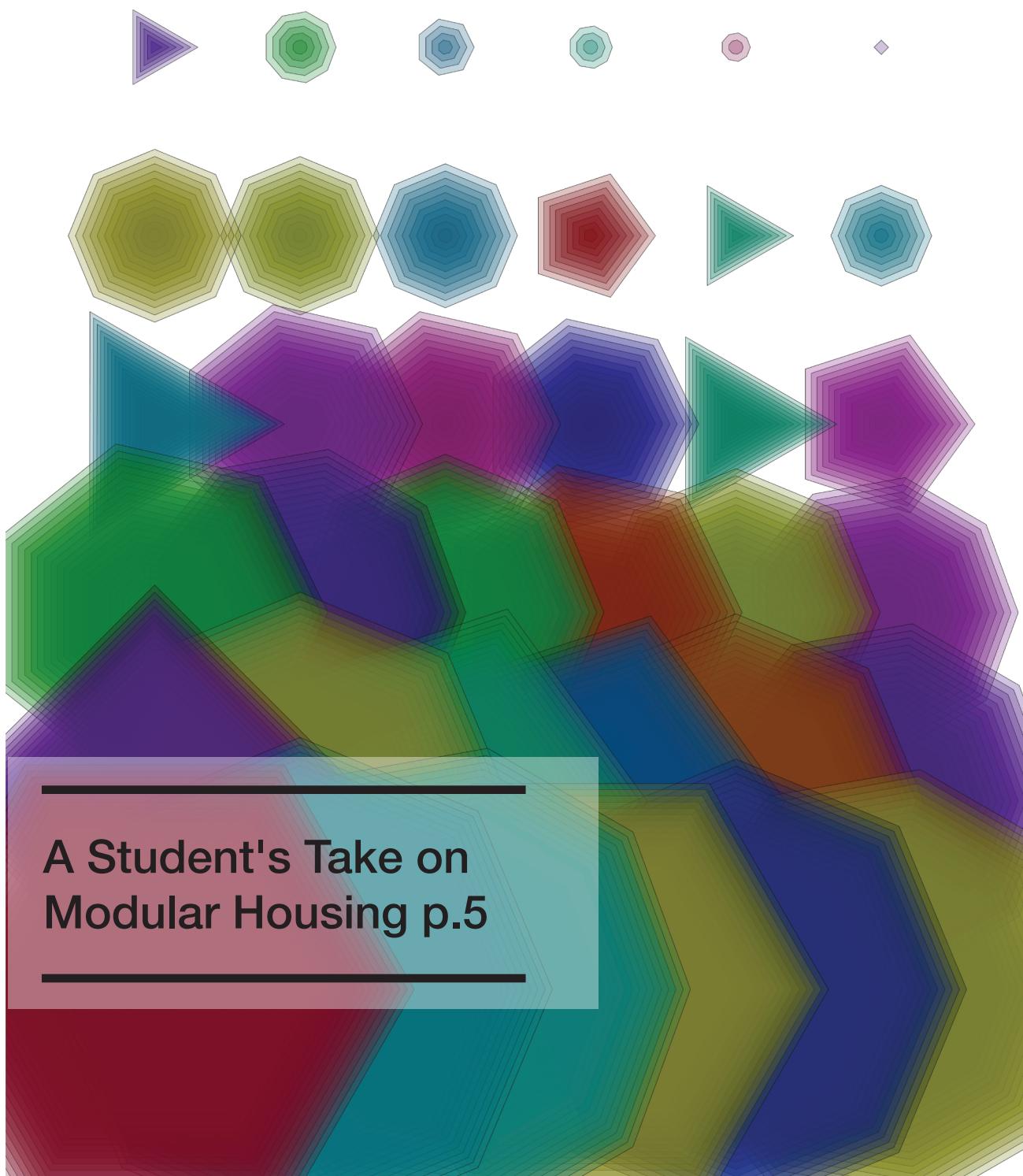


# The SWC Times



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Ms. Arnold

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**Ann Ping**
- Outreach Ambassador  
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- Media Ambassador  
**Mimi Chung**
- Layout Director  
**David Holcer**

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# **Editor's Note**

## **Dear Readers,**

Publishing this January issue of the SWC Times has been quite the journey. After growing under the expert mentorship of the senior executive and editors' team, I was handed the reigns. A tremendous amount of credit goes towards the executive team who have gone above and beyond to ensure that they perfect their work. Without fail, the writers and artists presented the best of their talent, being dedicated to taking up and completing assignments. This circle of gratitude would be incomplete without recognizing YOU- the reader, the student body, the Churchill Bulldogs- and your valued readership. It is the curiosity for knowing what takes place in your school community that drives us to bring you news from every corner of the school. It is the trust in us to bring you the best of your school that powers our passion, and drives our determination to give you nothing less than that. For your continued support, thank you.

Over the past month, we have worked on developing our online presence. For exciting tidbits, and a sense of connectedness with the school community, join our family on Facebook and Instagram. (@swctimes) This issue, as you will find, is a new, and redesigned format. We have opted for a more classic, modern newsprint theme; however, elements from the previous format continue to be maintained. It is hoped that this fresh design will suit a fresh start to this new year.

Wishing you all a fantastic new year ahead.

Until next time, Bulldogs.

***Vedanshi Vala***  
***Vice-President, The SWC Times***

# Executive Highlight

By Mimi

**H**eya! Guess it's time to meet the Junior Execs. I'm Mimi, and I'll be your media ambassador. So, a few things about me: I'm currently a grade 11 student in the IB program. Some of you might've seen me around sometimes, since I am also part of the recycling club. Some interests of mine are music and art, and I play the flute in our school wind ensemble. Now you'll probably be asking (or not) what media am I the ambassador of. Well I'm the ambassador for our Instagram page, which you can reach @swctimes. This page is mainly for featuring any written works of interest by artists, and photographers. Any suggestions for additions to the newspaper can be done through direct messaging our Facebook page. This is your media ambassador signing off!

## News... An Unnecessary Depressant?

By Eugene Lee

Scrolling through Facebook is a familiar idea to most, especially during breaks when deadlines seem far in the horizon. Falling into the rabbit hole of likes, photos, and comments, often leads into hours and hours of lying on bed, stuck in the familiar pits of unproductivity. The presence of



sensationalized negativity while scrolling through multiple news feeds is overwhelmingly present in our blinding screens, denouncing our beliefs in humanity themselves.

This is a serious problem, as it has led to many of my fellow peers to ignore the majority of news, and thus only catch the most sensationalized pieces. Due to the preference towards the eye-catching stories and the prioritization of distributing the sensational in broadcasts, this feedback loop of ignoring legitimate news and experiencing negative effects of concentrated negative exposure is an emerging problem.

Is it important to follow current events? The answer is an automatic, overwhelming "yes." It is evident that having a watchful eye on the news is a necessary task. It is our responsibility for us to remain informed citizens and reflect our true views as individuals. The common argument often states that "our mental states are more important," and that "suffering under the burden of news is an unnecessary evil I don't have to undertake." However, it may be our foundational perspective that creates this fallacy in our minds. Information allows us to exercise our rights as people, citizens, and enable us to develop. Expand yourself from the maintained constraints of social media. Delve deeper into the world of journalism. An amalgamation of perspectives, articles, columns await you, offering a plethora of knowledge. Just click.

# The Moth

By Ann Ping

**T**he moth and her failing bones  
Towards the flame she floats alone  
Bitter content seeps within  
The heat scorches her wings so thin  
Temporary temptation comes and goes  
Drags the moth and her failing bones

Surrounded by night  
She ceases flight  
Sees the flower so sweet so white  
Petals of wax  
No burning match  
Oh how she longs for the flame it lacks

Nectar fills her to the brim as  
Gentle warmth tickles her skin  
In the moonlight, shadows claim  
To be her friend, to be the same  
Soon the sweet flavor drains  
Her insides throb with familiar pain

The moth and her failing bones  
Avoid the flame, goes on her own  
Wings of ash brush the clouds  
Feeble strength, face enshroud  
Without a single shiver shown,  
The moth leaves with her failing bones



# On Acceptance, Kindness, and Open-Mindedness: A Student's Take on Modular Housing

By Teresa Xu

**THE DEBATE** on the municipal government's decision to construct temporary modular homes right by our school continues to rage on. Some students have created a page called "Marpole Students for Modular Housing" in support of the government's plan. I recently got to ask Grade 12 student Holly Morrison, one of the founders of the group, some questions about why she supports modular housing and the message she hopes to spread to others.

## Q. Why do you support modular housing?

**A.** I support modular housing because it is not only essential for lessening the substantial amount of homeless people on the streets, thus putting less pressure on the city, but because these people are no different than any one of us. One unfortunate instance can cast someone out onto the streets, but integrating them back into society takes a lot of effort, and they can't do it alone.

With supportive housing, they have access to the resources that help them to become fully contributing members of society, and to regain the dignity that has been stolen from them by fear mongers.

## Why would you consider acceptance, kindness, and open-mindedness important?

I consider acceptance, kindness, and open-mindedness important because they are the qualities we must have in order to

create connections with others and develop compassionate communities.

### **How can we as students combat stereotypes and stigma and learn to accept even the outcasts of society?**

This one is simple: the very reason why we are called students - education! Many fears and stereotypes are based on anecdotal “one-time” experiences, most of which are quite extreme, and that in no way represent the reality of the situation. However, through a lot of discourse, encouragement, and learning, we can all break the stigma.

### **What would you suggest to students who wish to open their minds and hearts but struggle to do so?**

I definitely suggest engaging in open-minded conversation! We are people who learn from being told, but also from being SHOWN. So, by exhibiting an interest in not only sharing your own perspective, but acknowledging and considering others’ as well, I am certain you will find what you are looking for. Hopefully the students involved with our initiative and discourse spark a passion within you to open your minds and your hearts not just for now, but throughout your lives too.

Whether or not you support modular housing (and either opinion is perfectly fine), Holly has raised some excellent points that we can all take into consideration. Acceptance, kindness, and open-mindedness do not have to manifest in the form of supporting modular housing for the homeless (and opposing the housing does not mean that you are not accepting, kind, or open-minded), but they can all be achieved if we seek the truth.

# **Aqua Blog: Pacific Spiny Lumpsuckers**

By Eric Liu

Many of us would agree that the chilly waters around Vancouver would not be our top scuba diving destination. However, the organisms that live just off the shore at Stanley Park are just as amazing as in other parts of the world. One such critter that can be found along the Strait of Georgia and Puget Sound is the Pacific Spiny Lumpsucker, otherwise known as *Eumicrotremus orbis*. Although its name lacks in creativity, it sure is accurate. “A ping-pong ball with tiny fins” may as well be the best description of this minuscule fish native to the Pacific Northwest. It is truly one of those animals that are able to oddly meld the utterly adorable and downright ugly into something that is so incredibly unique.



Image Source: "Aquarium of the Pacific." Pacific Spiny Lumpsucker, [www.aquariumofpacific.org/onlinelearningcenter/species/pacific\\_spiny\\_lumpsucker](http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/onlinelearningcenter/species/pacific_spiny_lumpsucker)

One of the initial striking attributes of this little critter are the dozens of tiny warts, spines, or “lumps” covering its small body. In their natural habitat of eelgrass beds or rocky areas, these tubercles play a vital role for the species’ survival through camouflage. What gives these magnificent animals the term “lumpsucker”, refers to the set of suction cup-like pelvic fins that are used to hold on tight to the rocks on

the seafloor. However, their spherical shape and lack of working pelvic fins have resulted in the Pacific Spiny Lumpsuckers being comically weak swimmers. Hiding between rocks and kelp on the ocean substrate, these minuscule monsters mainly depend on their camouflage to avoid detection from predators. Likewise, their diet consists of small crustaceans, worms or mollusks that have even slower swimming capabilities.

Although not currently endangered, with increasing climate change and water temperature of our Oceans, these little critters may become increasingly vulnerable. These lumpsuckers that rely heavily on shallow waters and eelgrass for breeding can be heavily affected by rising water levels. All along the Bering Sea, scientists have seen a steady decline in lumpsucker populations already influenced by these factors.

Humans have an incredibly important part in preserving and protecting these animals for the benefit of us and our future generations. Through organizations such as the Vancouver Aquarium, we can not only learn more about just these magnificent monsters, but about all the wonderful animals that call our oceans home.

## The Mainstream Media's Malice - Infowars

By Derek D'Souza

In July of 2017, the Fake News Network, also known as CNN, recently blackmailed a Reddit user by the name of "HanA\*\*HoleSolo" with an ultimatum of deleting everything or being doxxed (of which is illegal according to American law). In exchange for his anonymity, he purged his Reddit history, then issued an apology to CNN and issuing a public statement of "CNN is not publishing "HanA\*\*holeSolo's" name because he is a private citizen who has issued an extensive statement of apology, showed his remorse by saying he has taken down all his offending posts, and because he said he is not going to repeat this ugly behavior on social media again. In addition, he said his statement could serve as an example to others not to do the same. CNN reserves the right to publish his identity should any of that change." Though, what did he post? A GIF of Donald Trump wrestling a guy with the CNN logo edited onto his face, which went viral when re-posted to Twitter and lead to it being retweeted by Mr. President himself, the one mainly in charge of this operation being "journalist" and political reporter Andrew Kaczynski, of who issued: "CNN reserves the right to publicly expose the thought-criminal should his remorse or obedience prove insufficient." This is how fully-grown right-minded adults justify crusading an anonymous internet user who used his right of free speech.

The internet would not let HanA\*\*holeSolo be silenced. Former frenemies 4Chan and Reddit made an alliance with each other to stand up for HanA\*\*holeSolo and free speech in general. Their master plan was to craft so

many CNN memes, that it would be pointless to track down any single target. First was the blitzkrieg of memes, second was to target CNN's advertisers, third was to make #CNNBlackmail on Twitter trending for many to see, and fourth was to convince people, including prominent celebrities (such as Donald Trump Jr.), that HanA\*\*holeSolo was only fifteen (plausible that he was, though not confirmed). CNN was left in a lose-lose situation, by either staying quiet or denying that HanA\*\*holeSolo was fifteen. Every forum and platform, outsider-level (such as 4Chan) to normie-level (such as Facebook) were flooded with CNNBlackmail memes. As the fire was burning, 4Chan forces attacked CNN's ratings by installing the CNN app, rating it one-star, and uninstalling it. To keep the fire burning, even the two actual Infowars morons, Alex Jones and Paul Joseph Watson didn't like what CNN was doing, so they hosted a CNNBlackmail meme contest, before when Internet contests were obliterated by 4Chan antics. Now, there's one centred around that, with \$20k to whoever made the meme most well-liked.

But there's a rumour that suggests they've got the wrong guy, nope, this was just CNN's usual brainwashing fake news to suppress the backlash they've received. To clear this mist of polarization, undercover anons began using universal remotes to change televisions off of CNN to further damage their ratings.

Though with all the people against CNN and for free speech, MTV is the complete opposite, as a spinoff to their CatfishTV series, but with focus on entirely doxxing people on the Internet who like to have fun.

But worse, this could've been with any of us. As a PSA of standing your ground of free speech, beware of the mainstream media's malice degenerates like CNN; Buzzfeed, The Young Turks, FOX News, Vice, Vox, Breitbart, you name it, only serve to mislead you and silence you.

Citations: 1. Internet Historian: Incognito Mode. "The CNN Skirmishes \ Meme Insider Collection". 8/11/2017. Web. 1/11/2018. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b\\_yCj6fXtIA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_yCj6fXtIA)

# A Diverse New Year

By Vedanshi Vala

I learned a while back ago that many festivals that take place across multiple cultures during the latter half of the year aim to ultimately bring one element to the lives of human beings- light. Be it the diyas and fireworks of Diwali, the jack-o-lanterns of Halloween, the menorahs of Hanukah, or the fireworks of the New Year, communities worldwide come together to create light, and expel the shadows of the darkness.



This light that shines through the dark months of winter are our way of keeping our lives bright, and keeping our spirits alive, resounds within each and every celebration during the season. This winter, I had the good experience of visiting multiple sites across and beyond the Vancouver lower mainland to see beautiful sights of lighting. Tiny lights made up galaxies of wonders for me to escape into, and here I am sharing just a few of the wonders I witnessed.



From my heart to yours, I sincerely wish for your year to be filled with prosperity, happiness, love, and success. May these lights brighten your year, and bring a new dawn upon your ambitions.



## An Underwater Mystery Part 1

By David Holcer

Trembling his shaking hands finally found the oxygen control and he twisted hard. The hyperventilation caused by what he had just seen was quickly depleting his oxygen supply, and less slowly his vision. To be able to think clearly and escape his current predicament, he would need as much oxygen as he could spare.

The darkness and vastness of the deep ocean was for once getting to him. Usually the open expanse calmed Garro's tumultuous thoughts, but today the eerie silence only created more. What had started up as a routine dive turned into anything but.

Almost done collecting his algae samples, and not wanting to repeat the close call he had last year where he nearly got BENDS spending too much time collecting samples, Garro began making his slow ascent.

Placing his samples in the bottom right

corner of his impermeable camouflage bag, Garro reminisced about the days in which he would have double the amount of today's samples. Given the ocean's rising temperatures and the world's depleted algae supply, Garro knew his current research would not last long. Garro collected and studied algae to exploit their unparalleled survival in almost any environment.

He had set out the farthest and most hospitable regions of the planet in name of mankind's survival, but for the past twenty years, he could not manage to reproduce algae's superior qualities in any way shape or form. If he did not find a way to do so, and soon, the crops that fed his neighbours and all humans would cease to exist in the same way more than 30% of all species had ten years ago in what was known as the Great Downfall.

The world's democracies were in disorder and had been since soon after the Great Downfall, but the international, underground and covert organization NORÉP had always funded his pursuits. The NORÉP contained many of the world's most influential peoples, and as far as making any real, tangible decisions nowadays, they were virtually the sole group to turn to.

## Description Behind the Cover Art

David Holcer is a grade 11 International Baccalaureate student at Sir Winston Churchill Secondary. David enjoys graphic design, mathematics, and computer science, and is currently serving as The SWC Times' Layout Director.

The cover tells multiple narratives. The minimalism of the image represents the new design approach focused on a more modern look while the complex overlap of shapes stands for the complexity behind some of the articles this issue contains.