



Netflix and... Chill?

by Paige Riding

If you haven't heard "watch (some fan favourite show or movie)!

It's on Netflix" or, "let's have a night in and watch Netflix," you either live under a rock or somehow prefer the ads and time constraints of cable. With approximately 118 million subscribers globally, Netflix is undoubtedly the streaming heavyweight on the market (Source: recode.net). If Video Killed the Radio Star, Netflix Killed Video. With a relatively wide selection of shows new and old, as well as movies that span in genre from horror to romance, from action to documentaries about serial killers (we see you, Ted Bundy fans), and most options in between, every type of TV show fan has their pick of poison.

Netflix also offers an abundance of original shows only available to its patrons. Beginning in 2013 with powerhouses like *Orange Is the New Black* and *House of Cards*, Netflix has expanded to offer about 700 original shows (Variety.com). The streaming service has also racked up a staggering 112 Emmy nominations for its originals (wired.com). Netflix's virtual monopoly over the streaming market also promotes an increase in their prices. The helplessly invested general public then sighs, maybe tweets about it, but inevitably complies. The critics and billions of patrons agree: Netflix is in, and it is here to stay.

There is no denying that the service is conve-

nient. With three different plan tiers, ranging from basic to advanced, there are payment options for everyone. The app allows offline viewing through downloading shows or movies on WIFI. With uninterrupted viewing, binge-watching is not only possible but all too easy to do. Why do we choose this streaming service that only has the last four Harry Potter movies and just betrayed the nation by taking down Bob's Burgers? The answer is a mix of the change in technological culture recently and the fear of missing out on a social aspect.

As a social species, humans yearn to be accepted by their peers. Netflix's reign over television inevitably affects everyday conversations. The embarrassment of missing out on a show reference a friend group makes can be awkward or just plain humiliating. With the expanse of now off-air television shows available with a Netflix subscription, the shows that influenced pop culture then are available now. It is these shows that can impact the jokes people make, the way people dress, as well as people's interests. What began as a means of entertainment has manifested into a significant component of how we relate to one another almost every day.

Looking for background noise while scrolling through our phones is great and all, but there should be a limit to what we deem as entertainment, and what we consider as compulsive or even addictive. "Helplessly in-