

BAD BUNNY'S UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS

MEDIA: ATHARV

A stepping stone for Latin music and people of colour alike!



During the 68th annual Grammy Awards, one artist took the internet by storm. Bad Bunny, Benito Antonio Martinez Ocasio, a Puerto Rican singer/rapper received the highest award one can achieve in the event - the Album of the Year award, for DeBí TirAR Más FOToS, his sixth studio album. Not only did he achieve this, he went on to receive the second and third highest ranked awards too (Record of the Year and Song of the Year respectively)!

While the award ceremony is regarded by the masses as a glorified popularity contest, it gave Benito a platform to not only distribute his music, but to spread awareness on the diversity and creativity within the Latin music industry. As the first Latin artist to win Album of the Year with an entirely Spanish record, Bad Bunny paved a new path for Latin artists in the Grammy award ceremonies.

The awards have a history of 'exclusivity' as there are two organisations that award them. The Recording Company (for English Grammy awards) and The Latin Recording Company, which as the name suggests, is solely for Latin-American or Spanish music. The latter company was established due to a boom in Latin music in the 90s. The sheer volume of Latin music after this period was deemed too large to be included in the main event.

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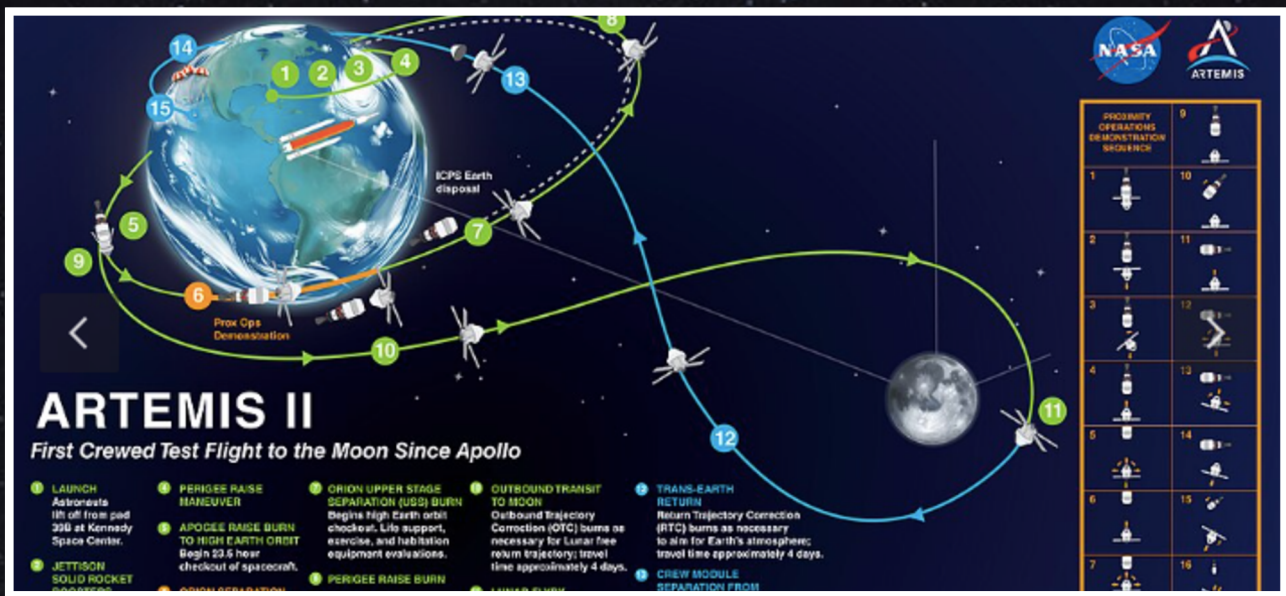


For an album to be awarded a Latin Grammy, 51% (or more) of it has to be written in Spanish. As mentioned previously, Bad Bunny's album was entirely Spanish, and surprisingly, was featured in the main event. However, Bad Bunny receiving this award was only one of two main highlights for this event. His acceptance speech was the second, which has amassed tremendous popularity since.

In light of the recent well-documented mass deportations in the United States, Benito used his newly gained platform to condemn these acts. While a number of artists spoke out against ICE (U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement), Benito's statement stood out as it was a Latin artist speaking out against a governmental organisation to castigate their unlawful acts against his people, and those of other nationalities.

This, paired with his performance at the Super Bowl half-time show, along with Green Day's (a popular punk-rock band known for incorporating politically charged lyrics in their live performances) allowed him to spread his message to a greater audience. The show incorporated anti-hate messages - the jumbotron displayed a quote from his Grammy awards acceptance speech - "The only thing stronger than hate is love". The performance was a representation of Hispanic culture, referencing every American country's flag during the finale.

Bad Bunny has not just become an idol for aspiring Latin artists in the Western world, but also a stepping stone for Latinos like him to stand up against mistreatment against people of colour. The Grammy awards amplified his success and viewpoints alike.



Despite their many similarities, Artemis II will be crewed by expertly trained astronauts, marking the test flight as the first mission to utilise all this revolutionary technology with humans aboard. This crew consists of commander Reid Wiseman, pilot Victor Glover, and the two mission specialists Christina Koch and Jeremy Hansen. It is worth noting that Christina Koch will be the first woman to enter deep space when the flight launches and her contribution to the mission marks a massive shift in the world of the astronomical sciences, a field which has been male dominated for decades. Other significant achievements of this mission include Glover becoming the first person of color and Hansen the first non-American to travel around the Moon. Alongside the crew aboard the spacecraft the backup crew are mission specialists Andre Doulgas and Jenni Gibbons.



Artemis II's journey can be divided into several key phases, over an approximately ten-day trip. The initial stages include fundamentals such as launching the spacecraft and allowing it to move in Earth's orbit as the systems are rechecked and prepared. Following these phases the process becomes more precise.

The first stage after systems have been adequately checked is translunar injection which will use the Orion's Service Module to adjust the spacecraft in a precise maneuver to set it on a free return trajectory which will allow it to loop around the moon. Secondly, the Orion will fly around the moon at a close approach for approximately four days in a state of lunar flyby. Throughout these days the crew will monitor spacecraft systems, gather data on the effects of deep space travel, and perform trajectory corrections as needed. This phase will take advantage of the moon's gravity to assist in bringing the spacecraft back to return trajectory.

Afterwards the Orion will re-enter the Earth's atmosphere at a whopping 40,000 km/h which is the highest reentry speed ever attempted and if successful will make waves in the world of atmospheric reentry. Lastly, splashdown is planned in the Pacific Ocean near San Diego where the U.S Navy will recover the crew.



Wet dress rehearsal is a final, comprehensive pre-launch test where the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and Orion spacecraft are fully loaded with propellant (liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen) on the launch pad and all key components are assessed. With the wet dress rehearsal already completed for Artemis II and the spacecraft fully loaded it is only a matter of time before the mission shifts from theory to reality. Sources state that the mission will begin on the 8th of February 2026 or later. This launch is set to completely revolutionise lunar exploration and research in other areas of deep space whilst marking a new era for NASA and space agencies across the world. An era where Apollo is no longer the only mission people think about when they think about humans reaching the moon.

THE AGE OF THE HALF-WATCHED MOVIE



Stories have existed for as long as humanity itself. They are the shape our emotions take, all our thoughts, our fears, our desires, curiosities and silly little human feelings given form.

Storytelling is an ancient and essential art to the human experience, and the way we consume it has always mattered, from cave paintings to carvings to books to movies.

So, with the rise of the Digital Age, it makes sense for narrative art to have changed, almost irrevocably, to adapt to a new generation.

But it's different this time: when was the last time you watched a full length movie without checking your device? Probably a lot longer ago than you think.

Yes, humans have long-since used storytelling as a conduit for emotions, in order to both share and experience them, but now we have to wonder: if we never fully sit with stories, can they still change us the way they once did?

Wikipedia defines short form content as 'short videos made from various sources'. This can mean TikToks, Reels, YouTube shorts, and no one really needs lecturing on how harmful any of these are to the human body. They make the brain crave instant gratification because of the very short boost of dopamine they give, making real-life tasks feel very boring.

Besides the dopamine boost, their appeal is understandable for people in this day and age with very busy lives who just don't have enough time daily for longer forms of entertainment.

However, this shift doesn't stay on TikTok. Once your brain has started consuming things in seconds, it becomes harder to commit to longer narratives.

Stories are no longer taken in from their beginning to end, but only in their most marketable moments; I've personally never watched the Barbie movie, but I know America Ferrera's feminist rant scene by heart.

So evidently, this is very apparent when it comes to movies and shows. We've all encountered clips of various examples on social media, so much so that it can create the illusion of understanding an entire plot without even watching it. And even if they don't, many still judge whether a work is good enough based off these short clips. Isn't it doing an injustice to an art form to judge it off of ten seconds, stripping it of the nuance that gave it meaning?

This fragment-based consumption has extended to one of the earliest forms of storytelling: the novel. Booktok, a popular branch of social media for readers-

has reshaped the way books are both perceived and written. Although it has brought together book lovers from all over the world, it has also caused reading to fall victim to the same treatment as television.

The intricate, painstaking process of writing a book is compressed to its 'vibe' or aesthetic. Stories are recommended for easily recognizable tropes and moments to be clipped and shared, rather than the full narrative. Writing is expected to be quotable and easy to fit into a 60 second TikTok, the tropes, like 'enemies to lovers' and 'found family' must be easily recognizable to grab ever-scattered attention fast. As instant appeal becomes more important than depth, originality is lost, and every book begins to blur into the next.

Another aspect of media that's been heavily affected by 'clip culture' is music. Artists have had to adapt their music to work in fragments, with loopable choruses and lyrics that can easily fit into a fifteen-second sound.

Even the way music is promoted has changed. While marketing hasn't entirely disappeared, it's been compressed. Instead of longer press tours and interviews, releases are often teased through snippets, mysterious posts, or sudden surprise-drops to dominate social media for a day. Listeners used to rapid consumption value immediacy over the build up; attention is won in milliseconds, and lost just as quickly.

This has severely hurt the introduction of new music into the world, though. Established artists can create attention through their name alone in this mystery promotion technique. Newer artists with a smaller fan base have to heavily tailor to fit whatever the algorithm rewards. As music becomes something to be clipped and posted, the storytelling aspect needs to take a backseat, and we lose another medium to the demand for speed.

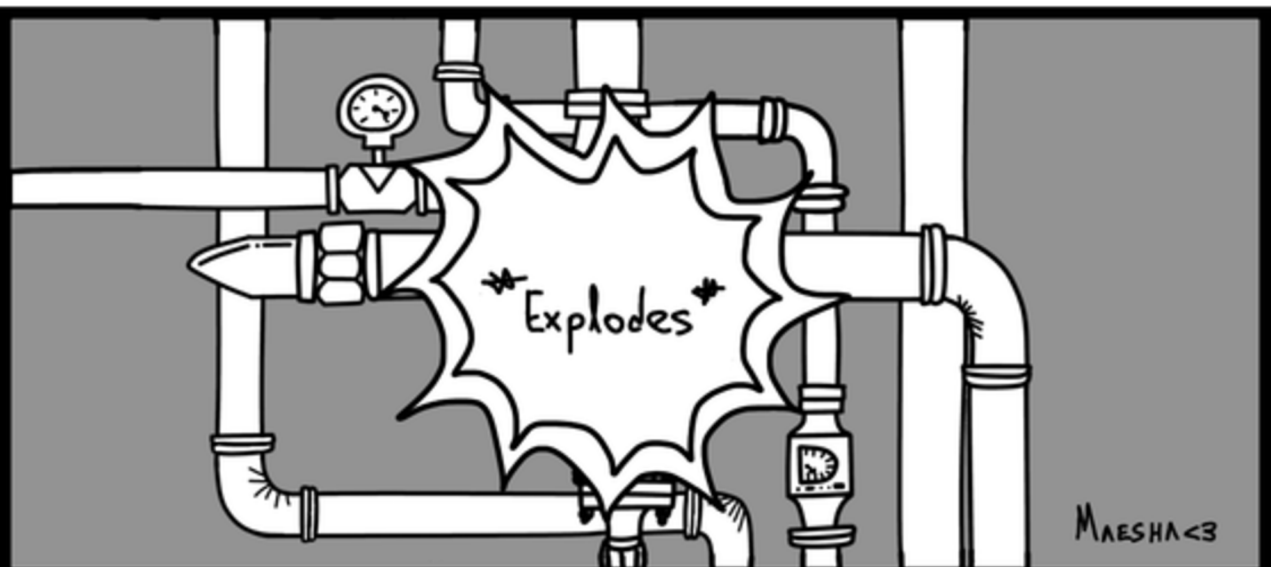
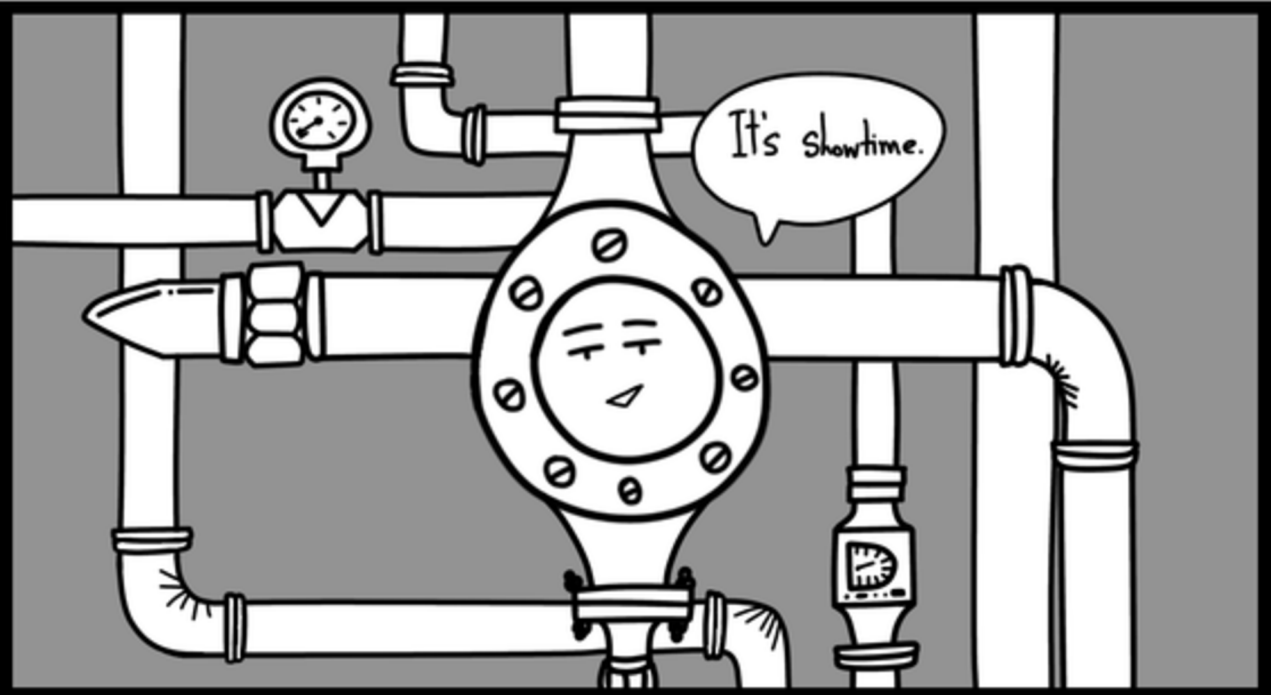
Despite all this, there is something very important to be said here: short form content is not the villain. It's brought together people from all over the globe, created communities that never would have happened otherwise through simple sixty second videos. It can also be considered an art itself, a kind of storytelling in the way some people use it.

Short-form content only becomes a problem when we allow it to stop us from experiencing the beauty of our oldest method of understanding, when we don't give ourselves a chance to sit down and feel stories, allowing them to wash over and change us from the inside out.

RELATABLE SHENANIGANS VOLUME #3

- MAESHA

The school's main pipes on a random monday:



MAESHA <3



MANCHESTER UNITED'S MATHEUS CUNHA **DAMAGED** ARSENAL'S AMBITIONS.

SPORTS: AARON

Manchester United left the Emirates Stadium with a 3 - 2 win. It felt like something that was done on purpose to make Arsenal fans unhappy. There were moments in the game when it seemed like anything could happen, making it very exciting. This is what makes the Premier League so great. The game was a back-and-forth affair, filled with a lot of energy. You could look away for one second. When you look back, someone will be celebrating a goal. Arsenal scored the goal, but it was not the way they wanted it to happen. Manchester United and Arsenal were playing an intense game. Lisandro Martínez, under pressure, bundled the ball into his own net, the kind of moment every defender has lived at least once and immediately pretended never happened. But United didn't fold. Bryan Mbeumo punished a loose pass, rounded the keeper, and levelled things with the calmness of a man who's been waiting all week for that exact mistake.

The second half of the football game started with something. Patrick Dorgu hit the ball into the goal after it bounced off the woodwork. It was such a shot that even the people who were not supporting either team had to stop and say wow.

Arsenal started to get into the game thanks to Mikel Merino. For a while, the Emirates Stadium felt exciting again. The crowd could feel that things were starting to go Arsenal's way.



Football can be really unfair sometimes. Just minutes after equalizing, Arsenal were stunned by a Matheus Cunha thunderbolt from distance, a strike so pure it could've passed a VAR hygiene inspection. It was the kind of goal that instantly silences a stadium — not because fans don't understand what happened, but because they understand it all too well.

What made the match so relatable to football fans everywhere was that classic emotional whiplash: your team equalizes, the stadium erupts, everyone believes the comeback is on... and then the opposition scores immediately. It's the universal football gut-punch, the same feeling you get when your team wins a corner and somehow concedes on the counter before you've even finished clapping. Every fan has lived that moment. Every fan hates that moment.



THE MATCH

When the game ended, Arsenal felt really frustrated. They had been unbeaten at home for a while. That streak is over now. They do not have a lead in the title race anymore.

United, on the other hand, got a big win. This win did not just give them points; it also showed everyone that they are a strong team. They want to be in the four, and they are working hard to get there.

The goal that Cunha scored was amazing. People will watch it over and over again for weeks. For one team, it is a memory, but for the other team, it is a bad memory that they will think about at night. Arsenal will think about Cunha's goal for a time, and it will bother them. Cunha's goal is the kind of goal that can change a season for a team, like United. It was a match full of chaos, quality, and that uniquely Premier League brand of heartbreak and euphoria — the exact cocktail that keeps football fans coming back every weekend.

ONLINE PLATFORMS ARE BECOMING A GLOBAL SAFETY ISSUE

INTERNATIONAL
- REEM

Many, if not most, young people have either played or at least heard of the online gaming platform Roblox, which allows people of different ages to interact worldwide. While the game has garnered billions of players from around the world, the open virtual space with limited regulations has been a cause for concern for parents and policymakers from around the globe. A recent kidnapping case in Florida, USA has reignited this debate after two teen sisters were allegedly lured and kidnapped by 19-year-old Hser Mu Lah Say, authorities have confirmed that the case has begun through online communication through Roblox. While the case unfolded in the United States, the incident highlighted a pressing international question: are governments and tech companies doing enough to protect young users in virtual spaces?

The two sisters were safely found on February 1st after a multi-state search, while Hser Mu was later charged with two counts of kidnapping and two counts of interference with child custody, bringing the case to a fortunate ending. However, this is a growing global issue where online predators are exploiting gaming platforms and social spaces in order to target their victims. Roblox released a statement after the case asserting that it 'has robust safety policies to protect users that go beyond many other platforms, and advanced safeguards that monitor for harmful content and communications.'

And despite these assurances, the effectiveness of these safeguards remain under scrutiny since communication could easily move from the platform itself; this case has made it clear that existing protections are not sufficient when online communication could so easily translate into real-life consequences.



Around the world, governments are attempting to respond to these growing risks through stricter online safety regulations. For instance, in the UAE digital platforms must now implement age verification, content filtering, and data protection for users under 13. While the United States and parts of Europe have pushed for stronger age verification systems and clearer accountability when platforms fail to safeguard younger users. And as perfect as this may sound on paper, digital platforms operate worldwide, while these laws remain largely national. This creates easily exploitable gaps that cause these laws to be difficult to enforce consistently. We need stronger policies that are agreed upon internationally for these laws to be remotely effective, and that is not likely to happen any time soon.

At the same time, online spaces will continue to remain dangerous despite how many measures are implemented. And as much as we'd like to pretend, the Florida incident is not an isolated case; it merely reflects the long struggle to balance global connectivity with safety in an era where childhood is lived online. In this age, digital literacy is one of the most important skills we can teach our children, the responsibility of safety falls on the shoulders of parents as well. There needs to be an effort to implement legal responsibility for parents to monitor and be more involved in their children's online activity because until international safeguards are put into place, the question will remain on whether online spaces are developing faster than the measures that are needed to keep children safe.

SHOW UP.

An Exclusive Film produced
by some of our Siren Leads!

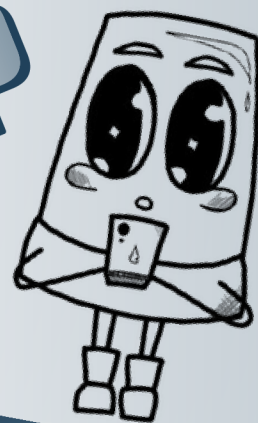


WATCH NOW!

TECH

AYUSH

COULD APPLE DROP



A FOLDABLE IPHONE?

THE DEAL WITH "IPHONE FOLD"

Imagine you have an iPhone, and it folds in half, like a book. Pretty sure that is not wild as many of you guys may have seen foldable phones before, it is not new but it isn't that old either! While Apple hasn't officially dropped a foldable iPhone yet (we're still waiting, The tech behind making one is actually pretty insane, and researchers have been cooking up some seriously cool solutions.

SCREEN THAT BENDS BUT DOESN'T BREAK

Making a display which can fold in half, without it shattering, is HARD. But we have figured a way around that, using something called ultra-thin glass or UTG for short. (No one has time for long names)

This glass is basically as thin as a strand of hair but extremely tough, enough for it to survive being soldered 200 thousand times! Like folding ur phone open and close every day for over 500 years. This glass is built different.

KEEPING YOUR PHONE COOL

Foldable get really HOT. Why? Because they have got bigger screens and much more powerful processors, all of which work working overtime. Nobody wants that whilst it feels like a hot pan on a stove, right? The solution: Flexible Heat Pipes: Apple might make use of advanced heat-pipe or vapor chamber technology in the upcoming design, including flexible ones that provide efficient spreading and dissipation of heat from high-performance processors in a thin, foldable chassis. Visualize tiny AC units built into your phone, managing to keep it all cool while you are watching that next Instagram Reel.



WHY HASN'T APPLE DONE THIS YET?

Apple invented the modern smartphone back in 2007 with the first iPhone, making a foldable iPhone isn't as easy as just bending the screen, there are a lot of challenges they may encounter, and they have to make a finished, decent product. Remember the first galaxy fold? It was really expensive and filled with issues, severe durability issues. Notably broken, bulging, or flickering inner displays caused by debris entering the hinge gaps. For Apple, they have to follow through all these challenges, most importantly:

- **Durability:** The screen cover must withstand your crazy life (we all have those moments where we drop our phones; no judgments here).
- **The hinge:** This mechanism must be smooth, durable, and long lasting.
- **Keeping it powerful:** The internal components have to flex without compromising on performance.

Apple is taking their sweet time to make sure it is perfect before they drop it, fashionably late but always worth the wait.



So, what does the "iPhone fold" look like, you ask? Based on the research, an iPhone fold would include the following features:

- A super tough and flexible glass screen that folds over 200,000 times
- Advanced cooling technology to prevent it from turning into a hand warmer
- Next level haptic feedback for the chef's kiss user experience
- Their sleek look and outstanding performance

Admittedly, we don't yet have an official foldable iPhone, but we do have the technology, and when we are ready, so is Apple, and that's a guarantee. Without a doubt, when they are ready, guess who's at the front of that line?

Foldable iPhones? They are not out yet! But don't worry, we have this tech ready to go. I mean, think ultra-thin glass that is just always bendable, think phones that will not overheat thanks to fantastic cooling systems, think haptic feedback, where what you're feeling on the screen is exactly what appears on the screen. I'm sure Apple is working on this right now, and we'll just be able to have those futuristic bendable phones in no time.

DRESSED TO DISRUPT

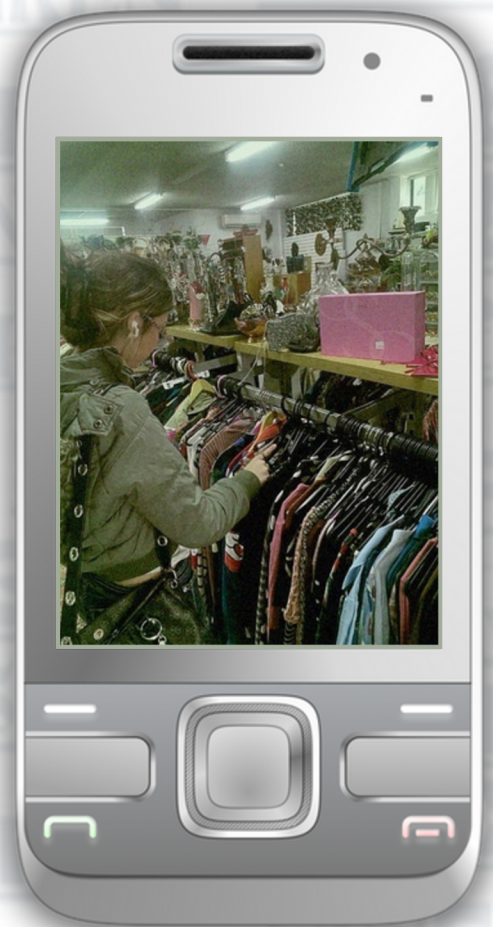
OPINION:
MINNATALLA



How Fashion Sprouts Revolutions

History books have always adored dramatic moments; whether it's in the form of protests in the streets, speeches done in balconies or crowds tearing down statues. But long before the noise comes the outfit. Revolutions rarely ever begin with fireworks but rather from within bedrooms, in mirrors, in the quiet decision to step outside wearing something that challenges the rules. Fashion has never been 'JUST garments', it's been armour, protest signs and (more often than not), the most accessible form of rebellion available to us ordinary civilians.

Take the French Revolution for example. Yes, there were economic crises and political manifestos, but fashion arguably played the loudest role in signalling social change. Whilst aristocrats were wearing elaborate silk breeches and powdered wigs, (essentially the 18th century equivalent of yelling "Hey, look at me! I come from generational wealth!"), revolutionaries donned simpler trousers and practical clothing, completely rejecting the visual undertones so heavily imposed by those in power. Suddenly, what you wore was no longer merely for the sake of aesthetic; it was ideological. Clothing became a walking declaration of which side of history you supported.





Fast forward to the 1970s punk movement, where fashion didn't just stand side by side with rebellion, it WAS rebellion. Safety pins, ripped clothing, leather jackets, these weren't accidental nor were they poor tailoring choices. Punks rejected the polished image consumer culture attempted to paint alongside middle-class expectations. It was loud, messy and deliberately confrontational. The point wasn't to look good in the traditional sense; it was to look like a walking, talking critique of social norms alongside the rigid expectations that followed them.

This pattern continued to repeat across different cultures and decades. From the Black Panthers' iconic black berets and leather jackets to the feminist adoption of trousers in spaces where it was seen as absolute taboo to be dressed in anything that wasn't a skirt or dress, clothing has always functioned as a language of resistance since the beginning of time. Sometimes it's dramatic, sometimes it's subtle, whether it's a slight neckline drop, a daring haircut or the use of dramatic colours. Either way, it was the closets that turned into political arenas long before the streets.



The revolutionary potential of fashion hasn't completely died down in the modern century. It just moved online (and maybe acquired a ring light alongside a couple filters). Consider the recent surge of thrifting culture within social media platforms. What began as a niche, sustainable way to find new pieces for your wardrobe has now evolved into a massive trend fueled by Gen Z. Thrifting isn't just about finding quirky jackets or pretending you've always loved early 2000s fashion (looking at you performative final bosses..). For many, it's an act of resistance against fast fashion's environmental damage and exploitative labour practices. Buying second hand becomes a small yet meaningful refusal to participate in hyper-consumption. Posting a 'turn my thrifted table into xyz!' video is part creative, part activism and part humblebrag, but the underlying message remains clearly defiant: we don't have to accept disposable fashion as the norm.

...



Then there's dopamine dressing; a colourful maximalist trend encouraging people to wear clothes that spark joy and boost moods. On the surface, it may look like a cheerful aesthetic movement fueled by bold, bright colours and somewhat questionable pattern combinations, but beneath the layers lies a subtle resistance towards burnout culture and the post-pandemic exhaustion many of us still face. After years of uncertainty, isolation and endless 'hustle harder!' messages, dressing boldly becomes a form of emotional rebellion. It's an act of refusal to shrink into neutral boring tones or invisible professionalism. It's as if you're yelling: "I also deserve to feel good and express myself!" within a sea of monotonous, corporate-dressed clones.

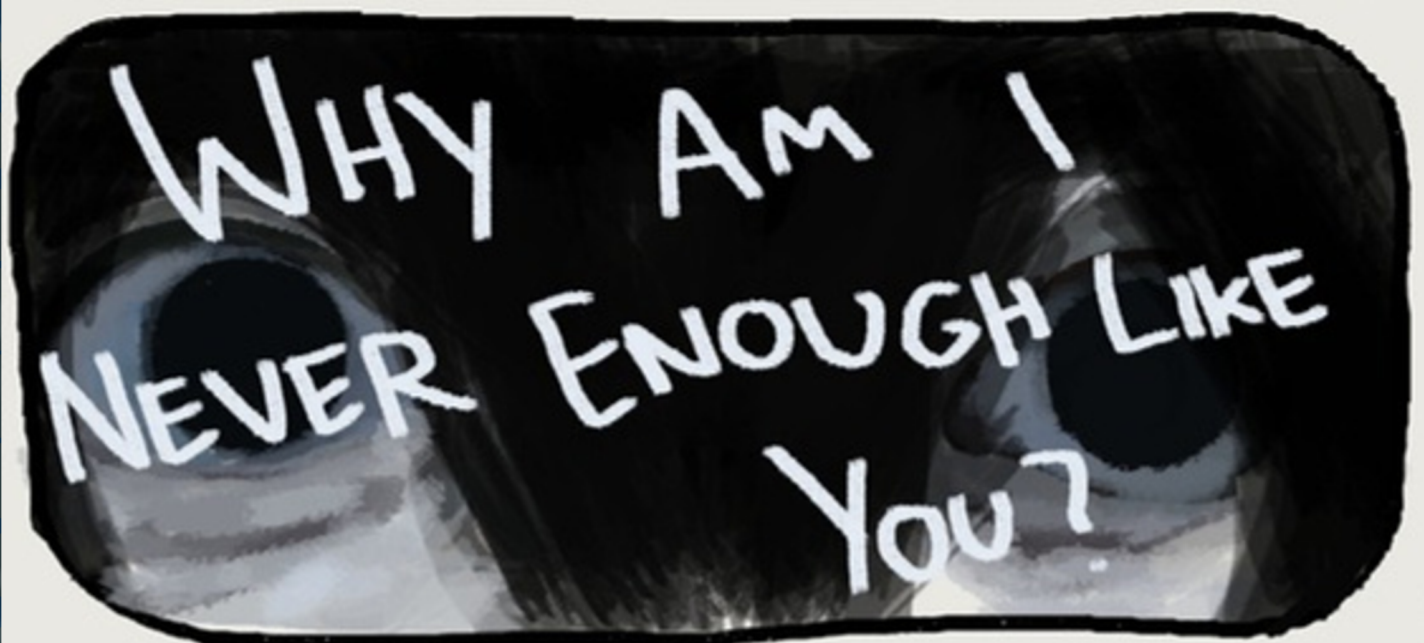
Social media has always acted as a catalyst when it comes to these types of movements, amplifying them further in a way earlier revolutions could only dream of. In the past, fashion resistance spread through underground scenes and through word of mouth. Now? A single outfit can inspire millions overnight. A teen customising their thrifted tee can spark global conversation about sustainability. A creator posting their colourful work outfit can challenge rigid workplace expectations. The digital world has essentially become a global pub where small acts of personal expression can evolve into widespread cultural shifts.

Of course, there's always a paradox. Once a fashion movement gains traction, industries inevitably attempt to commercialise it. Punk has turned into a high fashion commodity. Sustainable clothing gets developed by brands that are still producing fast fashion at breakneck speeds. Even dopamine dressing is slowly turning into a marketing slogan instead of a genuine act of self-expression. But that doesn't completely eradicate fashion's revolutionary potential. If anything, it further proves how powerful clothing is, powerful enough that even super-giant corporations want to monetise it.

The real magic in fashion as an act of resistance lies in its accessibility. Not everyone has access to platforms that allow them to make speeches or organise marches, but nearly everyone can dabble in creating fashion statements from within their wardrobes. Choosing to wear something different, whether it's more expressive or unconventional than what's normal, can be a small yet meaningful act of exercising one's autonomy. These micro-choices accumulate, creating cultural shifts and speaking out on messages that eventually become equally, if not MORE visible than broader movements.

So the next time someone dismisses fashion as something superficial, clock them with the reply: revolutions often begin in ordinary spaces, because long before history remembers the protests, it remembers the look, and sometimes, that look is where the revolution truly started!

INFERENCE, VOLUME 2



WHY DO
WEAK VERMIN
SURVIVE?

THE ANGLER
FISH SHOULD
BE EASY PREY
IN THEORY

AS
SO VISIBLE,
AN EASY
PICK.

BRIGHT
YET... THEY
LIVE. HENCE
I ASK.

YOU?

CONSTANTINO

85 SECONDS TO MIDNIGHT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR HUMANITY?



The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists was founded in December 1945 by Albert Einstein and J. Robert Oppenheimer after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Every year, they unveil their prediction of our future in the form of a clock, with midnight signifying “Doomsday” or when humanity destroys itself. Originally, many of the threats to humanity were nuclear, as seen during The Cold War. It was originally at seven minutes to midnight in 1947, and later moved to three minutes to midnight in 1949. Since then, it had shifted closer and further to midnight, furthest being 17 minutes to midnight in 1991. The Doomsday Clock serves as a message to policy makers and prominent global figures to inform them on the severity of the issues we face.

On January 27, 2026, the clock’s updated time was revealed, being the closest it's ever been at 85 seconds to midnight. The clock is set based on current issues we currently face. This means that the risk of the downfall of humanity is more severe than it has ever been.



Ever since WWII and the Cold War, nuclear weapons have been a large factor to the Bulletin’s shifts. Even now, nuclear threats are still a major issue, with there being roughly 12,000 nuclear weapons in the world according to The Nuclear Threats Initiative (NTI). Countries such as the US and Russia are currently the most prominent figures in nuclear weaponry.

Other countries like China and North Korea have been developing their nuclear arsenal for years. Other than nuclear warfare’s ability to cause mass casualties, it also has secondary effects due to its ability to cause nuclear winters, which are a prolonged period of global cooling and darkness. These events can cause mass famine and the potential collapse of a cities. Nuclear weapons can also cause radiation sickness, severe burns, radioactive fallout, and long-term health detriments such as cancer, leukemia, and genetic damage.

Another factor for the clock being set so close to midnight is climate change. It mostly started around the Victorian era with the first industrial revolution. During this period, there was a rise in mass production, as well as innovations in travel and machinery. However, this was also when the burning of fossil fuels like coal and oil rose rapidly, causing an enhanced greenhouse effect. Since then, human activity has been causing global warming for centuries, affecting habitats and wildlife. As of 2026, there has been a 1.1-1.3 Celsius, causing water scarcity, habitat loss, and wildfires. For instance, global warming has caused ice caps and glaciers to lose around 693 gigatons of ice annually, limiting habitats for animals like polar bears, penguins, and walrus.

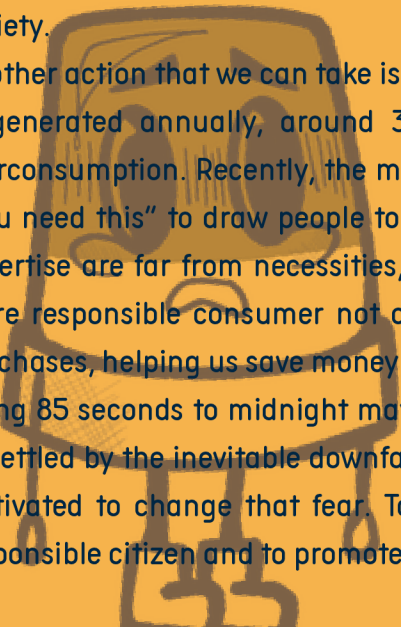
Artificial intelligence is a relatively new, and potentially revolutionary tool for everyday life. However, people argue that the use of AI recently has only been a detriment to society. The advent of AI may also be a factor in the Bulletin's decision. AI has been used for jobs in place of human employees, lowering job opportunities and causing more people to sink into poverty. There is also an argument that AI may be trained on false data, causing it to deliver false information. This can cause distrust in others and the media and may promote biased, problematic information. These impacts could divide different societies further, causing prejudice and discrimination. Additionally, these AI data centers consume mass amounts of water and energy. The US' electricity demands by 2028 are expected to triple to a potential height of 300 terawatt hours for the sake of AI. As of January 20th, 2026, the UN has announced that we have entered an era of "water bankruptcy".



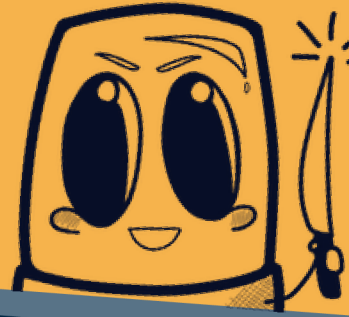
As technology evolves, more risks to humanity rise from it. But, is there anything we can do about it? Admittedly, we cannot do much at a large scale, but there are small actions that we can do to lower long-term risks. One simple action many of us can take is limiting our uses of AI. This may be difficult as we have all likely become accustomed to using platforms like ChatGPT and Gemini to help us with daily tasks. However, not only would it lower the amount of water and energy being consumed, it would also improve critical thinking. MIT's Media Lab conducted a study where 54 participants were split into groups and told to write SAT essays using ChatGPT, Google search engine, and no resources. They found that the group that used ChatGPT had the lowest brain activity and underperformed in neural, linguistic, and behavioral levels. Limiting use would help us to think critically and independently, shaping us into a beneficial member of society.

Another action that we can take is lowering our consumption. As of 2026, over 2 billion tonnes of solid waste is generated annually, around 37% to 40% of it being thrown into landfills. A big factor of this is overconsumption. Recently, the media has been advertising this, using buzz words like "run, don't walk" or "you need this" to draw people to buy a certain product. In reality, most of the products these influencers advertise are far from necessities, and these products often get thrown away after a few months. Being a more responsible consumer not only reduces waste in landfills, but makes us more intentional with our purchases, helping us save money and grow connections with the things we consume.

Being 85 seconds to midnight may seem alarming at first, but there is a reason for it. It's reasonable to be unsettled by the inevitable downfall of humanity to potentially be in our lifetime. However, it is better to feel motivated to change that fear. Take this information as a wake-up call to become a more sustainable, responsible citizen and to promote actions that help our planet and the people around us.



THE ORACLE CHRONICLE WHO REALLY OWNS TIKTOK?



INTERNATIONAL: YUVIN

The news of Oracle buying TikTok honestly feels unreal, like one of those moments where you realise how something so normal in your life suddenly becomes political. TikTok was never just an app, it was literally part of our daily routine. You wake up, scroll. You feel sad, you scroll. You feel lonely, you scroll. With over 1 billion active users worldwide and around 170 million in the US alone, TikTok has arguably shaped an entire generation; and now suddenly governments are involved, talking about security and data like they aren't talking about millions of real people.

For years TikTok has been accused of being "dangerous" because it's owned by a Chinese company, ByteDance. The U.S government repeatedly claimed that our data was at risk, that we were being watched, controlled, influenced despite limited evidence proving this on a mass scale. It's worth noting that many American companies, such as Meta and google, also collect users data yet they rarely face the levels of political scrutiny by governments around the world.

Oracle finalized a deal worth roughly \$14 billion for US operations alone, which is potentially one of the largest tech acquisitions of the decade. Oracle won't simply license the app, it will also be responsible for storing and securing 170 million Americans user data. This raises the question: if it was a simple matter of user security what difference does it make whether control lies with Oracle or ByteDance? Oracle stepping in feels less like a win and more like adults arguing over power while teenagers are just trying to exist online.

For creators especially, this situation is terrifying. Studies show that TikTok contributes billions of dollars annually to the US Economy, with thousands of families relying on it for their income. The idea that the app could just disappear overnight caused nation-wide panic. Oracle buying TikTok gives a sense of relief — at least the app still exists. But relief doesn't mean happiness. There's still fear about what's coming next.

So what exactly does this mean for people in the U.S? It means losing control over a space that has felt like their own. Will TikTok still feel the same? Will the algorithm change? Will certain political opinions just stop being pushed because they're "too risky"? Algorithms already influence what people see, with government interference it is clear that this influence will increase to push opinions that will favor them.

For the rest of the world, this sets a strange precedent. It shows that powerful governments can force changes in global platforms whenever they feel uncomfortable. This could possibly lead to more censorship, more restrictions, and a more divided internet where freedom slowly disappears without us noticing.

At the end of the day, Oracle buying TikTok isn't just about business or data. It's about fear, control, and how much power governments think young people should have.



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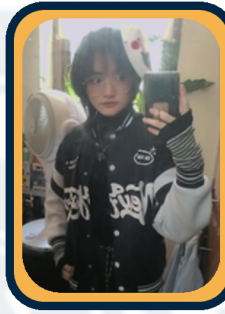
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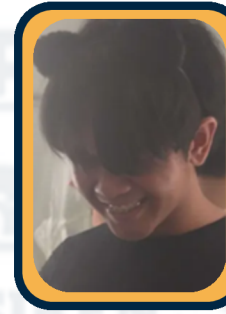
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