

# The Acorn

Issue #3 - Wednesday, January 17th, 2024

## Grand Tour Art Trip 2024

By Fernanda Ezquerra Silva

The first art trip for students at Oak Bay High was in 2019, and it remains one of the most sought-after trips of our school. The teacher in charge, Mrs. Wright started this in 2017, and it took more than a year to plan. Thanks to her dedication and the students' enthusiasm, this opportunity is still available at our school.

Students attending the trip fundraiser for it by selling freezes during lunch and running other activities, like a Bottle Drive. People can save their returns and support the Oak Bay High Art and Culture Student Trip in the next bottle drive on January 20, from 10 am. to 2 pm.



Mrs. Wright and students



Cynthia Cruz, a student going on the trip this year, was inspired by the stories of the students who went on the trip in previous years. They gained confidence, independence and knowledge about other cultures and countries over the course of the trip.

The main idea of the art trip is for students to be more cultured, not only about art but also about the world we live in. Going on this trip is a life-changing experience, making the students grow as people. Donate to the next Bottle Drive to support this cause!

# “If It Bleeds, It Leads”: Negative News Bias in the Media, and Why 2023 Really Was Not All That Bad

By Sophia Schlag

Reflecting on 2023’s memorable headlines, you might have thought it was a terrible year: stories about earthquakes, wars and shootings topped Google searches this year, and I know I have felt hopeless at times. However, in a segment of the CBC Radio show “The Current”, guest Angus Hervey, head of the positive news media company Future Crunch, showed how 2023, in many ways, was a year full of good progress. He proved this by using examples such as the signing of the United Nations High Seas Treaty, which aims to protect a third of the ocean by 2030, the distribution of two lifesaving malaria vaccines around Africa, and the reduction of deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest in Brazil by 50%.



Britannica

This is all incredible news, and there is much more, if you choose to look. However, why do we have to look for it? Why do these stories not make it to our news feeds at the same rate

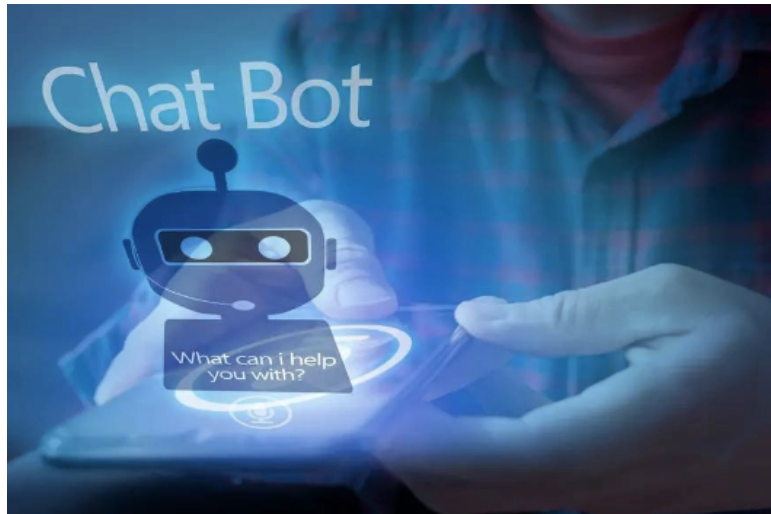
as stories about death and destruction? The well-known journalistic term, “if it bleeds, it leads”, describes the tendency journalists have to write about bad events because they receive the most interest. Now that social media has become so widely used, the amount of views an article receives can be seen and analyzed, leading to more eye-catching headlines and subjects. All of this means that the news that reaches us contains much more bad stories than good, which can take a toll on our mental health.

Maybe your new year resolution could be to subscribe to a positive newspaper, or take a break from the media for a bit.

## The Age of AI: The Effect on Humanity and the Role of Staying Current in an Ever-Evolving Field of Technology

By Lili Spencer

The ever-changing world of technology continues its rapid expansion with the creation of artificial intelligence (AI). This new software tool has prompted many ethical discussions as well as the considerations of the effects this intelligence will have on the future of humanity. ChatGPT is one of the many applications based on artificial intelligence, as well as one of the most well known; however, this application only represents a portion of how AI technology is being used today. AI has made substantial impacts on industries such as healthcare, as it can assist in identifying small anomalies in scans and making clinical judgements. It has also affected the field of marketing by helping formulate the analysts, as well as finance by picking up patterns and forecasting fluctuations.



<https://www.bitcot.com/ai-chatbot-platforms/>

A negative side of AI includes the ethical concerns over issues related to privacy, accountability, and bias. For example, AI software operates by working with existing data, which may lead to the output containing biases from the information that has been collated in order to generate a response. On the accountability side, AI has challenged university environments as more students are using AI sites such as ChatGPT to help formulate thesis statements, gather quotes, and assist in research. Many students in current and upcoming years may struggle with the choice of whether to use AI themselves or face the potential disadvantages by being behind their peers who may be using these tools to write quality assignments. It has become especially crucial in this ever changing world, to stay ahead of the curve. This includes taking the initiative to familiarize ourselves with how AI functions and the ways in which it could be used to our advantage.

## Movie Spotlight: *Saltburn*

By Borwonio Godfell

Warning: the movie described in the following review is rated R and it may not be suitable for all audiences.

"Saltburn", a film written and directed by Emerald Fennell, was released on November 22, 2023, and became an instant success, making over \$21 million worldwide within 2 months of its release. The story follows the fictional experience of Oliver Quick (portrayed by Barry Keoghan) in 2006 as he begins his first year studying at Oxford University and becomes close with the wealthy Felix Catton (played by Jacob Elordi). As summer comes around, Oliver wishes to avoid returning home leading Felix to invite him to stay at Saltburn, his rich family's estate in the English countryside.



Baltimore Magazine

Emerald Fennell is an Oscar-winning English filmmaker and actor best known for writing "Promising Young Women" and "Killing Eve" and for her part in the movie

“Barbie”. Emerald’s initial inspiration for the movie came from an idea of intense and dangerous uncontrollable desire. The film’s message developed to also represent an “eat the rich” mentality, depicting most of the characters as thoughtless and apathetic caricatures of the super-rich. Critics have said, however, this theme became too entangled with the bizarre affairs of the story and lost its significance. The composition of the film adds to the story’s setting. A 1.33:1 format was used, reminiscent of early motion pictures such as those airing when the story is set, with Emerald’s intent that viewers would feel as if “they were peeping into a doll’s house”. This effect was successfully created and is added to by the personal content of the scenes-watchers feel as if they are spying on something they shouldn’t be. The disturbing thriller depicts scenes of opulent parties and extravagant daily life, featuring catchy pop songs that have garnered widespread attention on TikTok. All in all, this movie shared a creative take on the uber-rich of the modern generation in an exciting (if not disturbing) manner, making it an overnight sensation and subject of extensive debate.



The Guardian

## FLASHBACK - Senior Boys Volleyball Pronvincials

By Katie Lindsay

We have all heard the rumbling of the bleachers, the smacking of the ball, and the cheering of the crowd coming from the gym during this fiercely packed week of competition famously known as the Senior Boys Volleyball Provincials. This has been the first time Oak Bay has hosted the Provincial Championships in school history!

The team started off strong with a nail biter comeback against Walnut Grove. After losing the first set 18-25, they pulled through during the last two sets, with the final scores being 25-20 and 15-7. The atmosphere was ecstatic!

The starting lineup included Tobyn Kelpin (2), Nateo Thompson (3), Sawyer Wishlow (4), Nate Ingram (9), Johnny Legault (12), Jake Legault (13), and Dylan Lockyer (14). There were impressive highlights from all players throughout the series, but unfortunately on the final day of competition, two of the star players, Tobyn Kelpin and Johnny Legault were injured and unable to play. After a strong fight, Oak Bay lost their final game to Walnut Grove, and placed 8th in the province, keeping their #8 place in the provincial rankings.

The captain of the senior boys volleyball team, Sawyer Wishlow, gives his thoughts about this year's volleyball provincials and the sport in general in this appreciated interview:

What has been the best piece of advice you have received from your coaches?

The one thing that the coaches have always reminded me of is to stay positive on the court, because when that happens the entire team morale is raised. Everyone plays better when they are happy.

What do you believe is your greatest strength?

Probably my physicality and size, also my jump and arm. That is really what has helped me throughout the entire year.

What was the highlight of provincials for you?

Playing in front of the whole school because the atmosphere was just great, everyone came out and ended up watching: it was really great!



Trivision Creative

What has been your biggest challenge this season?

On our team this year, there were a lot of inexperienced players, so there were not as many seniors as in previous years. So then, it was upon us, as seniors, to teach the new guys. We had a lot of players coming up from Juniors, who had not played in provincials before, so it was a very big change for some of them.

Overall, Wishlow comments: "I was just really thankful that the entire school came out and supported, it was really awesome. I had never seen that environment in volleyball before. I was very grateful for my teammates and coaches for helping me have such a great year."

See you all on the Oak Bay bleachers next year for the 2024 provincials!

## Join the Acorn!

More writers are always welcome! Meetings are Wednesday mornings at 8:30 AM and at 9:30 AM on Team Planning days in front of room 217 in the languages hallway. We publish a new edition every two weeks, and articles are only 200-300 words. If you are interested in joining or simply learning more about the Acorn, come to one of our meetings and/or join the Google Classroom (code: s7ixz7z), or email [2253570@sd61learn.ca](mailto:2253570@sd61learn.ca).



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