feel like it’s a short day.
Jaxon McCready ‘28: I enjoy it. It makes the day go by faster for some reason.

Word Search

Kaia McCready

Answers are on the last page

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

Asteroid

Blackhole

Comet

Constellation

Meteor

Nebula

Orbit

Pulsar

Cosmos

Eclipse

Galaxy

Gravity

Quasar

Solar

Stardust

Supernova

Crossword Answers:

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



Wordsearch Answers:

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

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CONTRIBUTORS

Editor In Chief
Teoman Champagne

Copy Editor In Chief
Lilly Price

Writers
Ryan Frisbie-Smith
Luke Marcuss
Amelia Hart
Lauren Staiman
Evoc Shen
Samuel Checkal
Lilly Price
Kaia McCready
Ayaan Bali
Clement Hervet
Ben Foltz

Art Director
Charlotte Sanders

Layout and Formatting
Kaia McCready

Artists
Amelia Hart
Lilly Price
Evoc Shen

Copy Editors
Helen Faber-Machacha
Alexandra Lin
Measles Villiot

Puzzle Masters
Charlotte Park
Kaia McCready

Faculty Supervisor
Alex Gamberg

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How each sign will be at Open Forum

HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Needs to speak at least one time per topic

TAURUS

"Can we move on to the next topic"

GEMINI

Stays quiet but has a lot of opinions

CANCER

"Can we get better water pressure on the water fountains"

LEO

"I just can't believe that..."

VIRGO

Makes one really good statement

LIBRA

"Please no clapping guys!"

SCORPIO

Says they were gonna say something but didnt find the right time

SAGITTARIUS

"Why are we spending time talking about this"

CAPRICORN

"For me personally"

AQUARIUS

"BINGO!"

PISCES

"I totally hear where you're coming from, it's just that..."

Kaia McCready, Amelia Hart and Evoc Shen