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BIS HANOI STUDENT MAGAZINE



10

OCTOBER

COMMUNICATORS:

communicate with others

Editorial

It is a pleasure to launch our school's first student-led school magazine. Our magazine is a platform for students and by students which engages with student voice. Expressing our opinions through writing, we observe not only the current affairs in and out of school but also interesting aspects which can spark enlightenment. Opening a new chapter, we introduce you to the first issue: communicators.

Communication is a requirement to acquire our own identity as human beings; we discover parts that we did not think of through other people's perspectives and also share our thoughts that can motivate others. The interconnectedness brings people together and therefore is essential in daily life. Communication has become even more vital in the context of the current pandemic. 'Social distancing' has led to less face to face interaction, yet it has driven other alternative means of communication and the use of social media amongst younger generations have prospered, which has created waves impacting all over the globe. To see whether social media is advantageous or not, see *Social Media for Communicators* [page 5] and *BHM& BLM*[page 20].

In this issue, we also provide an outlook on how our school has coped or is coping with communication. A reflection on remote learning - an implemented key method from January till June in our school - is on page 22.

Elsewhere in this issue, we have bright features which you will not want to miss including *Among us*[page 3] and an interview article featuring an ex-NBA player on page 24.

We hope you will enjoy reading this issue, and that it will create an innovative outlet of thought.

Best wishes,

Seon Ju Moon

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Among Us: an unexpected cure for Covid-Era's 'social distancing'

A sleeper success surpassing even *Fall Guys* in popularity, this online multiplayer murder mystery has become the epitome of lockdown culture.

Written by Thanh Tri 12I
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October 7th 2020



Ten 'crewmates' are trapped within a desolate ship floating in space, forced to carry out blue-collar jobs while a disguised impostor attempts to sabotage and murder them all. Such is the premise of Among Us; a multiplayer science-fiction murder mystery developed by InnerSloth, and one of its most popular games to date. In recent months, the game has propelled itself from relative irrelevance to mainstream internet culture; an explosive growth only accentuated by the ever-growing fanfare of both ordinary gamers and online celebrities. The game's mounting popularity has prompted even the cancellation of its sequel; an unexpected move resulting from the developers' commitment to improving the original. This is a fascinating phenomenon, considering the game's whimsical graphics and nondescript gameplay loop; Among Us doesn't try to stand out among other games of its genre, yet it was still able to reach mainstream audiences, amassing a rather cult-like following.

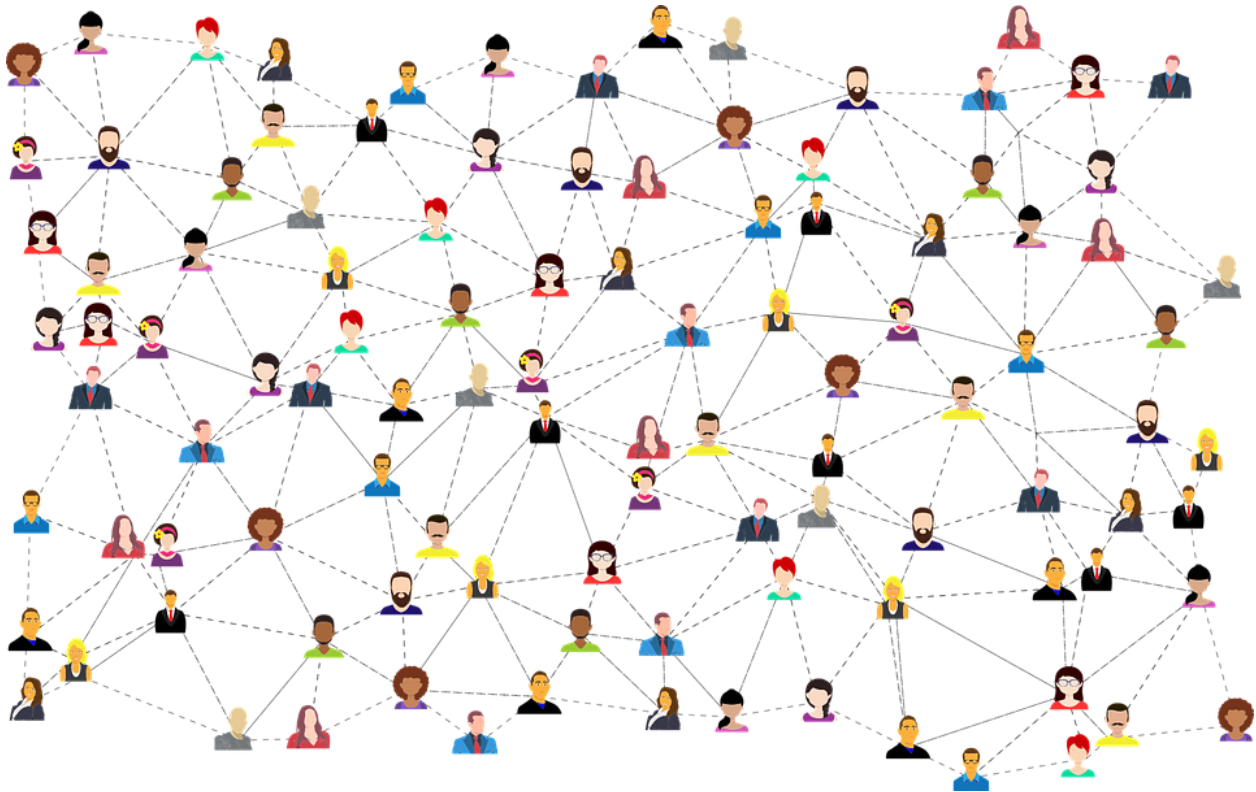
Why is it so? Among Us, at its core, is a party game - a sort of virtual experience akin to social deduction and detective games like 'Werewolf' or 'Town of Salem'. Within the game, you will find yourself matched with up to nine other friends (you can play with strangers via public lobbies, but it's not as exciting or fun), who will, at the beginning of the round, be assigned as either a 'Crewmate' or 'Impostor'. Crewmates can win in one of two ways: either by deductive reasoning - voting out the impostors, or by completing their menial duties. To prevent their defeat, impostors can kill crewmates, whether by direct elimination or by sabotaging the ship's infrastructure, causing failures in life-sustaining systems. As a trope of detective games, players do not communicate normally; one can only speak when the group is allotted discussion time, which happens when dead bodies are reported or when emergency meetings are called. Within such periods of discourse, the crew needs to find out the allegiance of each player, with the purpose of working out the identity of the killer. There will be accusations, lies, and temporary alliances. People will compare and analyse each others' alibis: "What was Kiet doing next to Reactor?"; "Tri looks hella sus." Occasionally, these paranoia-filled sessions devolve into chaotic madness, with anarchic accusations thrown around to justify one's actions. However, crewmates will only understand the consequences of their words once someone is voted out, discovering whether or not the impostor is gone or they have just murdered an innocent groupmate.

In essence, Among Us composes the rudimentary principles of social games like 'wink murder', simulating it within a virtual package. Thus, it makes a perfect hobby for the socially deprived caste of people living under lockdown. What Among Us captures in its players and participants is the idea of 'Communication'. The game reflects the significance of such fundamental attributes that were once abundant, now deprived, by the novel 'lockdown culture' of 2020. Its emphasis on acting, fabrication and accusatory arguments - inherently communicative skills, provides a much-needed escape from the separation imposed in the Covid Era. As a result, Among Us not only reignites our own desires as human beings for drama and social interactions, but also reveals the innate importance of communications - the role such attributes play in our lives.

Even though our community within BIS has been largely unaffected by the pandemic, it is still important to understand the significance of our identity as internationally-minded students. As global citizens, we are delegated to embrace and empathise with communities across the globe. In turn, Among Us not only provides a temporary parole from isolation, but also emphasises a compelling rhetoric of global culture. It is no longer just a game, for it represents what we are, and why we are.

Social Media for Communicators

By Hye Jin Cho and Chae Yeon Park



Social media's impact on our capacity to interact and communicate is visible throughout all areas of society. Through social media, people are able to communicate with other people on a global scale. Social media has even become one of the means governments and other official organizations' use to hear the voices of society. Furthermore, people are able to make new relationships with others by communicating through social media, which also allows them to meet anyone in the world. It creates opportunities to interact with people freely in a rapid way. Consequently, connection through screen has become another way of communication. As social media becomes a major means of communication, debate about the utility of distance communication has been discussed continuously.

PROS

The disappearance of Communication Restriction Barriers

The most widely known advantage of social media is that it is able to overcome the barriers of communication. Before social media, only limited communication was possible. However, with the advent of social media, today's large population can communicate without restrictions on location and time. Social media provides opportunities for people to communicate in better condition. Even

communication among different countries is common these days. This variation allows people to have diverse views. In other words, this convenience of social media, the ability to interact with others instantaneously, improves the quality of communication.

The emergence of the various forms of communication

Based on the different types of social media that exist today, various forms of communication have become possible. The following examples are popular social media platforms.

Facebook : Facebook, used by 700 million people around the world, is a representative social media platform that not only has communal characteristics but also openness. Its purpose is to build a personal relationship with others.

Instagram : Instagram is a visual platform that enables people to share any images or videos to their followers. The focus on visuals is a key factor of its platform. When people aren't mutually following each other, it may only be one-way communication. However, two-way communication is possible through comments and direct messages.

Twitter : People communicate about their interests or expertise in Twitter using texts or sometimes even images. Twitter helps communicators share and spread information. They are able to quickly know the latest news, and discuss their opinions on social events.

YouTube : Communicators can communicate not only in texts but also in video. A free video-sharing platform, YouTube is a great opportunity for people to express their creativity about the information they want to share. This enables a new form of communication that people have never tried before.

As more different types of social media platforms appear, various forms of communication have become possible for the communicators. Some people argue that there would be a lack of emotional bond because it is not face-to-face communication. However, the variety of communication using photos, videos, and emoticons, rather than just words, will allow people to express their feelings more effectively. Therefore, rather than a lack of emotional connection, there will be an abundance of it.

Sharing information and content among the communicators

One of the biggest advantages of social media is the ability to share information and content among users. Through sharing different types of information, whether it be about interests or opinions on social events, meaningful communication is possible. By taking advantage of social media, information can be spread at a rapid pace, which can further change people's perception.

An opportunity to learn how to communicate

As social media becomes more popular, there have been negative views about the fact that the average age of users has been getting younger. However, if young users meet miscellaneous people and experience various forms of communication, they will naturally learn the correct way to

communicate. A picture is worth a thousand words. Therefore, experiencing different types of communication through social media is a great way to become a skillful communicator.

CONS

Nowadays, social media has become a major media for communication. Through social media, people are able to communicate with others all around the world. Moreover, even the news has become a type of social media.

The Decline of face-to-face communication

Firstly, the development of online communication decreases 'real' communication. "I don't have any hesitation in talking with others through Facebook messenger, but I feel awkward when I talk with them face-to-face", a Sixth Form student from our school, BIS, commented. As technical development in communication through social media increases, the use of text increases. Consequently, people have become more comfortable having conversations without facing each other. This consequence has led people to have difficulty in initiating or participating in actual conversation. A primary aim in creating social media communication was to enable people to communicate on a global scale, but it has resulted in the decline of 'real' communication: a drawback!

The Lack of diversity in language

Secondly, decline of 'real' communication has led to the lack of diversity in language, which degrades language skills. The emergence of the internet and social media has resulted in a new type of language. To type easily, quickly, and clearly, people have coined acronyms, abbreviations formed from the initial letters of words. These are pronounced as short words, such as 'lol', 'idk' and 'rly'. The extensive use of these types of words has resulted in an increase in grammatical errors. Being adjusted to social media, people have become more prone to not checking or proof reading the content they post. By not being aware of their grammatical errors in the content they post, people are also likely to make the same errors in formal writing. To summarize, the need for convenience has degraded the language skills of many people.

Weakened writing responsibility

One of the main beneficial features of social media is ease of posting and deleting content. Because of this, people are able to communicate easily and freely in social media. However, this convenience has diminished writing responsibility. Since it is easy to delete posts, people share news or information without careful judgement of credibility and accuracy, degrading the quality of communication. Social media is a space where anyone can come and see one's post, so writing etiquette, responsibility, and accuracy of information is absolutely essential. Since people have gained freedom of expression and convenience through social media, they should have a sense

of responsibility. Moreover, weakened writing responsibility results in the rapid growth of inaccurate information and also the manipulation of the press. In order to make the press in favor of their opinion, people manipulate it.

It is undeniable that social media is a great means of communicating globally. Since social media has no limits in communication, many people use it for sharing information. Furthermore, the development of new social media platforms coaches young communicators. However, diminished vocabulary and responsibility is harmful. Due to the ambivalence of social media, appropriate usage of it is highly required. Considering the massive effect of social media on social interactions, communicators should recognize that it is entirely up to them whether social media will be an effective means of communication.

How do celebrities' opinions affect the public?

By Su Hyeon Kang

In the past, celebrities were just people on television. However these days, as the development of social media has become more rampant, people are strongly influenced by the celebrities. Some celebrities disclose their opinions to the public about which party they support. How do these political opinions affect the public?



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For instance, a Korean broadcaster Je Dong Kim is known for his critique about Geun Hye Park, the First woman president in Korea. During her presidency, the 'Sewol ferry' incident, which has driven the death of innocent lives, caused a controversy. It was revealed that Park was in bed until Choi Sun Sil, the manipulator, ordered her to attend an event in Central Countermeasure Safety Headquarters. For seven hours, she was away when she was needed the most regarding the decision of rescuing the victims of the incident. Such actions sparked a debate among the public, yet negative views were dominant.

Kim Jae Dong caught the public's attention when he publicly criticized Park's shortcomings as a president. He stated that "It is regrettable and frustrating that the president has failed to keep her promise to investigate the truth and make a special law that reflects the wishes of the bereaved families." This statement went viral and drew public anger towards the ex-president. Consequently, some people who support the President have stayed supporting her whereas there majority of the

people have changed their stances and immensely criticized her. On the positive side, it is rare in Korea for celebrities to do such a thing like this because most of them want to maintain their reputation. Therefore, Kim Jae Dong got support from the public somehow with his statement. However, this critical statement sparked criticism from the public as well. Some people did not have deep knowledge in politics, and therefore when they encountered political views like this, they tended to take such statements directly and absorb it. This made them not to look for other sources of information and therefore had a negative effect, such as confusion amongst people.

However through this, the public will be more aware about what is going on in the world of politics. Communication between celebrities and the public is essential because they can both broaden their perspective about the nation's controversial issues. In addition, people in general need to be more open minded to accept the opinions of others, a wider perspective is needed to live harmoniously in this society.

Misinformation and Disinformation

By Thuc Anh To

The introduction of the internet has produced an abundance of information that is accessible all over the world. According to a report made by tech company DOMO "over 2.5 quintillion bytes of data are created every single day, and it's only going to grow from there. By 2020, it's estimated that 1.7MB of data will be created every second for every person on earth". The internet has revolutionised mass communication and brought a lot of benefits.

However, not everything that is on the internet is necessarily correct: some may be completely false; some may be true; and some may be between those two spectrums.

Firstly, the keywords misinformation and disinformation must be established. Both words may seem very familiar and fall under a broader and popularised term 'Fake News'. Still, they are different and what sets them apart are their purposes:

Misinformation is false information.

Disinformation is information that is deliberately false.

Misinformation can range from having mild to severe consequences. Though misinformation can be something very minor when it happens on a smaller scale, on a day-to-day basis, it becomes a much bigger and dangerous problem on a larger scale. Disinformation does have the same range, but because it is deliberate, people with the wrong intentions will try to alter the information so that it outputs their desired effects, which are often very severe and harmful. Both misinformation and disinformation are not as polarised as being right or wrong, even though its definitions say so otherwise. Both can find themselves between being correct and incorrect.

Mass Communication

Misinformation and disinformation have been parts of mass communication since the beginning of their short history.

Mass communication is the process of spreading information through mass media that can reach large numbers of people. This is why the history of mass communication is arguably short because its method of spreading information on a global scale was not possible until around the 20th century with the rise of broadcast media (radio, film and television). However, it is possible that mass communication history started earlier than the 20th century, when Johannes Gutenberg

invented the printing press in the 1400s. The start of mass communication depends on the context of the word mass. Defining 'mass' by a range from a local to a national level means the extension of the history of mass communication until the 1400s is plausible. If defined from a continental to a global level, the start of the history of mass communication can be reasonably thought to have started from the 20th century.

However, the widespread use of information can become situational. Despite its benefits, such as providing a variety of different sources and being more and more accessible by everyone, it makes misinformation and disinformation inevitable. That is because on the internet, anyone can put up information. There are rarely any restrictions on what can go on the internet. Additionally, there are no notable technological methods that can check data for any inaccuracies and wrong intentions. For example, the internet has criticised Youtube's community guidelines and censorship for its unreasonable restrictions on videos that are perceived as appropriate and popular with the general public while allowing other videos stay on the site despite it being ill-suited to be seen by the public. The only way of checking the liability and credibility of information is to do it ourselves.

To fully understand its impact and importance, its relevance in the current affairs of 2020 must be demonstrated.

COVID-19

COVID-19 is a new disease discovered around late December 2019. People use the terms "COVID-19" and "coronavirus" interchangeably, which has caused a lot of misinformation over the meaning of these two terms. It becomes more confusing as both names require at least minimal, or even advanced prior knowledge about biology, to be specific, virology. It requires simple knowledge in taxonomy to be able to differentiate the two terms.

Taxonomy is the science of naming (nomenclature), describing (delineation), and classifying organisms. It uses the ranking of broadest terms to the most specific, the most well-known type of ranking being the Linnaeus system. It orders all living organisms into domain, kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus and species. However, this system does not fit viruses as they do not have the requirements to be classified as a living thing; they are merely strands of DNA or RNA who depend on a host for survival. Virus taxonomy is similar but cannot use the Linnaeus system.

Viruses have a system, ordered from broadest to most specific, into family, subfamily, genus, and species. There are rankings above family but only these four rankings will be needed. Coronavirus is the common genus name for the four genera (plural for genus): alphacoronavirus, betacoronavirus, gammacoronavirus and deltacoronavirus. The genus betacoronavirus consists of many species, including severe acute respiratory syndrome-related coronaviruses (SARSr-CoV). SARSr-CoV

consists of two variants (strains) which are severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 1 and 2 (SARS-CoV-1 and SARS-CoV-2). SARS-CoV-2 is the species that causes the disease COVID-19.

COVID-19 is a disease (COV for coronavirus, ID for disease) with symptoms such as fever, cough, fatigue, shortness of breath, loss of smell/taste, but also sometimes symptomlessness. The disease ranges from mild to severe, often having mild effects, although it is very infectious and contagious. As of October 2020, there have been about 37 million global cases, 26 million deaths, and 1 million global deaths. On the 31st of December 2019, the World Health Organisation (WHO) picked up on the Chinese government report about an “urgent notice on the treatment of pneumonia of unknown cause” in Wuhan. Throughout late December and early January, the Chinese government reported that these undetermined cases of pneumonia were growing into clusters. By the 9th of January 2020, the Chinese authorities had identified this sudden outbreak as a novel coronavirus and eventually identified the disease caused by it as COVID-19.

As the disease is still relatively new, there is a lot of uncertainty surrounding it. In the beginning, not even scientists knew what it was - only defining it as pneumonia with an unknown cause. Misinformation becomes inevitable and becomes incredibly hard to cope with because there was barely any other information that could have proven the wrong ones are wrong. Not only that but disinformation is also inevitable and makes it easy for people with the wrong intentions to take advantage of the situation to spread false information. As this involves the lives of millions, both misinformation and disinformation are dangerous - even deadly.

In early 2020, there was a lot of false information that had circulated which, now in October, can be seen as foolish and mindless. For example, there were many online fights about the lethality of COVID-19. One side said that it was incredibly fatal while the other said that it was not lethal, often comparing it to other diseases, most commonly the flu. Scientifically known as influenza, the flu is an infectious disease with symptoms similar to COVID. Flu season often starts in October and can last until May. Taking statistics from the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) had estimated that there would be around 24,000-62,000 deaths and 39 to 56 million cases of the flu in March. By the end of March, COVID-19 had killed over 5,000 Americans with about 185,000 cases. Currently, in October, COVID-19 killed a total of over 200,000 Americans and has almost 8 million cases. That means that COVID-19 is significantly more severe than the flu as it has a higher mortality rate (in both cases, it is around 2.5% compared to influenza, which is under 1%). It is understandable as to why some would say that the flu is deadlier; 5,000 does not look as bad as 24,000 to 64,000. Furthermore, at the time, the US' COVID-19 cases were still low, making it seem less harmful as 185,000 cases do not compare to 39 to 56 million.

Having to decide whether the example above shows misinformation is difficult. At that time, saying that the flu was deadlier than COVID-19 would not necessarily be misinformation because

there was not enough information to prove that it was wrong. Even in this article, this way of concluding COVID-19's severity is too easy as there is now more information about it. At that time, having to compare the flu, which had existing data about its severity, to COVID, which only had unfamiliar information, was incredibly challenging. However, as this is not a subjective topic but an objective one, there is a right and a wrong. Would this case be classified as misinformation?

Another heavily debatable issue surrounds the use and effectiveness of masks. Particularly in the US, the use of wearing masks has become a hot topic and many people wear it while many do not. Many health organisations and officials have encouraged the use of wearing masks because it is an effective method of preventing the spread of coronavirus. Organisations include the WHO, NHS and CDC. Officials supporting this method include Dr Anthony Fauci and Dr Robert Redfield. They have recommended that almost everyone wear masks and other prevention methods such as frequent hand-washing. There have been some people who have said that they did not need to wear masks and, as a result, got COVID-19, including sitting president Donald Trump. Trump has often changed his stance on wearing masks but generally undermined their use. Consequently, earlier this month, Trump tested positive for COVID-19. Now and then, we have polarised the need for wearing masks as something that can save lives or something that violates human rights and kills people. Particularly in the US, wearing masks have become a political symbol with the Democratic party heavily encouraging it and the Republican party not recommending it as much.

An important takeaway from this is that information is always changing. Information given five years ago will not apply five years later. This time period may even be shorter. For example, the use of masks was not advised by the CDC in February and March, but in July, they changed their stance and encouraged people to wear masks.

Black Lives Matter



Black Lives Matter surged through relevance in 2020. Its significance and impact have spiked, continuing until this moment. Its surge started arguably from George Floyd's death.

George Floyd, an African-American truck driver, security guard, and rapper, was presumably killed during an arrest after a store clerk alleged that Floyd passed a counterfeit \$20 bill in Minneapolis. A white police officer, alongside his three colleagues, came to the scene and kneeled on Floyd's neck until Floyd became unresponsive. He died shortly after. The death is still controversial as it is still up for debate whether the police officer, Derick Chauvin, killed Floyd or if it was due to more internal factors from Floyd himself. However, Floyd's death led to mass protests across the US, and the 'Black Lives Matter' movement became ubiquitous not only in the US but also around the world.

Black Lives Matter is a social movement, which started in 2013 as a response to the shooting of Trayvon Martin. Trayvon Martin was a 17-year-old African American who was fatally shot by the neighbourhood watchman, George Zimmerman. The court acquitted Zimmerman from all charges.

Information is incredibly crucial for Black Lives Matter as it is about advocating for black people's rights and going against racial injustice, especially police brutality. A movement is a group of people with a set of political, social, or artistic aims. For this social movement to be credible, two conditions have to be satisfied: One, they need information which backs up their argument and proves that racial discrimination exists. It means they need all the evidence, including data and statistics, to prove their argument. Two, they need to be able to spread their selection of information to convince and inform others.

Throughout 2020, it has seen countless fights and arguments over the credibility of the movement, including how reasonable it is. An example of a piece of data is the number of white people killed compared to black people. Data reveals that the number of white people shot by police in the US is significantly higher than that of black people. Data from the [statista.com](https://www.statista.com), as of September 2020, shows that 287 white people have been shot to death by police, while 142 black people had the same fate. That makes the advocates of the Black Lives Matter movement over police bias against black people wrong. However, there is much evidence which counters this, saying that the majority of the US population is white so, that is why the number of deaths by police in white people is higher. In 2017, the American Community Survey found that white Americans made up about 73% of the USA while black or African Americans made up only around 13%. It means that the ratio of black people killed by police to its population is very disproportional to that of white people.

It is difficult to categorise the example above as misinformation or disinformation. It is true that more white people than black people die by being fatally shot by police. However, it does not show the full picture, which involves the demographics of the US. The example above shows how one-sided information can lead to misinformation; if sharing only the first half of the story, it can cause countless misconceptions.

Besides providing information to back up their arguments, the movement would also need to be able to spread their information to convince and inform others.

An example of this is Black History. World history focuses on how humans have evolved and changed the world surrounding them, looking back at what and why and how events have taken place from the first humans until today. However, the world-history textbooks are generally focused on white-dominated European History. For example, in iGCSE History, both Core Content A and B teach European history during the age of empires and both World Wars. It even includes a little bit of American history, specifically the American Civil War. Often, teaching Black History includes the late 20th century and onwards. Some notable events during the 20th century include: the death of Emmett Till, the Montgomery bus boycott and Rosa Parks, the formation of The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), self-determination of African countries from their former country that colonised them, the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr and the assassination of Malcolm X. Some notable events during the 21st century include: Barack Obama winning the presidency, the death of Trayvon Martin, Colin Kaepernick kneeling during the American anthem, the George Floyd protests, the death of Breonna Taylor and the death of Ahmaud Arbery. However, that is not enough. Black History extends further back in the past, just like with every other type of history. A significant time for Black History is the 18th to 19th century, notably the time of slavery, specifically the Atlantic Slave Trade. Despite being a vital part of Black History, schools rarely teach this. From the perspective of the movement, they want Black History taught and everyone who follows or is an alibi to them to understand Black History.

Discrimination taints Black History, and therefore understanding how that came to be and what effects it had on black people then and black people today will help develop better consciousness about their lives. History is not about memorising dates and facts, but it is about understanding why and how something happened and seeing if it reflected today. History can repeat itself. While this particular example does not show misinformation, it is still important to acknowledge that this movement would want to spread information of their own which can be good or bad.

How is it prevalent? What are its impacts?

Shown through the events of 2020, misinformation and disinformation is still prevalent, maybe even more so than previously.

The novel coronavirus outbreak has taught us about dealing with misinformation during times of uncertainty. Uncertainty meaning the times there are little to no information available. During this time, disinformation can take advantage because it is the perfect hotspot for lies and deceptions. Information during times of uncertainty will contradict each other and for it to come to a concrete conclusion, it will take days, weeks, possibly months, just like the influenza versus COVID debate. Having to identify which information is misleading and or not is difficult. It becomes less about what is right and wrong and more about judgement, which is an entirely different topic. To simplify, if it is more about making judgements, then it is best to weigh the pros and cons of the situation and judge it from there. For example, when one had to decide whether or not to quarantine themselves several months back, it would have been best to weigh the pros and cons of going into quarantine. If the positives outweigh the negatives, then quarantine is necessary; if it is the reverse then it is not. When you look back and see that you have made the wrong choice then you should not start feeling bad. At that time, you had to work with the little available information you had, which made you come to that decision.

Now that we are over three-quarters into 2020, time has come to reflect on the information we had available then to what we have available now. Most things that were uncertain back in January would now have a concrete explanation in October, which gives us a solid idea on what is misinformation and what is correct information. Even when uncertainty has lessened, misinformation and disinformation are still prevalent and will continue to be so. It becomes more about differentiating between correct and incorrect information.

Black Lives Matter reflects why information is not as polarised as being correct or incorrect. Information can only convey parts of the story so it can be factually right, but since it only shows a single part of it, it is overall wrong. This situation is difficult to categorise because it includes elements of both misinformation and disinformation. However, it also highlights why the need to check multiple sources is vital.

How do we differentiate between what is correct/incorrect information?

With so many examples of misinformation and disinformation, how do we differentiate between what is correct or incorrect information? There are three key components to note when looking at information: the source, evidence, time, and how it is conveyed.

Sources are the 'heart' to confirming the credibility of information. For example, you are able to check the references to see where the information comes from and whether they are eligible to inform that content. In some cases, such as medicine, this can be easy to identify because official health committee websites, such as the NHS, CDC and WHO, are able to be reliable sources as they specifically cover the field of medicine and health in general. Some exceptions include sources like lifestyle blogs or even news outlets because they do not specialise in such medicine. One is more likely to trust a doctor than a gym coach when discussing health-related topics. However, if they do contain evidence, then the statements they make will be more credible. Moreover, checking multiple sources is beneficial because if there is a consensus on a subject, then it is likely to be correct. If many people have read on this subject and they have ultimately agreed to it, then that information may be accurate. However, this may not always be the case, a familiar example being how everyone had believed that the world was a plate shape, not spherical, hundreds of years ago. That belief was the consensus until it was proven wrong.

Evidence is also a crucial part in making sure that information is credible, although it is not as simple as it seems. Evidence can be falsified, which complicates a lot of factors and almost defies the idea above about credible sources. A source can carry out an investigation and change the findings or results to fit a narrative. For example, a science experiment can completely change variables involved or they can change its outcomes and claim that that is what happened after the procedure. It means that the evidence itself has a specific criteria to be considered correct. Firstly, if the evidence came from an experiment, we need to know how it was carried out. Did this scientific experiment follow correct scientific procedures? Did the investigation follow standard investigation guidelines? It is crucial to know this so that we can identify any abnormality that can affect the results or any change to the actual procedure itself. Secondly, evidence should come in clusters and different forms to solidify its proof. For example, to prove that an incident had occurred and was not staged, having one or more videos documenting it from different witnesses can prove that it is real.

Time is also another crucial factor. Information can be outdated, which means it is no longer useful and maybe even no longer correct. Information can change a lot, taking years to do so or even just weeks. While it would not necessarily be misinformation, as the outdated data could have been only slightly wrong, not detailed enough, or was correct but is incorrect today, it can still create a chain reaction of misinformation.

Lastly, another factor is the way of conveying information. Information can be presented in a biased way, meaning that it only fits one view or idea. Conveying information that only presents half or less than half of the 'full picture' can cause another domino effect of misinformation- maybe even disinformation. Generally, the information should be presented in a non-biased way, which means both sides of the story should be taken into consideration.

Conclusion / Summary

To conclude, this was a detailed look into misinformation and disinformation that presents its prevalence in real world issues and analyses its consequences. Misinformation and disinformation, on a large scale, has consequences. Furthermore, because they involve millions, up to billions, of people, they are incredibly dangerous. To avoid this, we should consider the key components that determine credibility of information as mentioned: the source, evidence, time, and the way the information is conveyed. This way, we can lessen the effects of misinformation and disinformation in a world where they will only grow along with the internet. Last but not least, understanding how to lessen the effects of misinformation and disinformation can also make surfing through the internet more enjoyable, a lot safer, and overall better for everyone.

Stay safe.

Black History Month & Black Lives Matter

By Min Young Kim

Upcoming, October is the annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and an opportunity to acknowledge their contributions to the UK (February in the US, and Canada). It honours all Black people from all periods of UK history, from the slaves brought over from Africa in the early 17th century to African Americans living in the United Kingdom today.

Recently, the death of George Floyd sparked a wave of national and global protest, that is leading to changes in symbols of racism, in hope to bring real reforms to the Black Lives Matter Movement. But this time, not only did the protests happen physically but also through different media sources: social media. In this article, we communicate the spread of this 'wave' through social media.

Surprisingly the Black Lives Matter Movement has been starting since July 2013 when the co-founder Alicia Garza shared the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter following the murder of a young boy named Trayvon Martin. This 17-year-old boy was shot and killed by George Zimmerman who called 911, just before fatally shooting the teen, to report "a suspicious person". Zimmerman was ultimately acquitted in the case which prompted the social media hashtag #BLM, later shifting into a social justice movement against police brutality and racially-motivated violence. After its significant start, the BLM movement relied on many social platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and more to spread their message.

The BLM movement, following the tragic murder of George Floyd, is now a global human rights movement. Countless eyewitness accounts of police brutality and racism arose in the form of videos and images of real captures of the last moments of the man. These pieces of evidence provided immense support, with each post bringing hundreds of views. It is no doubt that social media is now a



new source of communication

and news source among the younger generation. In a society where racism still exists, it is vital to acknowledge the presence of it in order to combat it. Thus, through unfiltered social media, we are able to access anything and one of the benefits of this is that we are able to communicate worldwide which quickly widespread. For example, better



communication like instant messaging across half of the world spreads extensive information exponentially.

But like always, everything comes with a side effect; social media, too, comes with multiple harmful effects. Due to its virtual and successful way of transmitting information worldwide, it also brings all sorts of misinformation which too spread at a vertiginous rate. For example, photos of a teenager's dog bite injuries were used in fake Facebook posts claiming Black Lives Matter protesters had attacked people with machetes, as well as photos of police officers injured at Black Lives Matter protests in London with the caption "all in a day's work" shared by the Police Firearms Association, when a quick check shows that these photos were not all from the recent black lives matter protests, some of them even dating back to 2016.

In conclusion, ideally, this article was able to explain both the benefits and the drawbacks of social media and its effects on spreading the message of BLM, along with a few historical events regarding the BHM. To fully understand and conquer the on-going racism, it is no doubt we need to take actions, and so to own tools in front of us, that are greatly undemanding, is a true honour that could put an end to this reiterating history of racism.

On Online communication during the covid-19 pandemic

By Sehyun(Mary) Bang and Sehyun(Sarah) Lee



Due to the unexpected COVID-19 pandemic, substantial changes have been made in educational systems across the globe. Nearly 1.6 billion learners worldwide have been affected by this crisis, and numerous schools are being forced to shut down. From February to May, our school also experienced the same situation and continued lessons via online meetings. Online(distance) learning was a key tool that connected students with their teachers, enabling communication by writing comments or speaking through the microphone. Fortunately, the COVID-19 impact in Vietnam lowered, and most of us were able to attend schon distance learning. She is an IB student in year 12, who did online learning in BIS from August to September. Our main purpose of the interview was finding out 'how does communication differ between offline and online learning?'

During the interview, we noticed that the disadvantages Judy experienced from online(distance) learning outweighed the benefits. The biggest issue in the learning was connection: "Distance learning made me quite lonely. I couldn't spend time with other students, and there wasn't much active communication going on between me and my teachers." Connection and participation in lessons were possible for Judy, but it was not enough to communicate with other students and

teachers. Moreover, Judy found distance learning inconvenient when interacting with teachers and students. "My participation in class was limited," she says. "It was hard for the teachers to check my homework, and getting feedback was also difficult."

Despite these disadvantages, there are factors where online outperforms offline lessons. The former allows more flexibility in time and space, and sharing resources is more convenient. Additionally, lessons can be recorded and shared in order to give accessibility to a wide range of students. However such benefits are not enough to substitute for the lack of communication. In terms of communication, online learning is far more inefficient: the comment section and the microphone were unable to fulfill discussions face-to-face. The lack of communication in online lessons led to difficulties in Judy's studies.

After Judy started attending actual school lessons, she realised the difference in the amount of communication compared to online lessons. As she began having actual conversations with people inside BIS, some changes were made. "I got more acquainted with my teachers, especially Mr.Mortimer and Ms.Davis," she says. "I'm also more hard-working and participating in school lessons. Now I feel energized because I'm not alone doing online learning." Active communication derived from face-to-face interactions with others kept Judy motivated. This may be since communication promotes connection, which results in closer relationships inside the community.

Thus, some communication was available through online lessons, but this wasn't efficient enough in the case of Judy. Online learning shows weakness in communication and connectivity. Still, it is hard to generalise this idea since Judy's situation was different with most other circumstances: she was the only one doing online lessons in year 12. A common situation would be when every student did online learning, just like how BIS students did in the first half year.

While online learning can be the best alternative for receiving education in hard times like today, it is true that online cannot perfectly replace offline when it comes to communication. This may be the reason why we participate in actual classes everyday even though it is time consuming.

“I wanted to be free”: NBA’s Maurice Ager on his career-changing journey across borders

From the League to Vietnam, an interview

Written by Tuan Kiet 12S
Assisted by Thanh Tri 12I

October 9th 2020



I started playing basketball when I was 13 because of my newfound interest in the sport and “coercion” from parents and friends. Back in 2017, as any newbie would, I looked up to either Steph Curry or LeBron James, the two best players in the league. I ended up rooting for Curry since I couldn’t dunk like LeBron, and the Golden State Warriors was the best team.

As I kept watching the NBA, I realised that the league was not only just about basketball. The narratives off the court had me hooked. In 2017, the biggest story of the year was when Kevin Durant - one of the ‘deadliest’ scorers alive - decided to leave the Oklahoma City Thunder and his co-star Russell Westbrook to join the team he lost to in the playoffs: the Warriors. What followed was absolutely sensational: Westbrook went on a revenge tour, becoming league MVP while carrying his team to a playoff spot. His play and mentality was captivating, and so my allegiances now lie with Westbrook, thanks to his inspiring story.

When I heard there was an NBA star active in Vietnam, I had to find out why. What kind of story led him here, out of all places?

His name is Maurice Ager, a first round draft pick for the Dallas Mavericks in 2006 from Detroit, Michigan. He also played for the New Jersey Nets* and the Minnesota Timberwolves. Now, he is a Grammy nominated producer/rapper, and a coach at his own basketball academy, the Moe Ager Hoop School, organised in the US, Thailand, China, and Vietnam.

*: The Brooklyn Nets when they were in New Jersey 1977-2012.

How did he get to Vietnam?

I present to you the story of Maurice Ager.



Q: What led you to pursue basketball as a career?

A: I just knew that basketball was a stepping stone from Detroit. I had the opportunity to take my mom and my sister and put them in a better situation. Growing up where I'm from, that's one of the ways out: playing basketball and sports. So for me, I just love guys that I watched while growing up like Michael Jordan and the Bad Boy [Pistons]*. I grew up a Bad Boys fan and they inspired me to

pursue basketball. It was something that I knew I was good at and I could use it to go to college. I could use it to make it to the [NBA], make it big to help my mom, and get to this level.

*: A nickname for the Detroit Pistons 1980–1991.

Q: What's your favorite moment on court?

A: It was my first NBA start on TNT*. I think it was my second year, when we were playing against the [San Antonio] Spurs. I started because Jerry Stackhouse was hurt, so I played at the shooting guard position. That was a good moment, and I played well. I think I had 10 points and we won. Everybody in the world saw the game. I had some good dunks, hit some big shots, and got some big blocks. I've had a lot of good moments in the NBA. But, I think the greatest thing for me was just being able to get there and make it to the league. It was a hard thing and a tough journey from a young boy with hoop dreams to me watching them come true. I think that the whole process itself is still surreal and I'm really grateful to this day that I was able to make it at the highest level and I take those same tools that I learnt to make it out here, in Vietnam.

*: An American TV network that nationally broadcasts NBA games.

Q: What about in college, where you led the Michigan State Spartans to the Final Four in the NCAA tournament?

A: Michigan State [University] was cool. I really enjoyed playing for coach Tom Izzo; he was an amazing coach. He allowed me to really develop as a player. For me, the whole experience in college was great because of the atmosphere: I would go to the games and the students were going crazy. After the games, I would hang out with some of the students. As much as I love basketball and travelling, the most enjoyable time for me was just hanging out in Michigan State and chilling in the dorm rooms. I also was making beats with my friends and enjoyed the experience. I made a lot of good friends and had a lot of good fun. College was definitely a unique experience. If you have the chance to go, I'd definitely recommend it.

Q: Music is also one of your biggest passions. What led you to retire from the NBA and pursue music instead?

A: Music is a part of me. It was a gift and it was something that I always wanted to do full time. I played so much basketball up to that point. I was really young at that time, around 20. I was really ready to move on and do other stuff in life, and a lot of people just couldn't understand that. I wanted to be free, happy, figure out who I am and what else I could offer, not only for myself, but also for my family. [I was just like] the people who were searching for themselves, looking for mentors, and traveling the world. I didn't regret my choice.

Q: Besides music, do you have any other off-court interests?

A: I think the one thing that I'm really interested in is science: how the mind works and things like that. A lot of times when I'm in the [music] studio, I'm online and doing research about different

things, like how the universe works. So, no matter where I go in life, I have to pay attention to certain things a little differently. I also love numerology and astrology. Of course, I love chilling with the homies too.

Q: The next question – I think a lot of people have on their mind – is why Vietnam? Why here out of everywhere else in the world?

A: I don't know; I felt like I got lucky. It's because I believe that Vietnam is one of the up-and-coming countries, not only in South East Asia but [in the world]. For me, I really enjoyed the freedom that I have here, especially for some of the things that I'm doing – making music, playing sports, and working with young people. The people here are amazing. There's a lot of opportunities to grow. The weather's beautiful, and I like the food. I spent time in China before, but they were strict compared to a place like here, where if I have an idea, I can bring it to life. Here's an easy living place. Hopefully, in two or three years from now, I'll be much further ahead than I am now. Then, I'll be looking back and be thankful that I stayed here.

Q: Have you ever experienced any kind of racism or discrimination in Vietnam?

A: Not that I know of. I really don't pay attention even if there was. All these years that I've lived, I can't really think of too many times I was discriminated against because I always stayed in my lane. So, I think discrimination can be subjective at times. I'm not saying that racism and discrimination don't exist. All I'm saying is that I've been able to stay away from it.

Q: Do you follow anything that's happening in America?

A: Yeah, I'm up to date with the cops' shootings. I feel it's really unfortunate that these things still happen. We can go all day about why they are happening, but at some point, I believe my people should make choices on whether they want to stay or not, instead of trying to fight against something that may become [worse]. That's a difficult one, and it makes me grateful that I was able to move here. I also encouraged my friends to travel the world and open their minds: there is no better teacher than experience.

Q: Let's move on to one of the things that you're passionate about: your hoop school. How did you start it?

A: I created the Moe Ager Hoop School in 2013 in Los Angeles. It was a basketball youth program that's going on for 7 years, and I've been growing it ever since. One of my friends encouraged me to do it because I was helping at other people's camps; she told me I needed to start my own and be independent. So, I became a mentor and gave back to the kids. I realised that basketball is also a business. So, I figured out a way to bring both together: I can help people, but at the same time, help myself.

Q: Do you have any memorable moments in the hoop school?

A: I don't have a particular one to name. I just love the fact that my clinics have been very diverse. I always have every age group and nationality: Asian, African, New Zealander, European, and so on. It's amazing to say that because now I'm on the different side of the world, the same exact situation [as the kids in my camp], so I appreciate the ability to bring people together and create an atmosphere that's beneficial for the students and their families. I feel like this is my purpose now, and it's a natural gift for me to work with young people.

Q: You think basketball will grow more as a sport in Vietnam?

A: Yeah. I believe everybody is helping to grow basketball here in Vietnam. Obviously, COVID-19 slowed down that process a lot. For me, basketball didn't pick back up until July, so I'm just now getting back into the rhythm of doing camps. It's going to be a really good time, and it sucked not being able to grow my program because everybody was in quarantine. Me and my friend Legend Lawson tried to do the best we could to make the best out of the situation: we had an online basketball program. It did pretty good, but it was only a quarantine workout. Now, it's good to be back.

Q: Any other future plans and dates for your camp?

A: Definitely. I got a 6-week training program going right now on Saturdays and Sundays, both classes lasting 90 minutes. We're going to do another camp in winter break and Thanksgiving. Whenever there's a break, we're going to do a camp. Hopefully we can do one at [BIS Hanoi] too.

Q: Finally, do you have any advice for any up-and-coming players?

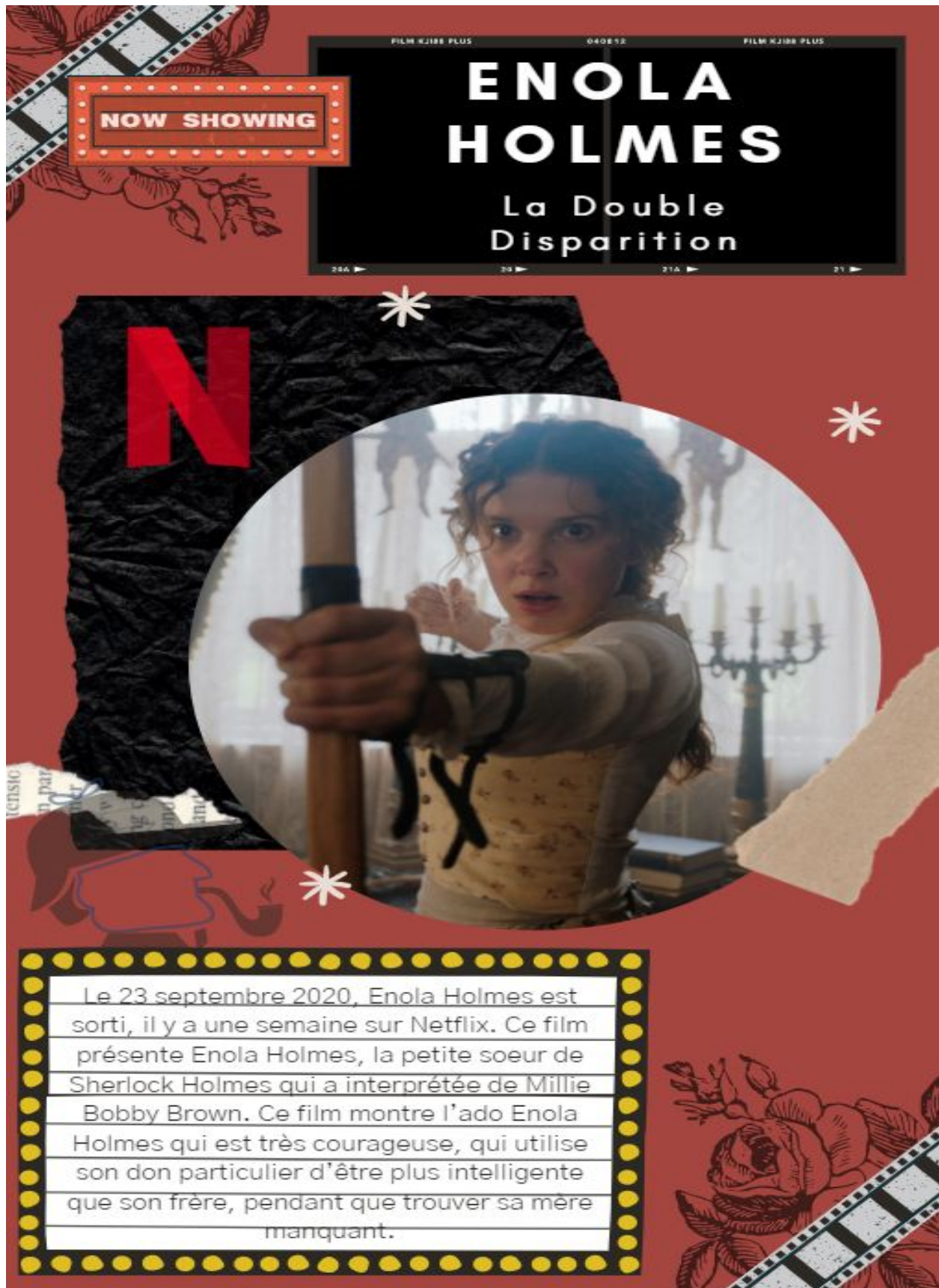
A: Keep that basketball in your hand at all times. I believe that you guys have a better opportunity to [grow] because when I played, I didn't have as many trainers or other people that were willing to help with skill development. You guys have a lot more resources. But, the main thing is, you should always go to the gym and work as much as you possibly can. I know that you might have team practice, but in order for you to become a great basketball player, you have to practice before and after the team practice. I can't count how many hours I logged in with basketball. Work on your game, your shot, and your ball handling. Do everything you can in order to be the greatest player you can be. If you're not doing school work, get in the gym: it'll pay off. I say that because it's paying off for me, even years later. Never neglect the grind.

For more information on Moe Ager, you can follow him on Facebook:

[Maurice Darnell Ager](#) and [Moe Ager Hoop School](#).



“Enola Holmes” Film Review - Min Young Kim



LES ACTEURS



**LOUIS
PARTRIDGE**
Lord
Tewksbury



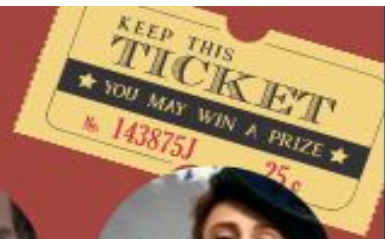
**MILLIE
BOBBY
BROWN**
Enola Holmes



**HENRY
CAVILL**
Sherlock
Holmes



**HELENA
BONHAM
CARTER**
Eudoria
Holmes



*Enola
Holmes*



LA CRITIQUE DE FILM

Après avoir regardé ce film, je le recommande sans aucun doute à tout le monde, à cause de beaucoup de raisons. D'abord, le film montre l'indépendance, le féminisme, et bien sûr, la journée fantastique située dans l'année 1884.

Aussi, j'adore Millie Bobby Brown, elle est passionnée et très jolie!

Min Young 10H

Spanish sudoku

		Seis			Dos
Cuatro	Cinco	Dos		Seis	Uno
Uno	Cuatro		Seis	Dos	Tres
	Dos			Cuatro	Cinco
Dos		Cuatro	Cinco		Seis
Cinco	Seis			Tres	

General Sudoku

		6			2
4	5	2		6	1
1	4		6	2	3
	2			4	5
2		4	5		6
5	6			3	

ANSWER

3	1	6	4	5	2
4	5	2	3	6	1
1	4	5	6	2	3
6	2	3	1	4	5
2	3	4	5	1	6
5	6	1	2	3	4



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