



THE HARBINGER

Empowering young minds through information

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The Florida Housing Crisis

By: Pedro Tablada
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Miami is one of the most expensive cities to live in in the US. According to RealtyHop, Miami surpassed New York City as the city with the least affordable housing market in the U.S. during the COVID pandemic.

However, Miami is not the only city in Florida that is experiencing this increase in prices. Research from the Florida Atlantic University and Florida Gulf Coast University show that cities like Tampa, Orlando, Palm Beach, and Fort Myers have experienced a 20% or more increase in housing cost in the past year.

Jennifer O’neill, a 31 year old medical assistant in Dania Beach, FL is feeling the effects of the increasing housing cost.

“So far my rent has gone up \$100 each year since COVID but I have some friends that lease has gone up by \$500 and some people, their rent has completely doubled. All year I have been afraid that if my landlord put the rent up \$500, will I even be able to pay rent,”

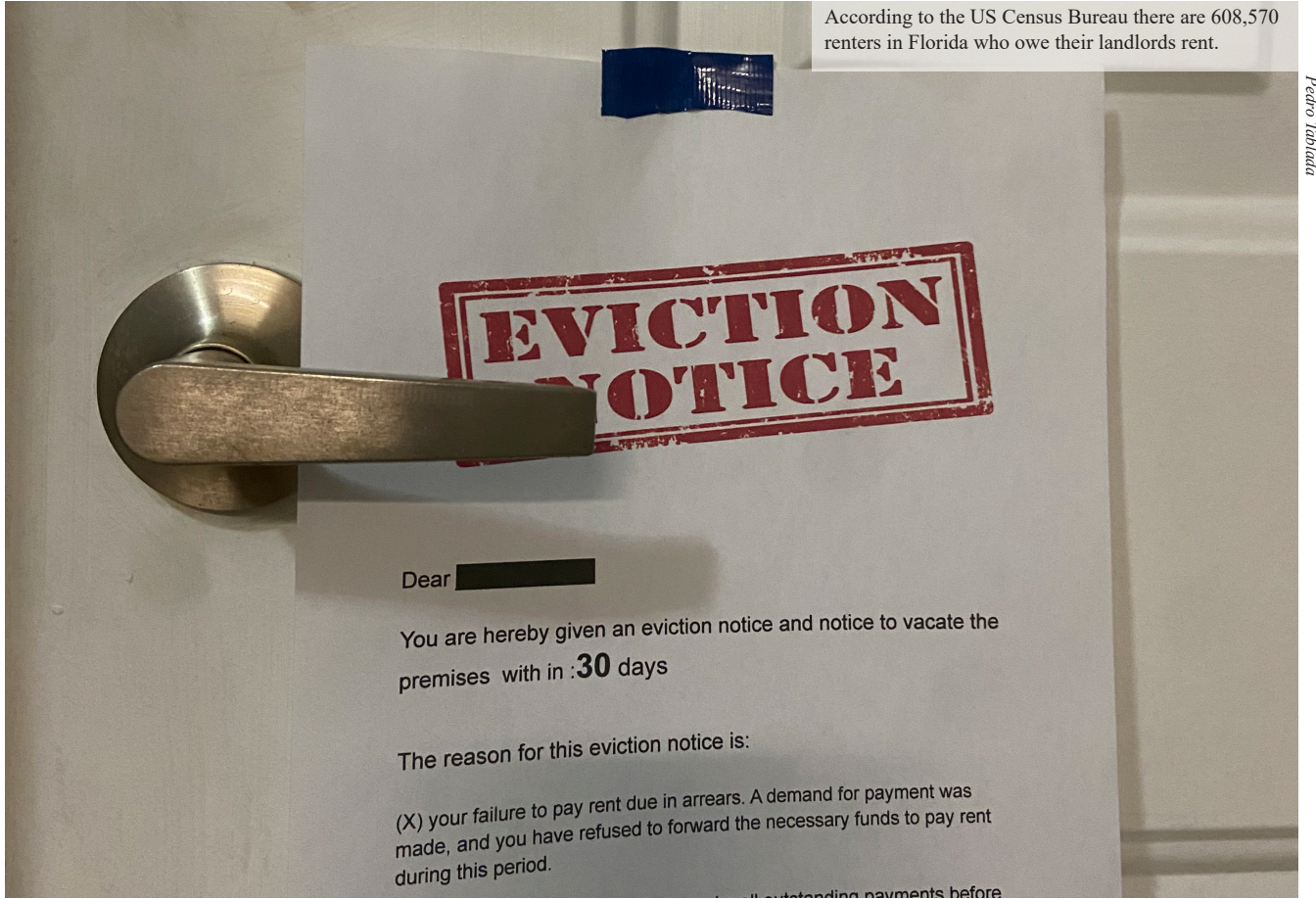
noted O’neill.

Jennifer used to live alone with her only child, EJ, but moved back in with her parents in 2015 when her son was found to have a malignant brain tumor. She moved into her mom’s house as she was struggling to pay rent and medical expenses.

“I am blessed to have my family and the support that I do have... If not for them, I don’t know what I would have done,” O’neill said

Yet, most people are not as fortunate. In the State of Florida, many people like Jennifer, who

make what is considered a livable wage are still struggling to make ends meet as housing prices soar. **In fact, according to a telephone**



According to the US Census Bureau there are 608,570 renters in Florida who owe their landlords rent.

Pedro Tablada

survey of more than 1,000 adults conducted by Bankrate, 55% of Americans cannot cover a \$1,000 emergency cost. In 2017, EJ passed away

at the age of 7 and Jennifer stayed with her parents, fearing that she cannot survive on her own. **“It would be insane. I would not be able to do it**

now, whereas, before, I had left my mom’s home when I was 18 and up until 2016, I had a family and I was able to support myself,” O’neill said.

Recap and Future of Iraq’s Protests

By Sophia Garcia
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Iraq has been facing what many are calling a ‘summer of unrest,’ filled with protests and violence throughout the month of August and early September.

Ten months after a U.S.-backed election, protestors took

to the streets to voice their concerns over Muqtada al-Sadr, a Shia cleric that came out on top in Iraq’s elections. With these results, Iraqi parliamentarians were removed from office and in their place were al-Sadr’s supporters.

After al-Sadr’s call for another election—the second in less than a year — Iraqi people



After a summer of unrest, violence and protests, Iraq has been left without a president and in a state of political instability.

Xinhua News Agency/PA Images

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LGBTQ+ Activists Rally Together In Peru

By Michelle Juarez
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On August 11, 2022, Rodrigo Ventocilla, a 32-year-old transgender man, was reported dead at a Bali hospital. Before his death, Ventocilla and his husband, Sebastián Marallano, were traveling to Bali for their honeymoon. They were stopped at the airport and detained.

Officers from Bali claim that “Ventocilla was arrested for possession of items containing marijuana and later died from multiple organ failures after consuming unseized prescription drugs while in custody”, (Harvard Crimson, 2022).

After his death, his body was transported back to Peru, his home country. His family believes that the Bali government is falsifying information due to Ventocilla’s gender orientation and requested another autopsy to be done in Peru.

“He was detained **because of his gender identity. His identity document**

did not match his appearance. That made him a suspect for the Indonesian police. He was extorted, tortured, and has died,” said Luzmo Henríquez, Ventocilla’s family’s spokesperson, to “The Associated Press”.

Peru denied the family’s plea and said it was unnecessary to do another autopsy. They investigated no further into the case and believed Bali’s claim.

Upset with the news, Ventocilla’s family set out to find support elsewhere. They spread the word about what happened to Ventocilla and everything that occurred since then. It did not take long to find people

who were willing to help, and this growing crowd of supporters marked the start of protests.

“His family and friends deserve to know why and how he died” stated **Andreas Harsono, a Human Rights Watch researcher, to CNN.**

The most recent protest took place outside of the prosecutor’s office. People joined together outside and demanded justice for Ventocilla.

“It [the prosecutor’s office] lacks empathy because it does not recognize that a Peruvian has died in the hands of police from another country,” voiced Luis Manriquez to CNN.



While on vacation in Bali, Peruvian Roberto Ventocilla and his husband and Sebastián Marallano, died after being taken into custody by the police. In response many have taken to the streets to protest claiming he was targeted for being part of the LGBTQ+ community.

REUTERS/Angela Ponce

Recap and Future of Iraq's Protests

Continued from page A1

took to the streets to voice their feelings of unrest and concern over how they would be affected. Former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and armed groups linked to Iran were among the crowd that protested the 'political coup' under the hands of al-Sadr.

On August 29, followers of al-Sadr stormed his home after he announced he would leave politics, supposedly permanently. At least 30 people were killed in the violence and commotion as al-Sadr's followers continued to clash against security, causing a scramble for insight on what to do next.

Albert Wolf, a research associate at Johns Hopkins University, believes that this announcement of departure from politics is a jockey for leverage by al-Sadr.

"Sadr is one of the few, if not the only figure in the Iraqi public sphere who can summon hundreds of thousands of people on to the streets. I think Iraq is in for another election, and I think

the election will probably result in a very similar outcome as the last two elections, with probably low voter turnout, if not lower turnout than the last two," Wolf told Al Jazeera.

The death toll continues to rise as of now, with protestors moving into the 'Green Zone,' otherwise known as the International Zone of Baghdad. Following these attacks, officials began taking the steps needed to end the outrage causing the protests.

Iraq's parliament returned to work on September 4 after the proposition of an agenda for an upcoming national dialogue session by Mohammed al-Halbousi, speaker of Iraq's parliament.

The sessions are in efforts to end the political stalemate that has come from Muqtada al-Sadr's election, leading to no government in the country of Iraq. The timing of these sessions has not been set, but al-Halbousi has said they should set a date for early parliamentary elections, discuss the election of a new president, and formation of a government.



IRAQ PROTESTS AND ITS FUTURE

OCT 2021

Muqtada al-Sadr was elected as the President of Iraq. In December of that year, the results were certified by the Iraq Federal Supreme Court.

The Shia leader withdrew all his lawmakers from parliament after failing to form a government.

JUNE 2021

29th: He announced his retirement politics. Soon after, his protesters stormed the government capitol at least 30 people died.

AUG 2022



WHAT NOW?

Sadr has withdrawn from politics in the past and returned, but the political crisis occurring now, might be harder to resolve than those in the past (NBC News).

Kevin Perez, Bryan Finner

MLEC's Entrepreneurship Academy Expands

By Emma Medina

@EmmaMed2025

A new school year at MLEC has welcomed new academy classes, teaching strategies, and equipment in the hopes that these installations will be advantageous to students.

The Academy of Entrepreneurship is evolving with a plethora of new programs and activities for students in the academy and the school as a whole.

"What has been improved is things that we are doing, like work-based learning within the classes," said Mrs. Tapia, the Finance lead teacher and Entrepreneurship Academy lead.

One such improvement

is the academy's new National Academy Foundation (NAF) designation, which helps students with scholarships and college acceptance rates. The National Academy Foundation is a network of business, education, and community leaders that come together to ensure that high school students are college and career ready.

"It actually gives more attention to the students... and thanks to Tapia [it] has given more acknowledgment, more attention to the Entrepreneurship academy, and it makes us work, actually, a lot harder cause then we are trying to shine the same amount that all the other academies are," said senior Andrea Leon about the change to a NAF academy.

Entrepreneurship has also partnered with Junior Achievement of Miami, giving students the opportunity to learn about the stock market. Junior Achievement's curriculum includes entrepreneurship, personal finance, and work-and-career readiness. Last year, juniors and seniors came up with their business idea, marketing, and investments, and were able to keep their profits. These projects are work-based learning experiences that will benefit students in the future.

The academy is also continuing its partnership with the EdFed Credit Union with a mobile bank that will be onsite every two weeks. A financial literacy office is going to be opened

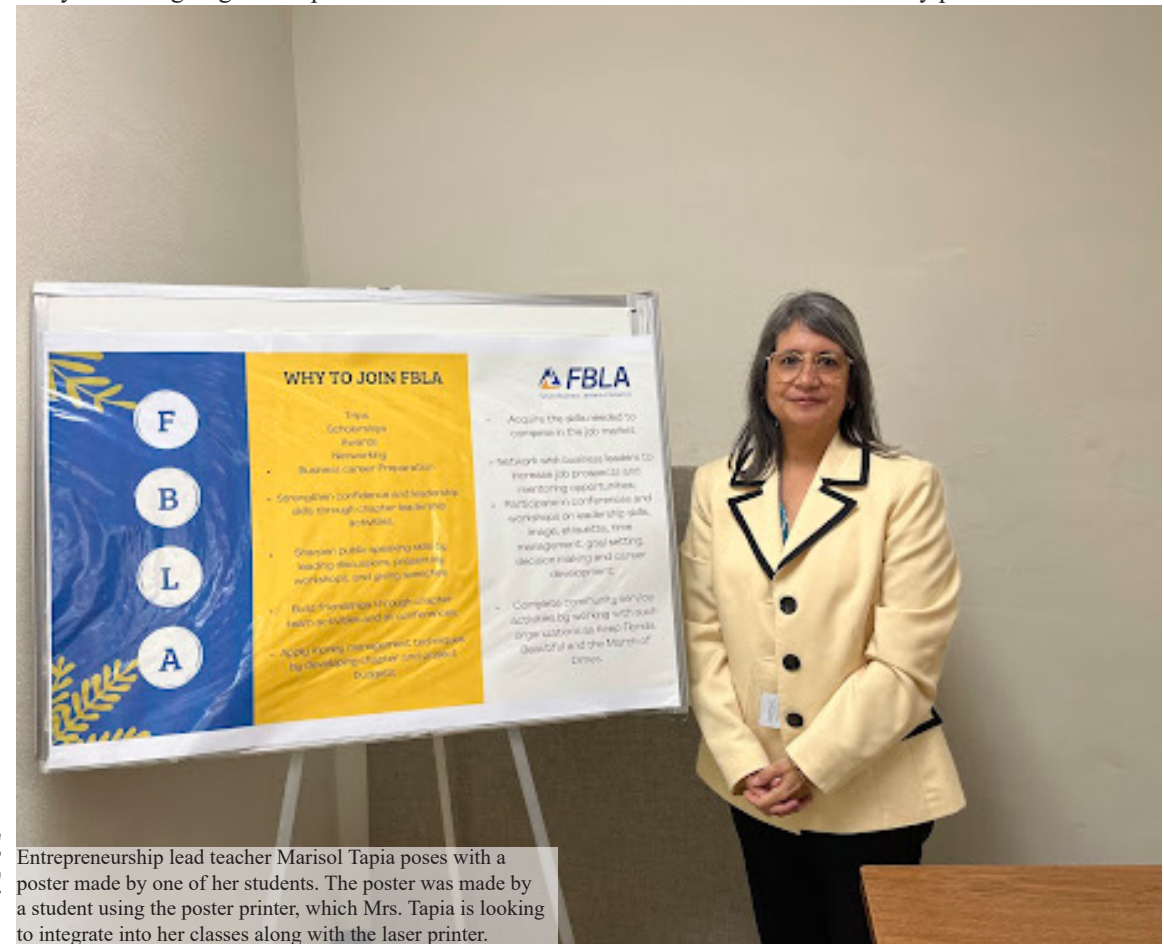
later this school year in partnership with EdFed which will give students access to information on credit, banking, and other valuable financial information.

Mrs. Tapia's students will work in the office and meet with students who will conduct business at the mobile EdFed branch. This year, eight students will have a chance to prepare for the Financial Counseling Certification Program (FICEP), allowing them to work as credit counselors with any credit union.

As Mrs. Tapia's class grows, she creates a space where her students can work on their Capstone projects. This year's project has brought many innovative ideas. Students have access to

a poster printer, which they use for marketing purposes, a 3D printer, and a laser printer. Mrs. Tapia is looking to integrate the use of the laser printer into the class.

Another partnership is the National Stock Exchange Fifty (NIFTY). Two of Mrs. Tapia's students who have already graduated are going to the NIFTY Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge Finals in New York City, where they can get their business funded. Students will graduate with six to seven certifications that will make them career-ready. By the time they get their high school diploma, they will be able to leave the classroom and work at a level entry position in an office.



Entrepreneurship lead teacher Marisol Tapia poses with a poster made by one of her students. The poster was made by a student using the poster printer, which Mrs. Tapia is looking to integrate into her classes along with the laser printer.

Emma Medina

FINANCIAL SERVICES IMPROVING THE CURRICULUM



Network of business, education, and certification.



The program has received the National Academy Foundation (NAF) this year, granting students new opportunities.



A few lucky students will be able to participate in the Financial Counseling Certification Program (FICEP), allowing them to work with credit unions.

Sofia Palomino

Serena Williams and Her Story Comes Full Circle As She Retires at the US Open.

By Sofia Palomino

@Sofia_p4

From the streets of Compton, California to the most curated tennis courts around the world, Serena Williams reached new heights within the tennis community and inspired thousands of aspiring tennis players during her career. After 23 Grand Slam titles and 27 years of playing professional tennis, Serena Williams is stepping back from the sport as the greatest of all time.

Serena played her last opening match at the U.S. Open on August 29th, where people from all over the world, including celebrities like Billie Jean King and Queen Latifah, came to support one of the most influential women in sports. The night of her match held a different atmosphere in the air of the Arthur Ashe stadium, Serena's home since she was 17 years old.

She stood her ground the entire night and became the dominant force throughout the match, winning in straight sets 6-3. The tournament prepared a tribute for the beloved American through a video narrated by Oprah Winfrey and a stadium filled with the message, "We Love Serena."

"I'm just me and

I'm just Serena," she said after winning the match. "I'm here being the best that I can."

Serena has always given her all on and off the court. Her career began with her first US Open title when she was 17 years old and she went on to earn 22 more Grand Slams, not an easy feat for a black woman in a sport that has had very few black players.

However, Serena continued to rise above expectations and set new records over the years. She won the Australian Open and Wimbledon seven times each, the French Open three times, and the US Open six times. No court was any match for Serena, whose determination and hardwork even took her to win four gold medals at the Olympics.

At the core of Serena's success was her family, specifically her father, Richard Williams, also known as King Richard, who molded her into a tennis superstar. He taught his daughters, Serena and Venus Williams, valuable lessons on the court and about the real world.

In the latest biopic about the Williams sisters he said, "Remember who you are. remember where you came from. Stand tall and be proud of that."

Serena would carry her father's lessons through-

out her career and would go on to accomplish great things outside of the sport. Over the years, she has become an international icon. In 2014, Serena started her own venture firm, Serena Venture, and since then has invested in over 60 companies like Calico and Nestco. She has always expressed herself through fashion and launched her own clothing line, S by Serena, in 2018, followed by a jewelry line a year later.

Throughout her career, Serena has been one of the most influential athletes in the world and has established her legacy through her remarkable performance on the court as well as her actions outside of the world of tennis.

Her sister, Venus, has always been an important part of her life. As Serena says goodbye to the tennis community, Venus spoke positively about the end of a chapter for her sister. "She's the boss," she said in a press conference at the US Open. "She's doing it the way she wants... what matters most is to do things on her own terms."

Serena has written history over the past two decades and inspired thousands of players around the world. Her journey with tennis came to an end in the third round



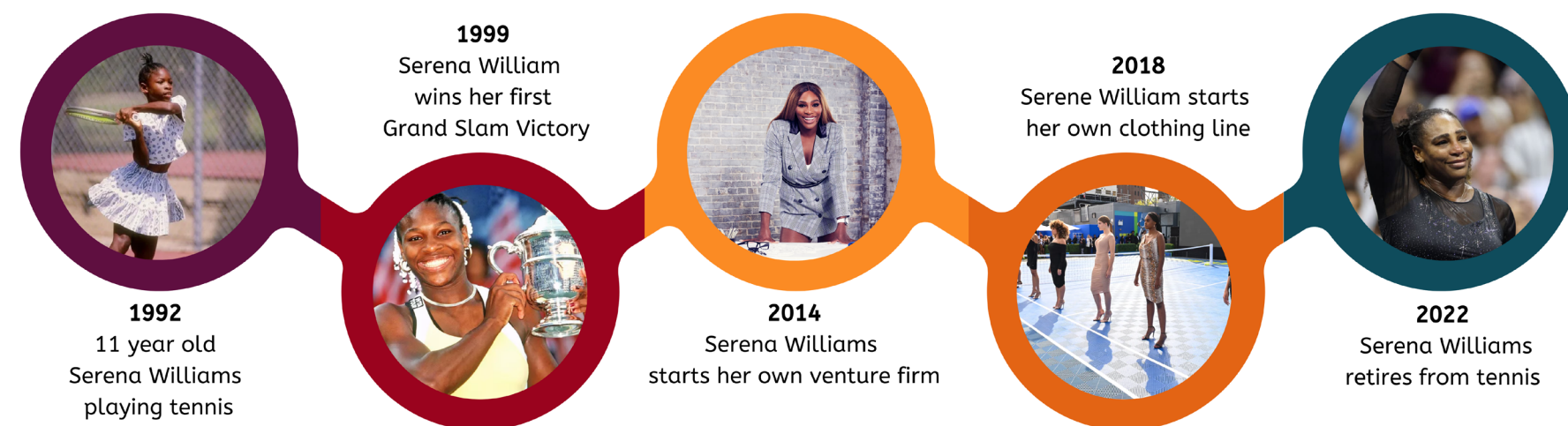
Serena Williams played in the US Open one last week before being defeated in the third round and saying goodbye to the tennis community. She broke new records time and time again throughout her career and became an important part of the sport's history. People from around the world will remember her as the greatest of all time.

Edwin Martinez from The Bronx, uploaded by Flickrworker

of the US Open but her legacy will live on within the sport. After gracefully twirling one last time in the Arthur Ashe

stadium, she left her mark on the court, saying that, "It's been the most incredible ride and journey I've ever been on in my life."

Kevin Levine/Getty Images, Mark Sinden/Getty Images, Serena Williams, SNS/REXNA.COM, AFP, Al Bello/Getty Images



BeReal: The New Trending App

By Anthony Vidal

@AntohnyVidalR

During the summer, a new app took over the youth of the U.S. This app presents an obvious challenge: Be Real. BeReal was created in France in 2020 and spread quickly across college campuses where they self-promoted through all sorts of events. Now the app has a nationwide spread with more than 2.7 million downloads in the United States.

The BeReal app allows for one post a day. This post, however, is a picture taken at a random time during the day when the app notifies the user. When clicking on the notification users will then have two minutes to take their picture.

"It is kind of random and it is something to look forward to every day, and you never know what is really coming," said senior Xitlali Ayala from

Lake Forest Academy in Illinois. The picture in question is actually two pictures in one. The app simultaneously uses the front and back camera to take a double picture showing everyone how a person looks and what they're looking at.

With the BeReal app, people can see friends' posts while also "keeping them real" by showing if their friends took their pictures when the notification popped up or if they waited. Although the app shares many of the features of other social media platforms, some of its features are still very unique. For example, the app allows you to react to a friend's post with your selfies as a substitute for emojis.

"I usually either comment or if I'm feeling up to it, will do the little face reaction thing. It's actually pretty cool, instead of using emojis," said senior Itzel Ramires from Prep North Central in Texas. With these fea-

tures, the app's appeal has reached students at MLEC. "I got it like a month ago because my friend told me to... it's nice because you can see what your

friends are doing at the time," said MLEC junior Elizabeth Montoya. Overall, the app presents a more mundane social media presence without the filters or

unattainable bodies and lifestyles other platforms can come with. "My and my friends, we just make fun of each other on it," said Montoya.



Xitlali Ayala, Itzel Ramires

Two BeReal posts from Xitlali Ayala (left), and Itzel Ramires (right). Ayala's post takes place at the MacKenzie Ice Arena as she goes to cheer her school's Ice Hockey Team: The Caxys.

Power Outages Force Cubans to Flee Country

By Elizabeth Gonzalez
@elizgonzalez

To escape economic and political woes, many Cubans are fleeing their country by air, land, and sea. This year alone, around 175,000 Cubans have reportedly migrated to the U.S., the largest wave since the Mariel boatlift in the 1980s. Most are entering other Latin American countries that don't require visas and then coming to the U.S. by land.

The rise in migration of Cubans to the U.S. was influenced by inflation. Sanctions placed on Cuba by the U.S. deepened the economic crisis in 2019, then followed by the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, Cuba's economy declined 10.9% and has only risen 1.3%.

For more than two years, Cubans have faced food and medicine shortages. Waiting in lines for scarce products, absence of access to transportation, and inflated prices has become normal. This, and a lack of freedom, has driven Cubans to flee their home country.

In August, cities throughout Cuba began electricity blackouts. Maintenance for power

plants in the country has been postponed due to a lack of funds and higher fuel prices despite the fact that most of the available fuel is spent on the power plants. In addition to this, in the beginning of August a fire broke out from an oil tank resulting in evacuations and a haze of smoke over the nation.

These situations have left Cubans with little available gas for transportation. Many spend long

periods of time waiting in line only to find out there's none left.

"The last time I went to Cuba was a little before the pandemic and things were already expensive. A pack of noodles was \$6 dollars back then and I can only imagine what it is now. Many people walk in Cuba because of the unavailability to fuel. Cuba doesn't accept help from others really so that doesn't help, especially with healthcare. They send all their good doctors elsewhere,"

Adriana Garcia says on the changes that have happened in Cuba. Many Cubans have embarked on a dangerous journey to travel to the U.S.

An anonymous construction worker spent six months building a 10-foot aluminum raft and traveled to Miami, Florida with three friends. They started

their journey at night, using the stars to guide them, at a speed of six mph. Once they reached Key West, a group of tourists offered them a ride to Miami. Currently seeking asylum, the man is waiting to bring his wife and three kids to the U.S.

"I knew I could die in the water, but I needed to take the risk," he told AP News. "At least we're alive."



Fire engulfed Cuba's power plant in Matanzas on August of 2022, leading to an increase in frequency and duration of already existing power outages.

The Bad Bunny Effect and His Rise to Stardom

By Emma Medina
@EmmaMed2025

2022's VMA Artist of the Year goes to Bad Bunny. Benito Antonio Martinez Ocasio became the first non-English language performer to win the Artist of the Year award. His album Un Verano Sin Ti also won Album of the Year and has been No. 1 on the Billboard charts on four separate occasions.

Benito was born in Almirante Sur, Puerto Rico. He spent his weekends listening to salsa with his mom and cleaning the house. After, he would listen to Puerto Rican rappers in the confines of his room.

Bad Bunny has been making music since he was 13 years old. In the past few years, he has redefined reggaeton with his trap beats and unique fashion style, challenging the social norms and styles of the genre.

He eventually started making his raps. His rise to stardom was, for the most part, on his own accord. In 2016, he started uploading his music

to SoundCloud. Noah Assad, a Puerto Rican record producer and owner of Rimas Entertainment LLC music label, came across Bad Bunny's song "Diles" and he was intrigued. He became his manager and in 2018 he put out Bad Bunny's "X 100pre" album on Rimas Entertainment.

Now, Bad Bunny has more than 10 billion streams on Spotify, becoming the first artist to do so. His success demonstrates the demographic changes in the U.S. His success has stemmed from more than his music. He changes the norms of a typically macho genre. Although he does sing about stealing your girlfriend, he does it while rocking painted nails and exuberant and colorful clothing.

Bad Bunny's style has pushed back on societal norms of what is feminine and masculine. "To me, a dress is a dress. If I wear a dress, would it stop being a woman's dress? Or vice versa? Like, no. It's a dress, and that's it. It's not a man's, it's not a woman's. It's a dress," he said in an interview with GQ (USA Today, 2022). Although pushing back on

Not only does Bad Bunny push back on gender norms but his songs also revolve around sexuality, domestic, and gender-based violence.

Songs like "Solo De Mi" ("Only My Own") campaign and bring awareness to domestic violence against women. The song is about developing self-love after a toxic relationship. The lyrics "No me vuelvas a decir 'Bebé' (¡No!) / Yo no soy tuyo ni de nadie, yo soy sólo de mí / No me vuelvas a decir 'Bebé' (eh, eh) / Ya tú lo sabes que yo no estoy ni un poquito pa' ti" which translates to "Don't call me again 'Baby' (No!) / I'm not yours or anyone's, I'm mine alone / Don't call me again 'Baby' (Yeh, eh) / You already know that I'm not even a little bit for you" in English is about the narrator reclaiming themselves after being in a toxic relationship. The video was a campaign against domestic violence and the video features a woman singing the lyrics while taking punches from an invisible attacker.

Bad Bunny's insistence on pushing past societal norms and catchy music has had a significant influence on the younger Latino generations.

"[Bad Bunny] resonates with a generation that is, at the moment, discovering who they really are," Ricky Martin said in an article by Them. "It is very refreshing to witness in an industry known for its machismo."

Whether you like Bad Bunny or not, there's no denying the mark he's left in the music world. After the success of his newest album, "Un Verano Sin Ti" ('A Summer Without You'), fans are excited to see what he comes up with next.



In November of 2021, Bad Bunny wins two AMAs—Favorite Male Latin Artist and Favorite Latin Album for El Último Tour Del Mundo



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

As the Hispanic population in the U.S. continues to grow there is a strong discontent from culture. Those who have immigrated to the U.S. tend to leave their culture behind in order to assimilate into American Society. There are also some who participate in their culture because of their parents who serve as a constant reminder of their heritage. The younger generations often find themselves unable to spread their culture due to their difficulties trying to fit in with western culture.

IMPORTANCE

From September 15 to October 15, Americans celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month by celebrating their ancestors' histories and cultures. It was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period.

CELEBRATING

Hispanics and Latinos celebrate by having a famous catholic Latin American celebration where teenagers celebrates their 15th birthday. Mexican tradition where you honor the dead. The 1st day of the celebration is dedicated to children, "Angelitos", and the 2nd day to adults. There are famous Mexican singers who play folk music with string instruments.

IDENTITY

According to Pew Research Center, about 47% of Americans say they see themselves as being different from the average American. Only 21% say that they characterize themselves as "Americans". The concept of identity depends on the person and their exposure to their culture. While many consider themselves different finding their identity and fitting in a category is not easy.



Immigrants gather outside St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Edgartown, Massachusetts, on Martha's Vineyard.

"Like cattle on an airplane," DeSantis flies illegal migrants to Massachusetts without their knowledge

By Carlineissa Jean-Francois
@CarlineissaJ

On September 14, 2022, Gov. Ron DeSantis and Gov. Greg Abbot flew fifty migrants from San Antonio, Texas to Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. Relocating these migrants is part of a GOP campaign to place them in Democratic cities to showcase an influx of illegal crossings on the border.

DeSantis believes that Democratic states that have been deemed "sanctuary states" should be held responsible for

the migrants. He claims that democrats have encouraged illegal immigration and it is their duty to deal with the matter since the Biden-Harris administration is pushing for open borders.

"States like Massachusetts, New York, and California will better facilitate the care of these individuals who they have invited into our country by incentivizing illegal immigration through their designation as 'sanctuary states' and support for the Biden Administration's open border policies," said Taryn Fenske, DeSantis' Communications Director, reported Politico.

DeSantis set aside \$12 million of state funds in order to fund these flights. He has been planning this course of events within the last few months and has gained support from states such as Texas and Arizona.

According to NPR, there were two flights that left San Antonio that morning. The first stopped in Florida and South Carolina before reaching Martha's Vineyard while the second stopped in Florida and North Carolina.

The migrants were not aware that they would be sent to Martha's Vineyard, they were told they would be flying to Boston. Local officials in Massachusetts

were not informed about or prepared to welcome the newcomers.

Martha's Vineyard is a small secluded island that is only accessible by plane and sea, which put the migrants in a difficult situation and had no incentives from the GOP. The migrants then spent two days at a church and later received help from local volunteers.

Many called the situation a humanitarian crisis, while members of the GOP at Homeland Security stress how the real crisis is at the southern border.

Members of the Democratic Party have expressed discontent towards DeSantis' actions and showcased

concern for the migrants.

"We have the governor of Florida... hatching a secret plot to send immigrant families like cattle on an airplane... It is an incredibly inhumane and depraved thing to do," said Rep. Dylan Fernandez, Massachusetts Representative, according to NPR. After a great effort, the migrants were eventually relocated to a base in Cape Cod that is typically reserved for soldiers and their families.

"The truth is I am worried. It will be whatever God wishes, no? We're here now and there's nothing we can do," Yesica, one of the migrants, told NPR.

The Americanized Hispanic Heritage

By Valentina Foglia
@Vale_Foglia13

Throughout the years, the population of Hispanic and Latino families in the U.S. has grown. However, they sometimes leave their culture behind and become more accustomed to the ways of American society.

Many young Hispanics are raised with their family's culture at home, but then are surrounded by the norms of the United States everywhere else.

"If you are someone whose parents or grandparents were born in a different country and you were born in the United States you aren't accustomed to your family's culture," said Elizabeth Gutierrez, a Senior in the Academy of Entrepreneurship.

"You're born into the American culture, you grow up here, and you're raised here unless your parents are strict on culture and you continue to do things as how your family did for many years," continued Elizabeth.

Although these traditions, shows, music genres, and foods are present in the United States, many younger people tend to not participate in their culture.

"People tend to be embarrassed by their culture and it can be hard for them to be comfortable to show that" continued Elizabeth.

At MLEC, there are events throughout Hispanic Heritage Month that allow students to freely express their cultural roots and learn about other Hispanic cultures.

"Hispanic Heritage Month is a time when the youth can come together and rejoice in their similar musical and cultural tastes," said Celia Morales, the President of Hispanic Heritage Club. "For instance, throughout this month the younger generation is able to witness as each of their individual heritages are represented and celebrated."

Many Hispanics argue over how much of their identity is similar to that of other Americans. About 47% of Americans say they see themselves as being different from the average American. And only about 21% say they characterize themselves as "American" mentioned Pew Research Center in their "Hispanics and Their Views of Identity"

However, Hispanics who were born in the United States—who now make up 48% of the United States population—



According to the Pew Research Center only about 25% of Hispanic Millennial Adults know the language well.

press a stronger sense of kinship with other Americans and with the country than Hispanics who were brought here as immigrants, continued Pew Research Center.

"I think that Americanized Hispanics might be embarrassed to say where they're actually from because they have been sort of brainwashed or forced to be part of American society," said Luis Gomez, a Senior at the Cambridge Academy.

"In order to be considered

"an American" they feel like they need to leave their heritage behind in order to be able to fully embrace American culture. And you can see that with people pretending they don't speak Spanish or even little kids making their parents speak English even at home or being embarrassed by their accents," continued Luis.

As generations go by, more and more Hispanics and Latinos may forget their background. Younger generations

are capable of spreading their culture, however, it becomes difficult when those same Americanized Hispanics are embarrassed or too scared to share who they truly are, leaving Hispanic Heritage Month up in the air for upcoming generations.

Although there are younger people that don't participate in Hispanic Heritage month, there are many who do appreciate and take pride in their Hispanic and Latin backgrounds.

ENTERTAINMENT

How Musicians Are Fitting Into The Cinematic World

By Kevin Perez
@kevinp305

The music and film industries are constantly evolving, and crossovers between the two have been common throughout the years.

Artists have lent their vocal talents for film soundtracks in the past, like Kendrick Lamar and SZA's All the Stars in Black Panther, but sometimes they go even further and star in a movie or TV show.

Throughout the years, several legendary musicians have made this transition. In 2018, Lady Gaga starred in the well received film A Star is Born where she was even nominated for the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress. Rihanna in Ocean's 8, Jennifer Lopez and Cardi B in Hustlers, and Ice Cube in the Jump Street franchise are among other storied musicians to take on Hollywood.

Recently, more iconic stars have been finding themselves in the cinematic world, even with entertainment conglomerates like Disney.

In Marvel's latest Disney Plus installment, She-Hulk, Megan Thee Stallion made a surprise appearance in the third episode. For Stallion, it was a dream come true, she told Yahoo Entertainment.

"An absolute dream. I can't believe that I got to do that."

I couldn't believe it in the moment. I've been training my whole life for a moment like that." said Stallion.

Her appearance fit right into the environment the show has created with prominent women such as Jen Walters/She-Hulk played by Tatiana Maslany and Titania played by Jameela Jamil on the big screen. The energy Stallion brings through her music was on full display in her time on screen as she made an appearance in court and twerked with She-Hulk after settling a legal case, bringing both Marvel and Stallion fans to their feet.

Harry Styles,

another pop super star, has been making his rounds in Hollywood. After entering the Marvel Cinematic Universe as Starfox in The Eternals, Styles will star in Don't Worry Darling scheduled but was also interested in the Michael Grandage led drama early on.

"I've done one film, and I'm just making another now, and I know that I would love something like this to be my next film project," said Styles, according to Director Grandage (Collider).

Styles has been an outspoken artist on the social



Megan Thee Stallion performs at Billboard's 2019 Women In Music where she also received The Powerhouse Award.

homosexuality at the time was considered a criminal offence. After his first film, Dunkirk, Styles already had Don't Worry Darling scheduled but was also interested in the Michael Grandage led drama early on.

"I've done one film, and I'm just making another now, and I know that I would love something like this to be my next film project," said Styles, according to Director Grandage (Collider).

Styles has been an outspoken artist on the social

and political issues that plague the country, and saw this film as an opportunity. The negative LGBTQ+ views held in the film are still held in parts of the world today. The political aspect of the film and comparing it to today's society drew Styles to the movie (Collider).

All the qualities that make up artists like Megan Thee Stallion and Harry Styles, alongside what they stand for, is present when they take on acting roles in films and TV

shows. The audience is able to see these multi-talented people explore new branches of entertainment and expand their reach. While Harry Styles and Megan Thee Stallion are the main topic of conversation for now, the number of artists in films and TV shows isn't dying down. Among other musicians, Halle Bailey is set to star in Disney's remake of The Little Mermaid next year and Hailee Steinfeld is reprising her role in Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse next year.

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A Real and Truthful Boy — The Pinocchio Review

By D'arin Floyd-Baldwin
@arin_floyd

The well-known wood-puppet Pinocchio has made a comeback to the big screen, showcasing his transformation into a real boy to the world.

The live-action remake of Pinocchio was released on Disney Plus on September 8th. This is just one of many classic Disney

movies that have been adapted.

For this film, the production design is generally outstanding. Many settings were created with excellent craftsmanship, especially the workshop of Geppetto. All his old clocks make references to other Disney movie characters like the queen grimhilde from Snow White, Woody and Bullseye from Toy Story, and Maleficent.

Jiminy Cricket, played by award winning actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt, is the first character on screen and does a fantastic job on portraying this little conscience. Starting off with the iconic Disney song, "When You Wish Upon a Star", the movie cleverly overdrenches the music in it, with allusions to it.

The remake of Pinocchio is not much different from

the original film. The plot still revolves around Geppetto wanting a genuine son. The clockmaker, played by Tom Hanks, constructs a puppet, and then the wooden child is given life by the Blue Fairy, played by Cynthia Erivo. The blue fairy continues her magic by also granting the puppet's wish, which was to make his father proud by being a real boy.

After being created,

Pinocchio soon finds himself with a conscience, and soon starts defying his father by going to a puppet show after being out late for hours.

He eventually gets kidnapped by the head of the puppet show who then transports him to Pleasure Island, a paradise entertainment park where misbehaving lads are turned into donkeys. The only difference in this live-action remake is that Pinocchio escapes from the puppet show master and ends up on a carriage filled with runaway children then ends up on Pleasure Island.

If taken at face value, this remake of Pinocchio provides some amusing distraction for a family movie night.

However, it is hard to make a direct reproduction of an iconic movie, one that adheres so rigidly to the original character design and plot points. It does not help that the remake is available right next to the original film on Disney Plus. When trying to recreate an iconic character with a unique twist, it's important for the character to do things outside the box and that is exactly what the director did.

The Director Robert Zemeckis' primary goal was to provide Disney Plus subscribers with a justification to watch the new live-action remake as opposed to just streaming the original, and he came up strong. Zemeckis was tasked with living up to the original film and he lived up to the expectations.



The long-awaited Pinocchio live-action was released September 8 on Disney+. The film was directed by Robert Zemeckis and featured Benjamin Evan Ainsworth as the main character.

ENTERTAINMENT

Marvel's VFX Workers Under Pressure

By Bryan Pinero
@brypinero

Over the past few years, the visual effects artists (VFX) at Marvel Studios have been suffering from the poor working conditions at the company and have had to work more than ever before on the visual effects for Marvel's projects. This stems from the studio's recent increase in projects.

In its history, Marvel has been credited and admired for the visual work present in their films. They have even been nominated for awards several times because of it.

However, the visual work of these projects have recently begun to degrade, resulting in more criticism from fans. One of the more well-known criticisms from the audience is of the "floating head boy" in Thor: Love and Thunder (2022).

This decline in quality has been due to how overwhelming the newest "phases" of Marvel projects have been for the VFX artists. Whereas before, Marvel used to release two to three movies yearly, now they release four

movies and three to four shows. With more projects coming out, the artists have more pressure and less time to finish these projects.

Many argue that Marvel should delay their projects to give the artists more time to work. However, the studio has remained set about their release dates, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic delayed all of their projects.

Alongside the over-

whelming slate of projects, the artists have also had to adjust to working understaffed.

"Where I would usually have a team of ten VFX artists on a non-Marvel movie, on one Marvel movie, I got two including myself. So every person is doing more work than they need to." said an unnamed VFX artist to Vulture.

Marvel has also re-

portedly demanded a number of changes to the projects, sometimes at the last minute. This is seen in the Disney Plus show, Hawkeye, where scenes were deleted from the final cut.

"So you're already overworked, but then Marvel's asking for regular changes way in excess of what any other client does. And some of those changes are real-

ly major. Maybe a month or two before a movie comes out, Marvel will have us change the entire third act." said the same artist.

The VFX artists at Marvel Studios feel that they have had enough and want to be treated better. These artists once cherished the opportunity of working for a multi-billion dollar company like Marvel and now some of them despise the idea.



Director Joe Russo speaking to actor Chris Evans on the set of Marvel's Avengers: Endgame (2019) while filming the "Captain America Lifts Thor's Hammer Mjolnir" scene.

Taylor Swift Faces Lawsuit

By Emma Medina
@EmmaMed2025

Taylor Swift was sued by Sean Hall and Nathan Butler, songwriters for girl group 3LW, for alleged plagiarism in her song "Shake It Off". The lawsuit was originally filed in 2017 for the similarities in the lyrics "playas gonna play" in "Playas Gon' Play" by 3LW and "haters gonna hate" in "Shake It Off" by Swift.

In response to the original lawsuit, Swift spoke out saying that she had never heard of the song or group until the suit was brought to her attention. Later in 2018, the lawsuit was dismissed on the basis that the lyrics were "too banal" to be plagiarized (The Guardian).

"With Shake It Off, I wanted to provide a comedic, empowering approach to helping people feel better about negative criticism through music, dance, and the personal independence enabling one to just shake off the negative criticism," Swift said (The Guardian).

The plagiarized words in question have been common phrases that Swift has heard throughout her life. Swift even owns a shirt that says "haters gonna hate", purchased from Urban Outfitters.

Despite the popularity of these phrases, Swift claims she has never heard of 3LW. "Playas Gon' Play" was showcased on

MTV's Total Request Live (TRL) in 2000 when Taylor was 10 years old. According to The Guardian, Swift says that her parents didn't allow her to watch MTV's TRL until she was 13. Her mother confirmed this in a statement where she mentioned that she "carefully monitored both the television [Taylor] watched and the music she heard" (The Guardian).

Kiely Williams, a former member of 3LW, stated on an Instagram live "Now, I support Sean and Nate because if they feel as though they've been infringed upon...I want them to pursue whatever legal action that they feel they should. We didn't write the song, we're not suing Taylor Swift." She posted the video to clarify that she and the other former members, Adrienne Bailon and Naturi Naughton, are not involved in the lawsuit.

Now, a few years later the case was resurrected by an appeal panel in 2021. In response, Swift requested to throw out the case but was ultimately denied last December by the U.S. District Judge Michael W. Fitzgerald. Judge Fitzgerald made the decision on the basis that there were too many similarities between Swift's "Shake It Off" and 3LW's "Playas Gon' Play" and that a jury would have to decide the outcome.



Taylor Swift has been widely recognized for her 2014 hit "Shake It Off." Now, however, she is facing a lawsuit from the girl group 3LW, who claim she stole a lyric from one of their songs, "Playas Gon' Play."

EDITORIAL

Is Mental Health Being Ignored?

By Adriana Garcia
 @adriagrcia

Mental health contributes immensely to students' physical health and ability to learn; if a student is struggling, these unspoken issues can affect their grades, test scores, ability to process information, and other important factors.

When students feel overwhelmed, they should be able to see a counselor or talk to their teachers. Yet, many feel that they aren't able to get that help within their school — the place where students spend about half their day, not to mention the time spent in clubs, tutoring, or completing homework.

"Honestly there is a bit of pressure because a lot of the teachers don't really expect health kids to be pursuing the diploma and it's a lot harder to have to focus on both health and Cambridge — I practically have no social life because of it," states Abihail Samu-



Students' mental health can affect their physical health and ability to learn in school. It can affect grades, test scores, their ability to retain information, and other factors.

els, a sophomore in the Health Science Academy striving to achieve the AICE diploma.

Students argue that the school does not take into account everything that goes on in their personal lives.

"The first thing the school does is accuse them of being lazy or not being prepared enough to

be in a magnet school, without even thinking of what the student may be going through at home," states sophomore Valery Andino.

Valery, like many other students, has struggled talking to the counselors about their mental health issues. Students attending MLEC believe that the school's atmosphere isn't pos-

itive and understanding when it comes to certain issues, but the school counselors disagree.

"I think the administration is doing a great job. The administration and I are working very hard to work with the students on any mental health issues they may be dealing with," states psychologist and MLEC Mental

Health Coordinator Mrs. Trastoy.

"It's stressful being a student sometimes, some of the teachers here wouldn't want us to leave class to talk to someone about mental health either so it just gets overwhelming and you ultimately give up," states sophomore, Reahana Joseph.

If students do not think their teachers would allow them to leave class to talk to counselors, they can always visit Mrs. Trastoy, who states that they can come to her office at any time, even if they do not have a referral note from their teachers. Mrs. Trastoy is in her office every Wednesday and Thursday. The school also offers them many extra resources, such as Health Information Project (HIP), The Walnut Society club, and an in-house TRUST counselor, Ms. DeArmas.

While it may be hard to have the courage to talk to a counselor or teacher about topics like mental health, there will always be a number of resources at the school that will be willing to help.

Wave of Violent Misogyny Plaguing New Generations

By D'Avora Williams
 @d_avora

With the spread of misinformation and disinformation, male content creators have gained popularity on social media. Their misogynistic ideology has negatively affected Gen Z and younger generations.

Their ideas set a dangerous precedent for relationships between young men and women, which includes violence, rape, and forced co-dependency. The men who believe these concepts want a subservient woman that will obey their every command.

"Their type of misogyny is the objectification of women, where they perceive women as trophies, the main goal of these guys is to be a hustler who gets women to sleep with them," said Sandro Elvir, a junior in the Academy of Communications.

These creators believe themselves to be high valued men by gaining wealth, influence, and sexual dominance. Many believe that they are entitled to subservient women; some even go as far to refer to women as property of the man she is with.

As a result of their social media presence, their ideology has already taken root in the minds of countless young men.

Andrew Tate, influencer and former professional kickboxer, and Kevin Samuels, YouTuber and internet personality are notable for their controversial mindsets.

Andrew in particular has mentioned that women should "bear some responsibility" if they put themselves

in the position to be raped. Videos like these are reaching billions of vulnerable children and young adults, especially on the social media app TikTok, whose minimum age requirement is 13.

"Children are impressionable. Stumbling upon those videos while they are still developing their views on their world may skew their opinion horribly," asserts Yordana Vasquez, a sophomore in the Cambridge Academy.

Displaying this narrative to youth warps their world view and actions. Tate's influence resulted in a rise of sexual incidents in Australia's private schools. According to the Daily Mail, Melbourne academies have received countless reports of boys as young as fourteen sexually harassing female students online.

Many podcasters often speak on male mental health, arguing that a man with depression is a "weak beta male". However,

Patience Hope, a student, thinks that social standards surrounding men have left them feeling emotionally desolated. With the 'high valued male' mindset being introduced over subsequent generations, male suicide and mental health concern will increase.

"No one is mentally healthy- and generally speaking, this generation doesn't have good habits, most of you guys sit on the couch and you're scrolling through Instagram for hours," said Mr. Betancourt, an EMR teacher.

Newer generations spend a lot of time on social media, which exposes them to the violent and misogynistic ideas on these platforms that can alter the way they perceive the world. Generation Alpha takes these mindsets and incorporates them into their lives. These views are concerning and need to be regulated, especially on social media platforms with minors



Emory Andrew Tate has become an internet personality by spreading a misogynistic message of male supremacy and hate.

THE HARBINGER

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