

# THE RAMBLER

## DECEMBER 2023



### Opinion

#### The Bechdel Test and Beyond Lilly Price

In 1985, Alison Bechdel published a comic strip that would change the landscape of representation for women in film. The aptly-named Bechdel Test, Bechdel-Wallace Test, or Mo Movie Measure, has three criteria a movie must meet to pass: “(1) it has to have at least two women in it, (2) who talk to each other about (3) something besides a man.” Bechdel credits her friend Liz Wallace for the idea, along with Virginia Woolf’s 1929 extended essay, *A Room of One’s Own*.

This test was an oasis in a terrain of films featuring women as extensions of men. Virginia Woolf, in *A Room of One’s Own*, writes, “Women have served all these centuries as looking glasses possessing the magic and delicious power of reflecting the figure of man at twice its natural size.” Most movies featured women as wives, girlfriends, or secretaries. Top-grossing movies in the years leading up to the publication of the comic include *Back to the Future* (1985), *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* (1984), *Star Wars Ep. VI: Return of the Jedi* (1983), and *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial* (1982). None of these pass the Bechdel Test except for *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial*. *E.T.* has a conversation at about 17 minutes in, in which the mother, Mary, asks Gertie, her daughter, what her Halloween costume will be. Gertie answers that she wants to be a cowgirl.

As representation in media became a more prominent subject, the Bechdel Test followed suit as the metric with which to measure it. The increase in internet usage in the 2000s created a platform for the test to gain traction. This traction continued into the following decades, and in 2020, the term was added to Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary. What started as a spoof-like comic strip in a radical feminist newspaper had become the most popular criterion for representation, any representation, in modern media. In the context of 1985’s film landscape, this test was revolutionary and thought-provoking. However, the media range of 2023 contains vastly more layers to its representation. The conversations had by film critics and moviegoers alike are more complex, and a test as simple as the Bechdel-Wallace Test no longer satisfies.

In a 2023 interview with *The Guardian*, Bechdel herself stated, “It was a joke. I didn’t ever intend for it to be the real gauge it has become and it’s hard to keep talking about it over and over.” She also



Bechdel, Alison. “The Rule.” Comic Strip [dykestowatchoutfor.com/the-rule](http://dykestowatchoutfor.com/the-rule)

brings up that it has become so mainstream that feature filmmakers calculatedly fulfill the test criteria. She says, “What’s really dismaying now is the way so many movies cynically try to take shortcuts and feature strong female characters – but they just have a veneer of strength and they’re still not fully developed characters.” The test is so simplistic that a movie can easily and intentionally boast its passing without a commitment to representation. Movies like *Goodfellas* (1990) and *The Wolf of Wall Street* (2013) pass the Bechdel-Wallace test. *The Wolf of Wall Street* features female characters as extensions of the spotlight men and contains misogynistic and objectifying messages about women. *Goodfellas* centers around the lives of men and barely touches on the women in their lives and how the men’s lives of crime affect them. Only through technicalities do they both pass.

The modern breadth of representation extends far beyond the widely accepted gender binary of the 1980s. Its scope is beyond gender, even. The layers of representation are multidimensional and interwoven, and the depictions of intersections of various identities have become more significant. Issues of age representation, especially for women, have come into focus. Ten percent of movies in 2020 included male characters 60 and older; only 6% included female characters 60 and older (*USA Today*). Additionally, racial representation has become widely talked about, as have accurate portrayals of LGBTQ+ characters. One primary concern of those seeking representation is the worry that a qualitative test, such as the Bechdel-

Wallace Test, will facilitate surface-level depictions and do nothing to curtail harmful stereotypes. The Bechdel-Wallace test functions within the dated gender binary, and films are increasingly depicting a more complex portrait of gender.

Several new tests have been developed in recent years, including the Waithe Test, which is passed only when a film features a Black woman who exists within a position of power and is in a healthy relationship. Another, the Vito Russo Test, states that the film must contain an identifiably LGBTQ+ character not predominantly defined by their sexual orientation or gender identity. New York Times film critic Manohla Dargis coined the “Duvernay Test” after director Ava Duvernay. Dargis’ criteria include stories where “African-Americans and other minorities have fully realized lives rather than serve as scenery in white stories” (Dargis, 2016).

These tests have yet to rise to the internet-captivating, disputed, and publicized level of the Bechdel Test. However, their discourse and presence indicate an increasingly expanded-upon world of representation—meaningful and qualitative representation—in film and television in the years to come.

### Review

#### Vice and Virtue

Clara Foltz and Juliet Willems

#### Virtue: *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas* and my Heart

Happy holidays, Rambler readers, and welcome to this month’s super-special Virtue article. This article stars the one and only holiday classic: *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (2000). For those of you who are not aware of this unique masterpiece of a movie, it retells the story of the Grinch in live-action, with CGI that is distinctive and very original. Quite frankly, there is nothing like it. Let’s dive right in!

First of all, the movie is set inside a snowflake, in the lovely winter town of Whoville. Have you ever been to Leavenworth in the winter? It’s very similar, only if you multiplied the whimsicalness by 10 and then raised it to the power of 2. The Whos defy gravity by somehow falling up chutes that always end higher than they began (we should take notes for the green bins). Also, the entire town revolves around Christmas decor, as well as a Christmas tree that is bigger than Gracemont, Wissner, and USS stacked on top of each other. All Whos have wedding cake hairstyles that seem to exist outside of modern physics (one Who’s hair spelled out ‘ABC’) and their daily outfits have more

Word Jumble: ACORNT



Answer key on the last page

# Review Cont.

glamor than the Bush School's Halloween costume turnout. Whoville is an equally impressive and homey town.

On the outskirts of town, atop a mountain that is so steep and sharp it is quite impressive that anyone can get up there, the Grinch lives with his dog Max, the best character, in his own personal Batcave. His Grinchcave is about as cluttered as my room, which means that it's very lived-in and welcoming. He builds his furniture by taking materials from Whoville's waste, which proves that he is a very eco-conscious and pro-recycling citizen. The Grinch and his environment is one that should be studied long into the future. And, reader, when I tell you that Jim Carrey put his entire Grinch self, fuzz and all, into this role, you must believe me. Carrey's Grinch most definitely leaves an impact on the viewer.



Juliet Willems

Since I do not want to spoil this masterpiece of a movie, I will recount my favorite elements of the film in hopes to enlighten the public on this magnum opus. First, the creativity is outstanding. The cannon that shoots out Christmas lights to decorate houses at maximum speed? Engineering genius. Christmas tree lights that are powered by all the Whos standing in a circle and singing? Very impressive. As well as creating marvelous inventions, there is also a whole new vocabulary to be learned. Words such as wholibration, wholometers, and bumtumbled frequent the Whos' dialect, and must be learned for those hoping to take the SAT or ACT in the future (this statement has not been confirmed by Bush College Counseling Department).

Another amazing element in *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (2000) is the fact that children study laws and read the Whoville constitution. At the end of the movie, one young Who proposes an amendment. It is truly an inspiring feat and a wonderful addition to the movie.

To recount, *The Grinch* (2000) with Jim Carrey provides a much-needed outlook on a holiday classic. It tells a story of young love, self-discovery, child involvement in the future, invention, and holiday magic, wrapped up with unique scenic design and CGI that definitely will not be seen or repeated again. Everyone should experience this movie at least once, and add it to their collection of holiday classics that they will return to year upon year.

## Vice: Forget Stealing Christmas; This Movie Stole My Sanity

Hello team, and happy holiday season! Welcome to another glorious issue of V&V, your favorite monthly Rambler column. Today, we're coming to you with a criminally well-known and entirely denominational Christmas film: *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (2000). This movie is art in all the wrong ways. It's horrific. Let me tell you why.

First off, the Grinch himself is a hideous being. That's just an objective truth. Why is he green? Why is he furry? Who's to say? He looks like a middle schooler's needle-felting project gone wrong. Or perhaps a really messed up football mascot. Or perhaps what would happen if someone put Blaze the phoenix through a blender, dyed him green, and gave him problems. Does his truly horrendous visage add to the viewing experience in any meaningful way? No, no it does not. All his appearance does is defile our fond memory of a beautiful Christmas classic: *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (1966). That is a great movie. Please for your own sake, dear reader, go watch that movie instead.

It's not just the Grinch that is incredibly weird-looking, though; the hairstyles of pretty much every Who in the movie are literally heinous. The main kid, Cindy Lou Who (I'm not joking, that is actually her name), looks like a helicopter for half the movie, and no one bats an eye. Her hairstyle doubles her height. The mayor's hair is also awful: his head looks like the top of an Ionic column from Ancient Greece. I don't know what they were paying the hairstylists for this movie, but I think it was too much.

Also, all of the Whos are about as observant as a bunch of rocks. They keep saying, "Oh no you guys, we have to watch out for the Grinch, he's so scary we can't let him in here," and then half of the movie is just the Grinch parading around Whoville in broad daylight. His "disguise" is also awful. How does no one know it's him? He's green and furry! A ratty brown cloak does not hide his horrible, long, furry green hands! It actually almost convinced me that the movie was about Halloween rather than Christmas because that costume is a great impression of the Jawas from *Star Wars*. Or, Jawas if they were green. And furry. And gross.

There are also several other incredibly unrealistic plot points, such as when the Grinch advocates animal cruelty by forcing his tiny dog to drag a massive sled up a literal mountain, or when he steals some guy's overalls and joins the Nordic ski team. I was extremely disappointed by the lack of rational thought that went into making this movie. I watched the whole thing with subtitles and still had no clue what was going on. It's somehow more of a fever dream than *Substance Bear* (2023), and that's saying something.

At one point, one of the tiny little pathetic people literally says "Oh, the Whomanity!". This movie made me deeply uncomfortable for its entire 85-minute runtime. Horrible experience, would not partake again. Go watch the animated 1966 version instead. Save yourself. Happy holidays!



## — Informational —

### Brain Chips: Telepathic Monkeys, Mind-Reading Machines, & More Teoman Champagne

In April of 2021, a peculiar video was released that caught the world's attention. The video shows a monkey playing a game on a computer screen by using a joystick. Each time the monkey does something correctly, a metallic tube gives the monkey a portion of banana smoothie. Guided by this reward system, the monkey quickly adjusts to the game's demands. Halfway through the video, the original game on the screen is replaced by pong. The joystick that the monkey used to play the first game is also removed. Most unexpectedly, the monkey appears to have no difficulty controlling the paddles on each side of the screen. In fact, it learns in no time how to time and angle the paddles so that the ball is kept in play. While this telepathic ability of the monkey might at first sight seem to be some sort of gimmick, it isn't. The monkey is really controlling pong with its mind.

How was this accomplished? Well, this video was posted by American neurotechnology company Neuralink, and the answer to this question lies in what this company is developing: brain chips. Founded in 2016 by Elon Musk and several other neurotech experts, Neuralink aims to deliver a wireless, implantable brain chip that could serve as an interface between a human's brain and some other kind of technology — like a computer, tablet, or smartphone. A prototype of the company's brain chip was what allowed Pager, the Rhesus macaque showcased in the video, to control the game. To enable Pager to play telepathic pong, the device first had to be surgically implanted into the monkey's head, just above the brain but below the skull. Then the chip was trained. Neuralink did this by letting Pager play a game with a joystick. While Pager was playing, the implanted device was closely monitoring electrical signals firing in the monkey's brain. At the same time, the movements of the joystick were being tracked. By cross-referencing data collected by the brain implant and movements in the game, a computer was able to deduce what signals in the brain corresponded to what movements in the game. When the joystick was disconnected, the monkey could still play the game because the game was responding to data received by the chip. If the monkey thought of some movement with its hand, the game would respond accordingly, as if the joystick were still there.

# Info. Cont.

This represented a huge accomplishment for Neuralink. For individuals who have lost certain motor functions, the deliverance of such a brain chip could be very useful. For instance, if someone were paralyzed from the neck down, they would be able to use any desired technology with a brain chip because they could simply use their mind instead of their hands. Further down the road, Neuralink hopes to actually use its brain chips to repair lost motor functions in people. The idea is that just as a brain chip could serve as a bridge between the brain and other technology, so too could it allow the brain to communicate with disconnected parts of the body. It has been speculated that neurotechnology could be used to treat and cure certain neurological conditions, like depression or schizophrenia. Similarly, brain chips could be used to improve or repair cognitive function, especially in elders. Perhaps, in the future, someone could purchase a brain chip that might give them an expanded memory, quicker response times, or even better mathematical skills.

Neuralink isn't the only entity to see monumental progress being made in neurotechnology. Recently, researchers from Stanford University were able to decode speech with brain implants. Pat Bennett is a 68 year-old who after being diagnosed with ALS – a neurodegenerative disease that causes individuals to lose motor control – lost her ability to speak. Researchers wanted to know whether they could return to her some degree of speech functionality. Stanford neurosurgeons first placed two sensors inside of her head. A team of researchers then trained these sensors to recognize electrical patterns in Bennett's brain as parts of words. The training phase was very tedious: Bennett participated in over 100 hours of sessions during which she attempted to repeat words and phrases. Even though she couldn't actually speak, the parts of her brain that control speech were nonetheless active. The more data the sensors in her brain were able to gather, the better they got at recognizing when she wanted to say certain words or phrases. After this long process, the researchers optimized the system to be able to decode speech at 62 words per minute and then digitally display Bennett's sentences. Although not quite yet at conversational speed and accuracy, the technology shows great promise for individuals who have lost the ability to speak.

The interface that enabled Pat Bennett to 'speak' has been tried on a few others now. In one case, it helped a paralyzed person write again. Neuralink is now set to begin human trials after receiving approval from the FDA. However, there are many concerns surrounding neurotechnology. Specifically with Neuralink, there have been countless reports of animal cruelty in testing its brain chips. In addition to multiple employee whistleblowers reporting that Musk's drive to keep research going

rapidly has led to egregious errors with the test animals, the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, a non-profit dedicated to promoting ethical animal testing, has claimed that Neuralink is in serious violation of the Animal Welfare Act. Hastily-implanted chips have caused the company's test monkeys to develop serious infections and in many cases engage in self-mutilation. One monkey even experienced severe nausea and vomiting, likely the result of surgeons using an unapproved adhesive while implanting the brain chip. In all, the company has killed some 1,500 animals since 2018, including sheep, pigs, mice, rats, and monkeys.

In a world where everyone appears to be glued to their phones, tablets, and computers, putting technology in our brains seems like a step in the wrong direction to many. Concerns have also been raised about the safety of brain chips. Like with all other technologies, there would exist a possibility that brain chips could be hacked, the potential consequences of which could be far worse than those of hijacking a traditional computer. Regardless, the technology is progressing rapidly, and it seems that it could hit the markets soon, bringing us ever closer to the machines we build.

A highlight for the Varsity team was finishing 5-2 in their last seven games, including a four-game win streak. The team finished 10-9



with a 6-4 conference record. The season ended with a postseason loss to Eastside Prep, moving them to 2-2 in the postseason. Cedar Park Christian ended up winning state, with King's at second and Bear Creek at third. Some standouts from this season were Hedia Lewis '24, who won Coho Division MVP, and head coach Bradie Ferguson, who won coach of the year. The JV team finished 6-9, with a 4-7 conference record. They won the final two games of the season against Summit Sierra and Forest Ridge. Finally, the JVC team also finished with a hot streak, winning three of their last 5 games. Their final record was 3-5.

**Cross Country:** The girls' and boys' cross country seasons have finished after a thrilling postseason. The girls' team finished 6th in the League and District Championships. Four runners on the girls' team qualified for state championships. These runners are Romy Mckey '24, Elise Fischer '25, Ryan Eglit '27, and Isabelle Osborn '27, and all of them finished in the top 100 at State. The boys also finished with a successful season. The team won league championships, meaning the team is bringing hardware to the Bush trophy cabinet once again. In districts and states, the boys again showed their speed, finishing second in both behind Cedar Park Christian. Some standouts from this season are Duncan Frisbie Smith '25, Benjamin Hester '25, and Geoffrey Arone '24.

**Girls Soccer:** A theme throughout the fall season was finishing strong, and this couldn't be more true with Girls' Soccer. The season started tough, as the team was 1-3 after a 7-0 loss against CPC, but bounced back over the rest of the regular season, going 8-1. Their record after the regular season was 9-4 with an 8-3 conference record. Sadly, the team lost their first postseason match against Bear Creek 3-2. Seattle Academy ended up winning the Conference Championship. Elise Trani '24 made all-conference first team, Makenna Kim '27 and Flora Toledo '27 made all-conference second team, and Isabelle Rotival '24 made all-conference third team. The JV team also finished strong, winning their last two games by a combined score of 12-2 to finish with a 2-3-1 record.

**Ultimate Frisbee:** After a third-place conference finish last year, the boys' Ultimate Frisbee team had a tough year, finishing 0-10. The JV team finished 0-5.

**Tennis:** The Boys' Varsity team ended the season with a 7-4 team record and a 33-21 individual match record, and the JV team finished with a 0-2 team record and a 2-9 individual record. At league championships, Cal Jones '24 and Bernie Rosen '24 won the tournament, and they'll be looking to win their second in-a-row state championship in the spring. They both made the doubles all-conference team.

**Golf:** The Blazers boys' golf season has also finished, with a record of 0-5.

**THE BLAZER  
CAPTION  
CONTEST**

**PROVIDE A  
CAPTION FOR  
THIS PICTURE >**

**THE BEST  
ANSWER WILL  
BE PUBLISHED  
NEXT MONTH\***

Rambler Team

## Sports

### Sports Report Ben Foltz

*Author's note: This sports section has information as of November 14th. To pursue more updated information about Bush athletics you can go to [BushBlazersAthletics.com](http://BushBlazersAthletics.com). For more information on sports, you can go to [ESPN.com](http://ESPN.com). Also, last month there was a mistake in editing that caused parts of the girls' volleyball and co-ed cross-country sections to be accidentally cut out. The full recaps of these two teams' seasons will be in this article.*

Hello Blazers, welcome to the December Sports Section! As the weather is getting cooler, sports continue to heat up. This section will be split into three parts: a recap of the Bush fall sports season, a preview of the Bush winter sports season, and a check-in of sports around the country. Here's the fall sports recap:

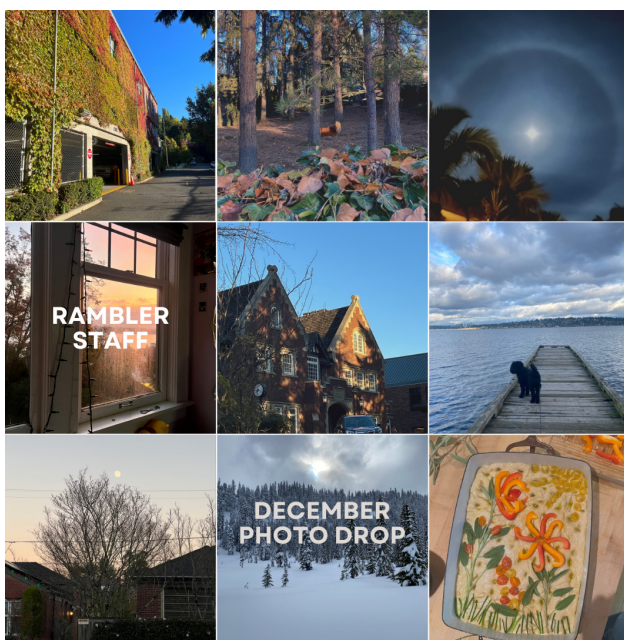
**Volleyball:** The girls' volleyball season ended in early November, with strong finishes from all three teams.

# Sports Cont.

**Boys' Basketball:** The Blazers' basketball season is starting soon. Boys' Varsity Basketball will start their season at home against Coupeville on November 29th, before having a two-game away stint against University Prep and South Whidbey on December 1st and 4th. Throughout the 20-game season, they will have 12 home games and eight away games. Last year, the team went 7-11. Just like the Varsity team, the JV team opens with a home game against Coupeville. They will have nine home games and six away games. Last season JV's record was 1-11.

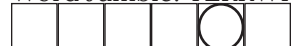
**Girls' Basketball:** Girls' Varsity Basketball will start with four away games in early December, the first of which is against University Prep on December 1st. After this, they will have six home games in a row. They will have ten home games and eight away games. The JV team currently has three games scheduled. They'll be away against Forest Ridge on January 3rd, before two home games against University Prep and SAAS on January 9th and January 25th. Last season they were 1-8.

**US Sporting News:** The NFL has reached its midseason, and the Seahawks are looking strong. A walk-off field goal against the Commanders gave the Hawks their 6th win of the year, moving their record to 6-3. They're currently tied with the 49ers for the division lead, and two of their next four games are against the 49ers. Currently, the Eagles have the best record in the NFC, and the Chiefs have the best record in the AFC. These two juggernauts will face off this Monday for a Super Bowl rematch. The MLB season has finished, with the Texas Rangers beating the Arizona Diamondbacks in five games to become World Series champions. Shortstop Corey Seager won World Series MVP. The WNBA season is also over, with the Las Vegas Aces beating the New York Liberty in four games for the championship. Finally, the NBA season is in its early stages. So far, the two best teams have been the reigning champions, the Denver Nuggets, and the 8-2 Boston Celtics.



Photos by Tess Halpern, Teoman Champagne, Clara Foltz, and Juliet Willems

Word Jumble: TERRWI



Answer key on the last page

# Opinion

## The Burden of Emotional Maturity in Female Art Pt. 2: The Ingénue and the Woman in the Room Kacey Archer

"I don't get angry when I'm pissed, I'm the eternal optimist, I scream inside to deal with it" -- Olivia Rodrigo, "All-American Bitch"

Young aspiring female artists have been stuck between two unfulfillable models of how to be a great musician for as long as I can remember. First, since society prizes youth and innocence, there's the ingénue: someone responsible, who doesn't swear, who gazes around, wide-eyed and naive, unable to imagine how she could be so successful. This endears her to us. We, as a society, adore this girl and the way she makes us believe in fairytale endings.

But this woman is never allowed to be a genius. She's never allowed to have a legacy. We adore her for what she represents, not who she is or what she does. And we get bored of her really, really, fast. At some point, her surprise stops being genuine, and she doesn't seem so innocent, and soon enough everything she does grates on us. But that's okay! Because there's someone else now! Someone new to fawn over! She takes us back to the beginning and we repeat the cycle over and over again, building up women and then tearing them down when we become tired of them.

We simultaneously like this girl because she represents the best of what we want to believe about girlhood, what we want it to be, and we hate her because she will eventually, inevitably, fail to embody it. Women are constantly stuck between the idealized ingénue and the fact that society expresses little interest in understanding the deeper tolls of carrying that label.

Despite our initial adoration for women who represent this trope, the female artist we reserve our true respect for represents an entirely different ideal. She's usually older, if not in years, then in "wisdom." She sits in her room, with a guitar, or a piano, or just her voice, and observes. Instead of criticizing the world, she criticizes herself. When she does turn her sharp gaze back onto others, we assume these attacks are earned. She represents the maturity and perspective we associate with womanhood, a topic that is considered much more socially and artistically acceptable to explore. I don't have a very good answer as to why: maybe because people assume womanhood is more stable and world-weary, less angry. I think we begrudgingly give women who fit this ideal the space to be sad, incandescently hopeful, and (sometimes) angry because we feel like they've lived enough of their life for their beliefs to become valid, as if pain and suffering turns their feelings from whiny to legitimate. In

the process of becoming a woman, you must've gone through something worth writing about, so I suppose you should be allowed to complain for



once (of course, with the caveat that you'll be forgiving). Not that any of that's true, but that's what we think: that womanhood, and the maturity and pain associated with it, is the only valuable part of the female experience.

In order to be authentic as a teenager, the kind of authenticity that gets you acclaim, you have to break the role of the ingénue and reveal the complexity, breadth of emotion, insecurities and immaturity that come from being young. For women, given the additional prerequisite of emotional maturity in their songwriting, it's a catch-22: you can't be "great" without being authentic, yet the immaturity that comes with real authenticity is equally frowned upon.

All of these tie back to the same roots. Women are never allowed to be young. They're never afforded the space to make mistakes, never given the excuses of youth. Their actions will always be held against them. As much as we say that girlhood is something precious, something that needs to be preserved, we have created a world in which women are forced to bear the brunt of the responsibility when something happens. It's an environment that will never coexist with timeless innocence.

As part of her rerecording process, Taylor Swift began releasing songs that she'd written in the past, which previously didn't make the cut for the album. As part of the Red (Taylor's Version) release, she put out a new track featuring Phoebe Bridgers, called "Nothing New."

Swift, early in her career, was somewhat able to straddle the expectation of being both the mature, authentic artist as well as the wide-eye ingénue. People saw her as this naive, lovable girl, who could play the role of the underdog, and who wrote songs that other young women could see themselves in. However, her strange ability to straddle this divide meant that she was also attacked from both sides. People accused her of inauthenticity, of not really writing her music, and criticized her surprised face every time she won an award. At the same time, they accused her of immaturity, of writing cliché, unserious music that only appealed to teenage girls (as always, the go-to insult). How someone can simultaneously be criticized for not writing their own music, as well as the musical content within those songs, is beyond me.

All of this history, the way in which Swift has been besieged from both sides of this spectrum, is what makes her confessions within "Nothing New" so much more powerful all these years later. Within an artistic process that is quite literally about reclaiming your past, "Nothing New" revealed the way in which Swift had understood all along how fragile her success was:

# Opinion Cont.

They tell you while you're young  
"Girls, go out and have your fun"  
Then they hunt and slay the ones who  
actually do it  
Criticize the way you fly when you're  
soarin' through the sky  
Shoot you down and then they sigh, and say  
"She looks like she's been through it"

She was around 21 when she wrote Red, still seen by many as an ingénue. It's interesting that she chose not to release this song with the rest of the album all those years ago, and I can't help but wonder if part of the reason was that she was worried about it becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy, that as she pushed beyond her country-starlet image into mainstream pop, people would get sick of her. She was all too aware of the protection that being the ingénue granted her, and releasing a song addressing the limitations and anxieties of that label could very well have shattered this perfect illusion she'd managed to craft.

That's why I was so elated when she did release it with the rerecord, because her ability to put words to an indescribable feeling calls out this expectation. It makes us look for it in our world now.

It could just be me, but lately I've felt like "Nothing New" is part of a broader movement to recognize the dangers of expecting emotional maturity in female art. I think now we're finally starting to understand that the adolescent experience of women is just as worthy of acclaim and attention as the adolescent experience of men. Beyond being at the center of almost every mania our country has seen, pieces of popular culture that give girls words for the emotions they're experiencing, even if those emotions are irrational, and yes, immature, can also be great art.

About three months ago, Olivia Rodrigo released an album called Guts, and I fell in love with it, because it's about the very dichotomy between the ingénue and the mature woman. It's an album of expectations: the artistic ones set after the success of Sour, societal ones about the ways in which we ask female public figures to be role models, and the social ones, where we convince ourselves that we'll date the right person or tell the right joke. In Guts, she makes a conscious choice not to meet them. In these songs, she fails (a lot), makes the same mistakes over and over again, and feels like an idiot most of the time, but ultimately refuses to be anything other than a 19-year-old under an extraordinary amount of pressure. It's a declaration that, yes, the emotions in these songs, immature as they might be, are important, and everyone deserves a soundtrack to belt out in their car when they need to feel understood.

Word Jumble: TUMSCO



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# Global

## Culture & Community: Angola

Keira Weller and Hannah Friend



Photo via WorldAtlas.com

### Culture of Angola:

Angola is located on the Western side of the African continent, nestled between Namibia, Zambia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. For comparison, Angola is a bit over twice the size of France, although its population is half that of France's. The official language of Angola is Portuguese, but there are various native languages spoken all over the country. Angola is a country rich in resources, but earlier this decade it required international help for basic necessities because of its war-ridden state.

Many parts of Angola's culture, including religion and language, are influenced by its Portuguese roots. The Angolan people mostly practice variations of Christianity, although, in the past couple of years, there has been an increase in the number of those following Islam. Indigenous religions and practices are still reflected through Angolan dances. One of the more mainstream Angolan dances is called the kimboza. Kimboza means "play" in the Bantu language, which is spoken in Angola and throughout the southern part of the African continent.

### Myth:

This month's myth is the Angolan version of the turtle and hare story.

"One day, the tortoise and the deer argued about which of the two would be the best runner. So the tortoise proposed a challenge to his old friend the deer: they would race, marking their route from departure to arrival points. They would start together and see who would be able to get to the finish first. The deer, after accepting the challenge, went to sleep. The tortoise, on the other hand, met his pals, all tortoises. He arranged with them that each one would place themselves at a point in the expected deer's path. On the following day, the deer was late, delayed,

but the tortoise was already waiting for him. The deer left the advantage to start with, going off on an exaggerated run. At



some point on the road, he stopped and looked back to see if he would see his mate. However, one of the tortoises who was waiting for him on the road went ahead of him, saying that while he looked back, he, the tortoise, had already overtaken him a long time ago. This happened repeatedly several times during the journey, until, exhausted, the deer acknowledged that the tortoise ran more quickly than him, to which his friend replied: - mate, I am already old, I have finished school!"

Story from globalvoices.com

### Recipe: Funge

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of cassava flour
- 4 cups of water

### Directions:

The Modern Way:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Bring the 4 cups of water to a boil in a pot that can be put in the oven.
3. Put 2 cups of cassava flour in a bowl. Add water until the mixture becomes damp.
4. Add the mixture to the boiling water. Stir with a whisk until all the lumps are out of the mixture.
5. Cover with a lid and place in the oven for 45 minutes.

Recipe via ForeignFork.com



Photo via ForeignFork.com

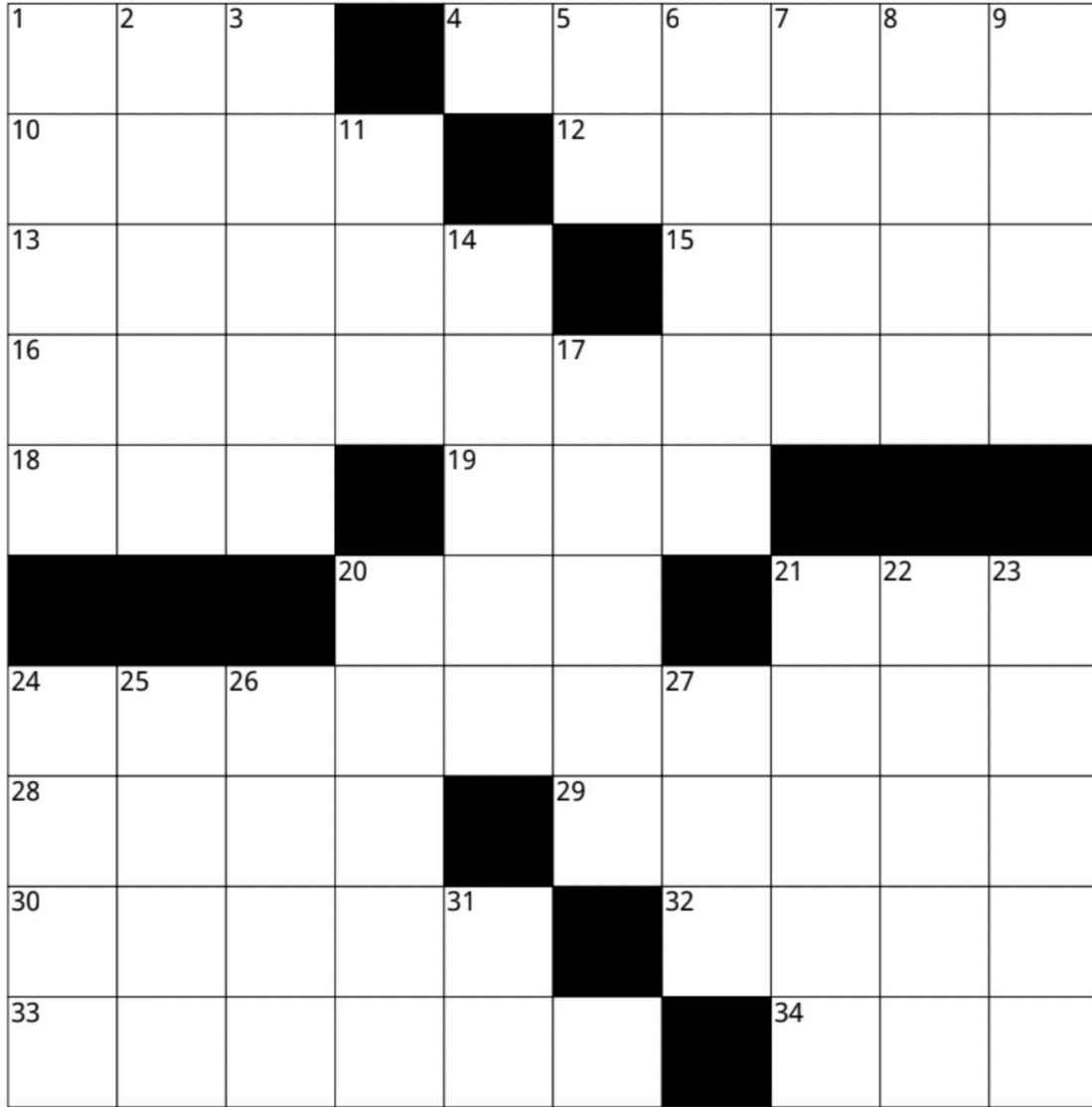
### Deep Dive: Cassava

Cassava is a root vegetable that is an important staple across central Africa. This tuber is a good source of carbohydrates and vitamins B & C. For a pound of cassava in Angola, it costs around .3 AOA (which is \$0.00036).

# Crossword

Charlotte Park

Answers are on the last page



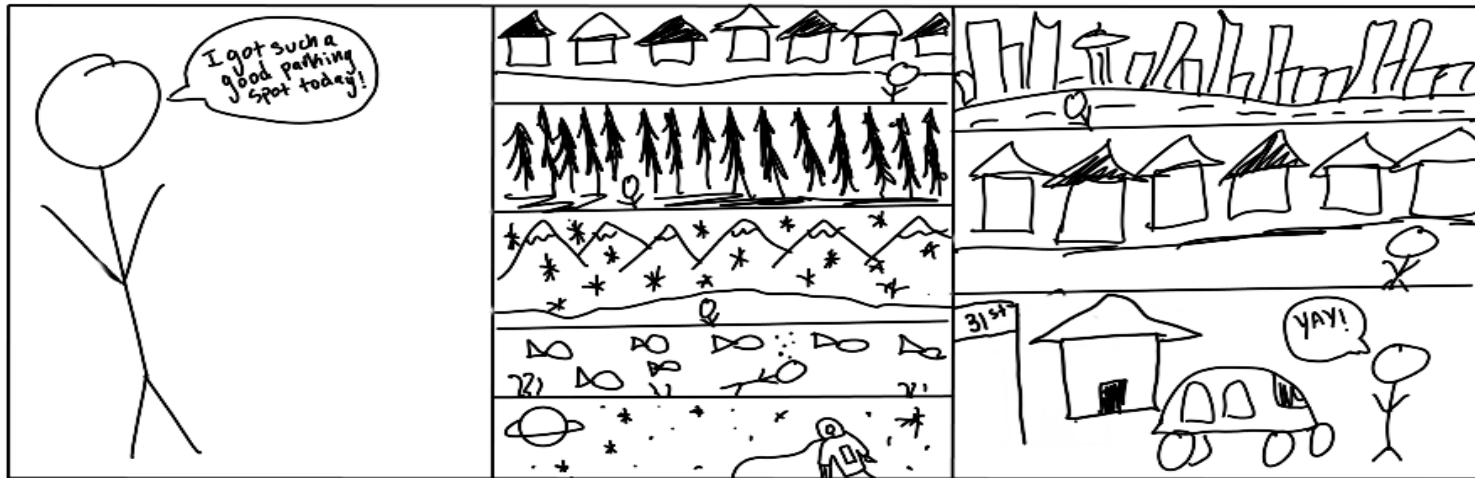
## ACROSS

- 1 Japanese volcano
- 4 "Glass Onion," to "Knives Out"
- 10 \_\_\_ beats to study to
- 12 Iraq's main port
- 13 Easy \_\_\_
- 15 Russian ruler
- 16 Document sealed by King John in 1215
- 18 Poem of praise
- 19 Where streets meet: abbr.
- 20 1970s-'90s British band with a euphoric-sounding name
- 21 Half-\_\_\_ (coffee order)
- 24 A pro
- 28 Downsides
- 32 Actor Sprouse of Riverdale
- 33 Sister in Bridgerton
- 34 3 Prefix

## DOWN

- 1 Remember the \_\_\_
- 2 "What a shame"
- 3 Old enough to vote
- 5 Author of Charlotte's Web, \_\_\_ White
- 6 2022 World Cup host
- 7 The Beatles' "Back in the \_\_\_"
- 8 The "E" in Q.E.D.
- 9 "\_\_\_ Croft: Tomb Raider"
- 11 Arabic "son of"
- 14 Prickly friends
- 17 Drink served with marshmallows
- 21 Explorer John or Sebastian
- 22 "Rolling in the Deep" signer
- 23 Entrance to Benaroya formally
- 24 Dull pain

- 25 Referee's call
- 26 Not \_\_\_ many
- 27 "SNL" network
- 31 Need two of these for a symphony



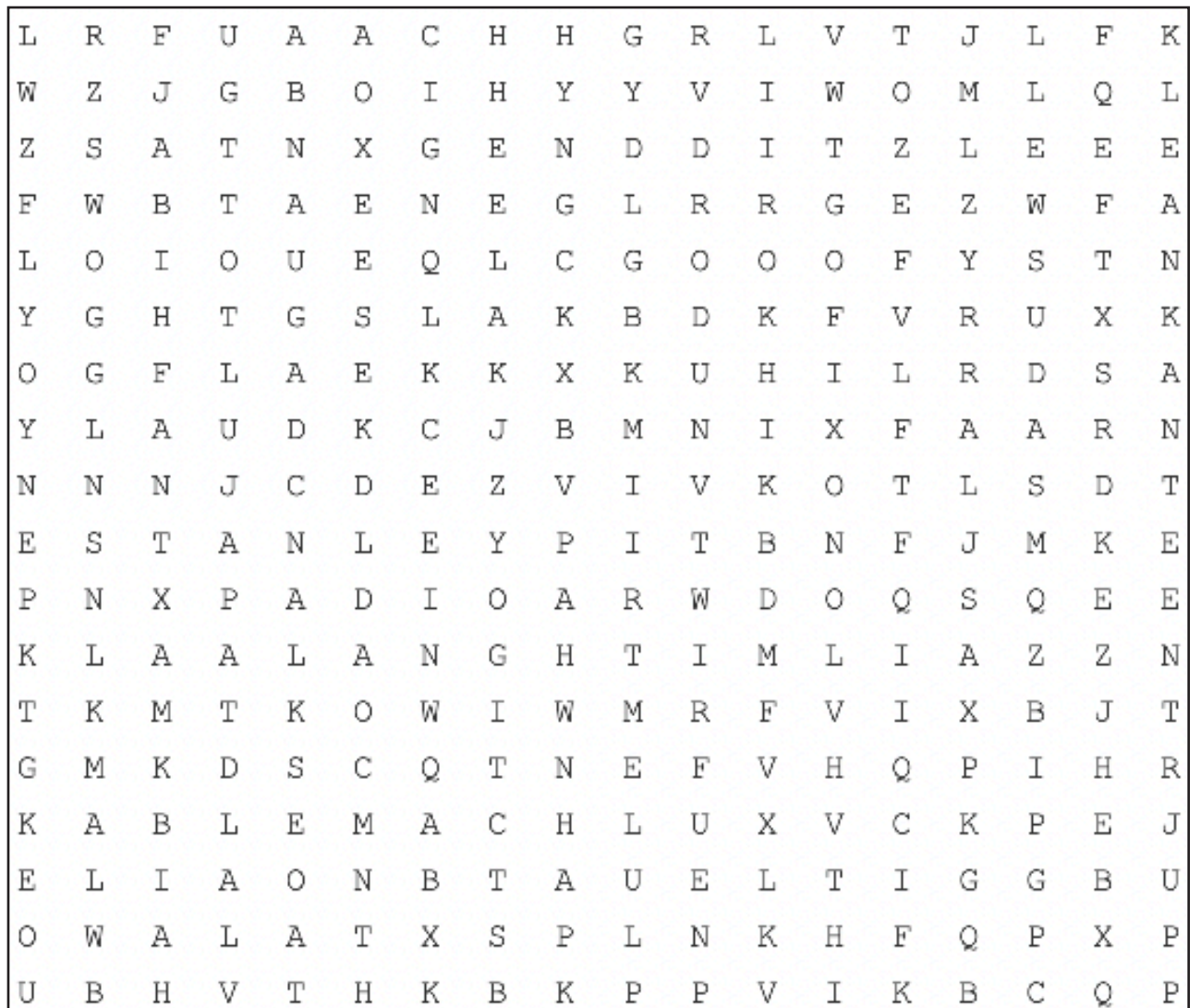
## Comic

Charlotte Park

## Wordsearch

Kaia McCready

- Nalgene
- Hydroflask
- Yeti
- Owala
- Stanley
- Klean Kanteen
- Swell
- Takeya
- Contigo
- Camelbak
- Thermoflask
- Miir



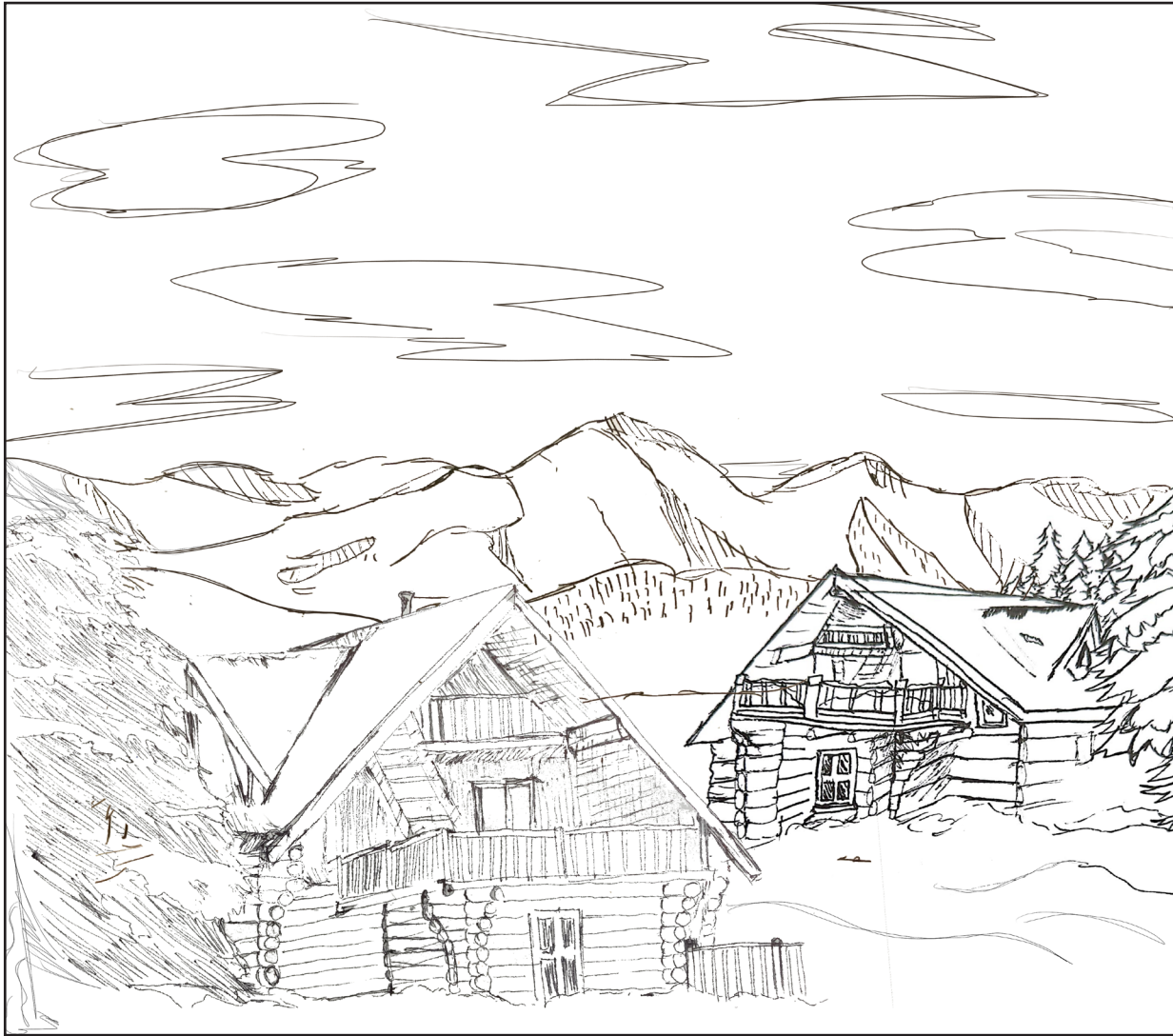
Word Jumble: BUDSOT



Answer key on the last page

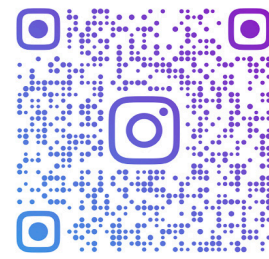
# Coloring Page

Drawing Club



Crossword Answers:

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



Follow our Instagram for updates!

THEBUSHRAMBLER

Word Jumble Answers: Carton, Futile, Eraser, Writer, Custom, Doubts

Unscramble the circled letters to find the secret word!

\_\_\_\_\_

Want to write, edit, draw, or produce for the Rambler? Email tess.halpern@bush.edu to sign up today! If you just feel like dropping in, visit us in Upper School South 106 at lunch on Wednesdays for our weekly meeting

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**ARIES**



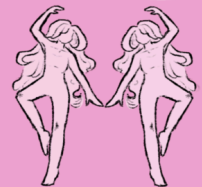
Duvet by  
bôa

**TAURUS**



Everything Reminds  
Me Of Her  
by Elliott Smith

**GEMINI**



American Teenager  
by Ethel Cain

**CANCER**



Waiting Room by  
Phoebe Bridgers

**LEO**



The Great War  
by Taylor Swift

**VIRGO**



Hot & Heavy by  
Lucy Dacus

**LIBRA**



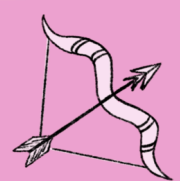
True Blue by  
Boygenius

**SCORPIO**



Cinnamon Girl by  
Lana Del Rey

**SAGITTARIUS**



Linger by The  
Cranberries

**CAPRICORN**



Paul by  
Big Thief

**AQUARIUS**



Kingston by  
Faye Webster

**PISCES**



My Love Mine All  
Mine by Mitski

Makie Koizumi-Hachey & Gretchen Hinderliter