





June 2019

Mrs. Masrour's Library

By: Sarah Finkelstein

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." — Dr. Seuss

The wise, and much beloved, Dr. Seuss taught many of us the pleasures of reading. Just open a book and you are transported to a different time and place. You can be anyone. You can go on an adventure. You can solve a mystery. You can fall in love. You can overcome an obstacle. Most importantly, you can learn. Books teach. Books take you to new places. But should you keep your head down in a book while life passes you by? Or should you get up and see the world? Are books as important today as they were in the past? Or has technology replaced the need for libraries?

These questions are answered by our very own Mrs. Catherine Masrour. Mrs. Masrour loves books and combines her love for reading with her professional training to share this love with others. Yet, her nose is not glued to her books. She knows the value of putting down a book and going out and seeing the world. She recognizes that books and libraries are losing ground against the conveniences of modern technology, and she wisely incorporates these new ideas with her tried and true library skills. Better yet, she teaches all of us how to use these new sources of information all the while fondly reminiscing about the value of a good book.

Mrs. Masrour is Smithtown High School West's Library Media Specialist. She transformed her love of books into a career in which she passionately maintains a library and makes it a wonderful and technologically advanced place for others to learn. According to Mrs. Masrour, her job is to "support teachers and students with the resources needed to learn. This means I provide books and materials, but also technology and hands-on materials." Simply put, Mrs. Masrour is motivated by students. She boasts that "Today's students learn in a dynamic world where information is changing as fast as technology. Because of this, I want to make sure that my students are challenged to think critically, search effectively, construct meaning and learning efficiently and ethically,

and select the best resources and tools for learning. My goal is to prepare students for work and life in the 21st century."

This passion for reading is deeply rooted in her past. Mrs. Masrour grew up in an extremely small town called Dixfield, Maine. She recounts that the total population of her hometown was less than the population of Smithtown West. Mrs. Masrour told me that she had 63 students in her high school graduating class. "I knew every one of them by name. Dixfield is very rural and it is winter 9 months of the year. In Maine, I learned to do lots of outdoor things including skiing, skating, snowmobiling, sledding, hiking, and biking." Although she loved books and did cozy up in front of a warm fire with her favorite books, Mrs. Masrour knew the value of balance and never forgot to go outside and

Not everyone can find themselves a job doing what they love, but Mrs. Masrour accomplished just this. She was able to go to school and study a field she loved- Library Sciences. She started college at the University of Maine and transferred to and graduated with a B.A. in English from Colby College. She later received her M.S. in Information Science and doctorate in Education... (Continued on page 2)

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Closing a Museum, or Ending an Important Conversation on the First Amendment?

Bv: Rachael Kam

Washington D.C. is most known for its amazing museums. People typically think of the Smithsonian: the Air and Space Museum, Natural History Museum, American History Museum, and many many others. However, there are many other museums in the city that go underappreciated, such as the Newseum.

The Newseum's goal "is to increase public understanding of the importance of a free press and the First Amendment." Exhibits throughout the seven floors and fifteen galleries include pulitzer prize winning photos, front page newspapers from important events in history, a 9/11 gallery, a Stone Wall exhibit, a First Amendment gallery, and many more.

The wonderful museum, which brings much needed attention to a very important topic, will be closing at the end of 2019.



According to the Washington Post, "Johns Hopkins University is buying the landmark building that houses the Newseum for \$372.5 million, a purchase that will enable the struggling cultural institution devoted to news and the First Amendment to seek a new home in the Washington area."

Since 2008 the Newseum has been operating in its current location a few blocks northwest of the Capitol. It is a wonderful location which gives the museum an incredibly unique feature. On the seventh floor there is a balcony you can walk out onto and look directly at the Capitol building.

"Acquiring this iconic property in the heart of the nation's capital will represent a transformative moment for Johns Hopkins University and place our research and expertise in the midst of national and global decision-making," the university said in a statement.

While the purchase of this building on prime DC real estate will lead to amazing things for Johns Hopkins, the announcement of the purchase is sad news for journalism lovers. The Newseum will be reopening in a new location, but will need to change and cut down on some exhibits... (Continued on page 3)

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Masrour

Mrs. Masrour fondly recalls her mentor, and how she wanted to be like him. Her high school and reading. But he also taught her to see the world. because even though I lived in a small town, books

"I wanted to create a welcoming, flexible learning space that would have a and how she wanted to be like him. Her high school English teacher Mr. Libby got her interested in books **Variety of resources to sup-**Mrs. Masrour explains that "Reading changed my life port all types of learners."

allowed me to travel and meet characters from a variety of different backgrounds. This made me more empathetic and more curious about my world". Mrs. Masrour has seen the world and made her mark on it. Before coming to Smithtown, she served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Morocco, North Africa. She taught English to scientists and researchers so that they could better participate in conferences and academic meetings around the world. Books taught her skills and she put these skills to good work. The believes that this experience was extremely beneficial to her learning, "Travel taught me that there are good people everywhere in the world. I also learned that pretty much everyone wants the same thing--love, peace, happiness, and health."

This background of book learning and world travel made her a perfect candidate for our Library Science Teacher, but Mrs. Masrour did not stop there. She combines her skills with Science and technology as well. She spends her time running a non-profit organization that supports STEM. She is particularly interested in STEM because she believes that we are going to need a lot of creative scientists, technology experts, engineers, and mathematicians to solve the biggest problems of the future. Through her non-profit foundation, she runs a STEM Summer Camp, STEM Family Fun Night in the fall, and a STEAM Conference for high school students in the spring. She also brings new technologies to students like underwater robotics. In addition, she holds board meetings and works with teachers to ensure they have the resources to support students with a strong interest in STEM. You can also find her at the High School West STEAM Conference and at the BULL STEAM Ahead event

Mrs. Masrour sounds like someone to truly emulate, yet she is humble. When asked "Do you have any advice for someone who would want to follow a similar path?" She responds that she does not think anyone could follow in her footsteps: "We all have our own paths. Even my children can't follow my path because the world is constantly changing and evolving. The jobs of today may not even exist in the coming generations." She is insightful and aware of the world around her and her place in it. When asked if there was anything that she would have done differently, she does not talk about her accomplishments. Instead, she wishes that she could have traveled more when she was younger. Although she can no longer travel and experience the world physically, her books allow her to keep exploring and learning about the world.

Mrs. Masrour doesn't know if libraries and books will continue to exist in the future, but she is confident that there will always be a need for information. She hopes everyone will "seek, use, and share information to make the world a better place." Mrs. Masrour stated that one of the most significant accomplishments of her career was playing a part in the renovation and re-imagination of the HSW library. "I wanted to create a welcoming, flexible learning space that would have a variety of resources to support all types of learners". She feels very accomplished and believes Smithtown High School West will serve as

Arlene Maracina

Arlene Maracina is not a household name. She's no celebrity or activist. She's not a politician nor is she a recipient of the nobel prize. She is, however, a cancer survivor, a sibling of seven and a mother of three. She is a retired sergeant on the New York State Police Department and a true believer that "Everything happens for a reason." Arlene grew up in Queens, New York in a house of 10. "I had 6 siblings, my parents and my grandmother with one bathroom! I slept in the attic with my 4 sisters," she relayed this to me yesterday over dinner. She began to reminisce about her childhood with a tint of nostalqia in her eyes. "My mother starting working part time at night when my youngest brother was 5 and my father worked. We all had to take care of each other, especially my younger siblings, which was difficult at times."

Arlene's parents were quite traditional meaning they believed strongly that children should be seen and not heard at almost any given time. She described how when her father came home from work he had exactly 45 minutes to speak to her mother alone, "we were not allowed to speak to them and only they would speak to each other." I asked her what it was like to grow up with such strict parents, for I am fortunate that my parents are always around to help me and provide me with more than I could ask for. She reminded me of how lucky I am. "My mom was the go between the kids and my dad. She was also very strict and handed out the punishments. If we misbehaved we were punished. Sometimes the punishment was physical and sometimes it was a matter of not being allowed to do something or go somewhere, " she explained."One time she threw a shoe at my sister, who was being very disrespectful to my mom, and broke the front window which was very funny. But what was even funnier was when my mom made up a story about the window so my sister wouldn't get into any more trouble." The words she said weren't what surprised me but rather her composure. She was happy looking back at negative memories. Maybe it was idea of her mother who passed eight years ago, or possibly the remnants of a childhood shared with her siblings, or as she called them, "her best friends." She went on to describe their summers at her father's trailer upstate and her first job

As she recalled her childhood to me, I looked to see how this foreshadowed her future life. She didn't go to college after to high school, but rather applied to be a police officer at 17. At 22 she got the job. She spoke with a certain zest and spunk that quite obviously served her well as she entered a male dominated field. Sexism and harassment in the workplace is still an issue in 2019, so the notion a woman entering a "macho" field thirty years ago naturally sparked questions within me. "I was surprised that I did not experience much harassment. Every once in a while someone would say something rude or insulting but I held my own and didn't let it get to me." I asked her if she had ever heard of any stories, she responded with certainty. "One female officer said that the captain of her precinct was making advances on her. Not sure whatever happened with that. There were reports of sexual harassment made by a few of my female colleagues. I consider myself lucky." She went on to explain that "every once and a while you would meet someone who made a derogatory remark but I would usually just brush it off or send back a response. You can't have a thin skin doing this job. Working on the streets you heard a lot worse." I was still curious as to how a woman of such humble background found herself challenging societal gender norms. I guestioned her on other obstacles which made it difficult to succeed or even work in such a feild. "My uncle told me I was crazy and that I would never succeed in such a difficult job. He said it was a man's job and no place for a woman. My boyfriend who I was seeing for 2 years broke up with me because he didn't want me to join the Department." She had a wide smile as she answered that last question. She was proud. Next she said, "I became a Police Officer and after 11 years took the Sergeants test and finished 185 out of 4000 police officers that took the test. I enjoyed every minute as an Officer and I retired after 20 years of service to the New York City Police Department." The sparkle of accomplishment grew brighter as she spoke.

She then went on to explain how life is always changing. Never did she think that one of her fellow cops would turn out to be her husband and father of her three children, or that she would move out of Queens to the suburbs of Long Island, or battle and survive breast cancer four times. But as her favorite motto goes, "Everything Happens For a Reason."

Profile

Subscribe To Pewdiepie: Do Your Part

As the minutes count away, so does the subcount in the 'battle' of most subscribed YouTube channel. This story took social media by storm. Allow me to explain. YouTube creator Felix Kjellberg, better known as Pewdiepie, is currently the most subscribed to account on YouTube. He started off making videos of gameplay, which was rare in the year of 2006. Quickly, he became popular, and made more videos, which varied in ideas. He would communicate with fans, answering their questions and having "Fridays with Pewdiepie." Now, at 90,000,000 subscribers, he makes various series of videos and has gone on tours and to conventions as well.

The "Sub War" has come out of what has been a joke for Pewdiepie. He normally just jokes about things like these, but because of the media and his own fans, it becomes something much bigger. Suddenly, all around the internet and in life, you can see "Subscribe to Pewdiepie." There was a printer hack done by TheHackerGiraffe on Twitter and people even put out posters. One person put the information on a truck and drove it around, some walk around playing his diss track, and some wanted to buy an ad for it at the superbowl. One person even got a billboard in Times Square of New York City that had said to Subscribe to Pewdiepie. An entertainer who goes by the name of Mr. Beast also bought billboards to bring attention to the cause. YouTuber Jacksepticeye even held a livestream on YouTube in order to make more of a 'sub gap,' which means more of a difference in subscribers between the two channels. People, when subscribed, say that they have done "their part," as in to help Kjellberg remain on the top. Elon Musk had even hosted an episode of Kjellberg's most famous series, known as Meme Review.

Though all of it seems to be fun and games only, the printer hack, for example, raised awareness for how weak systems can be for things like printers. The Hacker Giraffe contacted The Verge and said "that he got the idea for the hack while browsing Shodan.io, a repository for internet-connected devices. Here, they claim that they found 800,000 available printers, and decided to attack 50,000 of them."



As a huge fan of Pewdiepie myself, and have been since I was possibly twelve or thirteen, this story greatly intrigued me. I am immensely interested in the world of YouTube and this competition that had originally started off as

A video released by Asian Boss on YouTube caught attention to the public, and especially to Kjellberg. He reviewed the video and was overwhelmed by support he had received, which he actually was not expecting, as T-series is a large part of indian culture in the modern day at this point. As discussed in the video by one of the people interviewed, most of India had just received wifi, and as soon as they log into their devices, T-series is one of the first things to pop up. T-series is a music record label company that is extremely popular in India.

A lot of people take Kjellberg's side, due to the fact that he is a sole creator and T-series is a company. YouTube used to favor the creators and their content soley, not even taking a complete look toward companies. The community enjoys this about YouTube and likes to see what the creators make, for fun and not for money, even though it is a job for some.

Many like to argue that he is a bad and evil person, mostly for obvious jokes and little mistakes in which he has made. Pewdiepie "has raised and given millions of dollars to charity" (Jackson, Lara, editor. "Nobody Wants To Tell You The Things PewDiePie Has Done For Charity"). He even turned this "competition of sorts" into a charity event, for example, to raise money for children in India. Fans turned it toward a race war, so when he saw this, Felix turned it into a charity event, which he has done before

As I was writing this article, a story had come to light in which involved the New Zealand shooting. As the shooting had occurred, according to the New York Times, the gunman had broadcast part of the shooting and urged others to 'subscribe to pewdiepie' (Chokshi, Niraj. "PewDiePie Put in Spotlight After New Zealand Shooting"). People then took a storm to social media with this uproar, and now pewdiepie is being used in order to spread hatred and anger. The whole thing with pewdiepie's 'subscriber war' was supposed to be a joke, and now has turned into this. Felix returned to this with saying he was disgusted by the actions of the gunman. According to Dateline, he had said on his Twitter: "Just heard news of the devastating reports from Christchurch, New Zealand. I feel absolutely sickened having my name uttered by this person... My heart and thoughts go out to the victims, families and everyone affected by this tragedy" (Haring, Bruce. "YouTube Star PewDiePie'Sickened' By New Zealand Shooter Reference During Massacre"). People then started to blame Felix and things got twisted very quickly.

With this being said, fans of a person, along with the person, can easily be deemed as horrible due to occurances in which have association. This is extremely unfair. Felix Kjellberg is no stranger to this, and receives punishment often from misunderstandings and jokes taken the wrong way. Being the most popular on the YouTube platform

NEWS

Closing a Museum or Ending an **Important Conversation on the First Amendment?**

"People need to be talking about most enticing exhibits include the 9/11 exhibit, the Berlin Wall exhibit, and the Pulitzer Prize exhibit The these horrible things and need to Pulitzer Prize exhibit. The 9/11 gallery on the 4th floor be able to see how these harsh realof the 360-foot antenna ities are actually affecting people." mast that toppled from the World Trade Center's North Tower when the

building collapsed," as well as shows first-person accounts from journalists who covered the story. The walls of this exhibit are also lined with front covers of newspapers from all over the world telling the devastating news story in many different

On the Hubbard Broadcasting Concourse floor, you can find "eight 12-foot-high concrete sections of the original [Berlin] wall." When walking up to the exhibit you see the very busy, and colorful, graffitied Western side of the wall. Displaying positive messages such as "Act Up," "You are power," and "Step by Step," this side of the wall shows freedom and outward displays of opinions.

However, when you walk around the wall, you enter the Eastern Berlin side of the gallery. Everything is blank. It is white concrete with zero writing. This side of the exhibit is more enclosed and you feel the emotions of Eastern Berlin. A few feet away from the wall, "A three-story East German guard tower that loomed near Checkpoint Charlie — Berlin's bestknown East-West crossing" stands. You look up and the tower just continues on. It is very tall and intimidating. It makes you understand why the residents of Eastern Berlin were so scared.

For people who may be slightly less interested in journalism, the Pulitzer Prize exhibit is a must. This gallery resides on the first floor and includes photographs from "every Pulitzer Prize-winning entry since 1942, when the award was first presented." These photographs tell extremely emotional and intense stories. While looking at these photographs you can only imagine the pain these victims went through.

The incredibly talented and very deserving photographers have managed to capture both the best and worst emotions in these terrifying situations. Some of these photos include families being reunited or the excitement of victories, while others include the harsh realities of wars people aren't even talking about such as starvation in third world countries and people crying for help in floods and other natural disasters that may never receive it. These photographs manage to capture every person's true emotion and makes you want to do everything you can to help.

"The world tries to ignore the horrible things, it is a journalists job to bring attention to these things." This is something Carol Guzy, the only woman to have won four Pulitzer Prizes, has said, and this is why journalism is important. This is why displaying these photographs and stories is so important. People need to be talking about these horrible things and need to be able to see how these harsh realities are actually affecting people. This is why the Newseum is so important. It gives the public a place to be able to really learn about the importance of journalism and the harsh realities of the world.

This ban tackles the tough question of whether the government should have to the right to watch the people's' every move, and this technology can severely be misused. There is evidence of government monitoring of political rallies and places of worship, like mosques. Objectors to this spyware claim that it severely compromises civil liberties, may restrict free speech, and unfairly targets innocent people.

San Francisco Facial Recognition

agencies from using facial it caused racial bias and ment's ability to invade the privacy of its citizen

Secret Surveillance"

On Tuesday, This ban tackles the tough question city to ban government of whether the government should have to the right to watch the peoples' every move, and this technology can severely be misused."

by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in an 8-1 vote. The ordinance will completely inhibit large tech companies like Microsoft and Amazon from selling surveillance footage to prisons and police departments. All 53 of San Francisco's police departments would be forbidden from using facial recognition technology, and use of any surveillance technology by the city would require board approval.

However, federally-controlled facilities like San Francisco International Airport and the Port of San Francisco can still use these surveillance technologies, as can businesses and residents

Other cities like Berkeley and Oakland restrict surveillance, but this is the first time a city has completely

The "Stop Secret Surveillance" claims that facial recognition endangers civil liberties and that there are more problems than solutions caused by this technology. The "Stop Secret Surveillance" states that "the technology will exacerbate racial injustice and threaten our ability to live free of continuous government monitoring."

The "Stop Secret Service Surveillance" ordinance will stop large companies from selling footage to government officials, which is the current situation nationwide. Big companies provide a facial recognition software used in identifying criminals. However, many claim that these services are incredibly inaccurate in actually identifying people of interest. In fact, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) tested Amazon's facial recognition software and found that it incorrectly misidentified 28 black members of Congress as criminals. This technology is currently being sold to police departments across the country despite this inaccuracy toward people of color. In fact, statistics show that Blacks, women and the elderly have a substantially higher rate of misidentification.



NEWS

London Patient Might be the Second Person to be Cured of HIV

A second patient infected with HIV-1, is believed to have been effectively cured of the virus, a case study finds. Since the beginning of the HIV epidemic about 35 million have died of causes related to the virus that weakens the immune system. The most common treatment for the viral infection is antiretroviral therapy, which suppresses the virus and HIV patients have to deal with their whole life. Now, scientists may have found a cure.

The first patient cured, the "London patient", a male resident of the UK choosing to remain anonymous, was diagnosed with the viral infection in 2003 and began treatment for the virus in 2012. He later was diagnosed with cancer of the lymphatic system and in 2016 he underwent a stem cell transplant, while remaining on antiretroviral therapy for another

He then disrupted his treatment to test, if he truly was getting cured of HIV-1 and has now been in remission for 18 months, therefore being the second patient worldwide to be believed to be cured of the virus.

Nearly 12 years ago the "Berlin patient," Timothy Ray Brown, had been similarly cured of HIV. He used antiretroviral therapy and was diagnosed with leukemia, which he fought through two bone marrow transplants. After that, Brown was considered cured of HIV-1, as the viral infection remained undetectable.

The lead author of the study, Ravindra Gupta, stated that this method offers new possibilities for new treatments such as gene therapy, and even though it might not be suited for every patient, it still gives the scientists hope for the search of a cure.



The Black Hole is Real!

On Wednesday, April 10th, the Event Horizon Telescope observatories, scattered all over the Earth, obtained the first image of a black hole that is 55 million light years away.

From observatories on the top of the volcanoes in Hawaii and Mexico, the mountains in Arizona and the Spanish Sierra, in the Chilean Atacama Desert, and in Antarctica, a first piece of legitimate collection of around 200 international scientists collaborated together to synch the eight Event evidence confirming black Horizon Telescopes. To achieve this wonder,

these scientists needed to sync their telescopes holes existing." up with extreme precision using astrophysics, mathematics, and the world's best telecommu-

nication systems. Sheperd S. Doeleman, the Director of Event Horizon Telescope project of the Center for Astrophysics, Harvard & Smithsonian, boasted, "We have achieved something presumed to be impossible just a generation ago." Doeleman concluded, "Breakthroughs in technology, connections between the world's best radio observatories, and innovative algorithms all came together to open an entirely new window on black holes and the event horizon." Black holes are incredibly dense celestial objects with enormous masses compacted into such a small size that it creates a gravitational field from which not even light can escape. The presence of these objects affects their environment in extreme ways; warping spacetime, super-heating any surrounding material, and transmitting radiation, Black holes have proven extremely difficult to photograph. Yet, this is exactly what the scientists have achieved. The EHT team photographed a black hole at the core of a Galaxy known as Messier 87 near the Virgo galaxy cluster. This black hole is 55 million light-years from Earth and it has a mass 6.5 billion times that of the Sun. Worldwide

Doeleman believes that this is only the start for black hole research. This photograph is the first piece of legitimate evidence confirming black holes existing. Most evidence is indirect and based off of theories and laws of physics. "With more images like this, we can better understand the black holes that lie at the centers of galaxies. We can better understand how our theories of gravity work in the most extreme of conditions. And know, it's possible another image of a black hole might be coming in the future." The Event Horizon team also tried to take a shot of the black hole at the center of our own galaxy, called Sagittarius A*. Working together, we can achieve the impossible and continue to explore our vast and intriguing universe. Exploring and documenting rare celestial occurrences, like

coordination and teamwork, science, math and technology combined to achieve this goal.

180,000 Bees Living on Notre **Dame's Roof Survived the Fire**

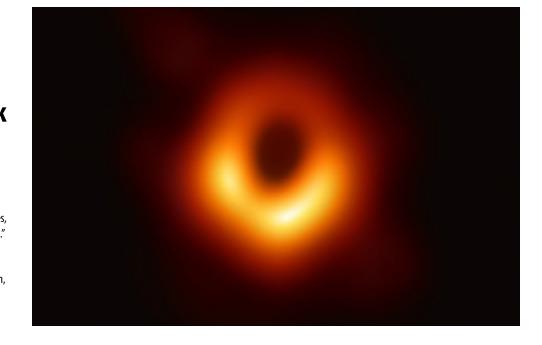
The bees living on top of Notre Dame survived the devastating fire that broke out in the cathedral loved by many all around the world.

On Monday April 15 2019, the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris caught fire and burned for several hours. The 850-year-old symbol of Catholicism in France's capital was engulfed in flames until early Tuesday morning, when firefighters finally gained control of the fire, after it destroyed the cathedral's iconic spire and roof.

Luckily, the three beehives on its roof on the first floor, just below the rose window, were not affected by the flames, as they are located 30 meters below the spreading of the flames on the main roof. If the beehives would have been engulfed in flames, it could have had fatal consequences, as the wax inside would have melted and all the bees would have been stuck together.

Although it is very likely, that the hives were filled with smoke, this circumstance does not affect the animals. "Bees don't have lungs like us", stated their beekeeper Nicolas Geant, therefore the smoke doesn't impact them as it would with humans. Geant, even though heartbroken about the tragedy of the cathedral, is very relieved that his bees are still out and about

Notre Dame has housed the three beehives since 2013, each one consisting of about 60,000 bees.





NEWS

1.4 Million Students Participate in Global Climate Strike

"130 countries walked out of On Friday, May 24th, students from over 130 countries walked out of school to participate in the second global climate

school to participate in the The global climate strike is part of the Fridays for Future movement, which was second global climate strike." started in August 2018 by the then 15 year

old Greta Thunberg. Inspired by the Parkland students that organized the March for Our Lives, she decided to skip school to sit in front of the Swedish parliament holding a sign that read "Skolstrejk för klimatet" ("school strike for climate"). The ninth grader then proclaimed to continue striking every Friday until Sweden would align with the Paris Agreement, an agreement to limit the increase of the global average temperature to 1.5 $^{\circ}$ C.

Since then several different countries held weekly school strikes to spread awareness about the climate crisis. May 24th marked the second global school strike (the first one was on March 15th) and included students from 131 countries all over the world, the ones with the highest amounts of participants being the U.S. (223 strikes), the UK (159 strikes), Sweden (133 strikes), Italy (161), Germany (220 strikes) and Canada (99 strikes)



Taiwan Legalizes Same-Sex Marriage

On Friday, May 17th Taiwan became the first place in Asia to legalize same-sex marriage in a vote by Parliamen which passed 66 to 27

Thousands of Taiwanese Gay rights supporter assembled outside parliament in the capital, Taipei. Supporters of the law shouted "First in Asia!" in heavy rain, after it was announced the article was passed.

However, this law did not come easy. Taiwan's civil code stated that marriage was

only between a man and women. Within recent years, gay rights supporters filed requests for the Constitutional Court to create a ruling on the legitimacy of this law.

It was not until 2017, that the government ruled that this law was unconstitutional and gave lawmakers a

Taiwan's president, Tsai Ing-wen, who advocates for marriage equality, tweeted after the vote: "We took a big step towards true equality, and made Taiwan a better country."

Despite the festivities around this historic event, Taiwan has been lashing out at China's media for taking credit on the decision to legalize same-sex marriage. Chinese media has posted, "Local lawmakers in Taiwan, China, have legalized same-sex marriage in a first for Asia,"

Taiwanese officials were outraged by the claim due to the fact that the new law came from the Taiwanese government, not China's. In fact, China has been censoring all LGBT-related content on social media and the internet and that same-sex marriage has not been legalized in China.

This bill is a start towards equal rights in Asia, but is not there yet; there are limitations on same-sex couples adopting. Although the law is not perfect, it is seen as an example for the rest of the region.

Reviews

Avengers: Endgame

***Disclaimer: NO ENDGAME SPOILERS, BUT THERE ARE INFINITY WAR SPOILERS!

Avengers: Endgame is the culmination of a decade of blockbuster filmmaking, the result of years of work from thousands of people. It is designed to be the ultimate blockbuster; a movie with a dozen subplots colliding and familiar

It's really nothing like any movie that's come before it, existing not just to acknowledge or exploit the fans of this series, but to reward their love and patience. The blunt thing you probably want to know most: It's hard to see serious Marvel fans walking away from this disappointed. It checks all the boxes, even ticking off a few ones that fans won't expect to be on the list. It's a satisfying end to a chapter of blockbuster history that will be hard to top. In terms of sheer entertainment value, it's on the higher end of the Marvel spectrum. Endgame is a film that elevates its most iconic heroes to the legendary status they deserve and provides a few legitimate thrills along the way.

The main joy of this film is in how incredibly its narrative unfolds. *Infinity War*, another hyped up spectacle of a Marvel film, ended with Thanos finally getting all of the six Infinity Stones and then using them to wipe out half of existence, including beloved heroes like Black Panther, Star-Lord, and Spider-Man. *Avengers: Endgame* picks up a few weeks after "The Snap," as the remaining heroes try to pick up the pieces and figure out if there's a way to reverse Thanos'

Immediately, *Endgame* is a more focused piece than Infinity War by virtue of having a tighter, smaller cast. It's a more patient, focused film, even its plot draws in storylines from a dozen other marvel films. Whereas Infinity War often felt bloated, Endgame allows some of the more iconic characters in the history of the Marvel universe a chance to be as heroic and cunning as we all want them to be. This, in turn, allows space for some of the best acting in the franchise, particularly from Chris Evans and Robert Downey Jr. I realized while watching *Endgame* that they have turned Captain America and Iron Man into something larger than life for a generation. Almost all people within this generation remember their first movie being an Iron man film in which the rich billionaire saves the city and wins the girl in almost always dramatic fashion. The most satisfying aspect of Endgame is in how much it provides the Marvel's two most popular heroes the story they deserve instead of just drowning them in a sea of cameos by lesser characters from other movies otherwise known as the Black Panthers of the World. In a way it puts them on the pedestal they deserve and in turn it becomes an ode to the entire Marvel Universe.

What works best about the script for *Endgame* is that the fan, for arguably the first time, comes to a time of looking back and rejoice instead of merely trying to set the table for something to come. This film incorporates elements of what fans know and love about the MCU, recalling character beats, origins, and the plots of movies like Iron Man, Guardians of the Galaxy, and Captain America."

Call it cheesy but one of my biggest issues with these films, especially Infinity War, has been a sense that they're merely commercials for movies yet to be made. Sure, Marvel will go on, but this movie has a finality and depth given to it by the Marvel history that the others have lacked

Of course, it needs to work as just a movie too. The middle hour is as purely enjoyable as Marvel has ever been, but there are times when I wished I could sense a human touch below the incredibly-polished, carefully-planned surface. In the long build-up first hour, I longed for one of the pauses about the seriousness of the situation to lead to something that felt spontaneous or an acting decision that didn't feel like it had been run through a committee. Every single aspect of Endgame has been foreshadowed for years by other films and now finally it was making its mark and finally was on it's way to the finish line.

It is a masterpiece and a finale to an outstanding product that left fans excited for years, and while it wasn't flawless, the goal of the movie seemed to really be about rewarding commitment, fandom, and expectations. Whatever its flaws, Endgame does all of that, and with a sincere admiration for the fans who have made this universe a true cultural phenomenon. The stakes are high and the conclusions actually feel like they are directed toward what the fans would like to see. It's a cultural event for the ages, the kind of thing that evolves film criticism to become a shared experience with

So now the only thing left to speculate is how Marvel intends to follow this up. The Avengers are no more but there's still space left to captivate a cooperative and supportive audience. Let's just hope, with Stan Lee in a better place, Marvel finds a way to continue his legacy and add to an already unbelievable franchise.



Senior Destinations

COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Achatz, Katelyn A SCCC. Ammerman Afanador, Aaron W SCCC, Western Campus Agunzo, Brooke University of Mississippi Alessio, Michael A **Binghamton University** Ambrosio, Marisa SCCC. Ammerman Amoruso, Christian R Lincoln Memorial University Anderson, Jade G Stony Brook University Andrews, Haven M SCCC, Ammerman Angelone, Christopher J **SUNY Maritime College** Antunes, Jake **High Point University** Ardizzone, Natalie A Farmingdale State College Armetta-Bettenhauser, Caterina R SUNY College at Cortland Augustin, Skovhel W Stony Brook University Awad, Elizabeth Clemson University Ayazoglu, Melisa Y Stony Brook University Badillo, Danielle A University of Delaware Baiata, Nicholas P Stony Brook University Baker, Gavin J **Tompkins Cortland Community College** Baraan, Creed Christian A Pace University, New York City Barker, Alvssa N **Quinnipiac University** Bath, Meredith F SCCC, Ammerman Beck, Maya M SUNY Oswego Belloise, Jacob L SCCC, Ammerman Belmont, Evan A **Employment** Bergenfeld, Justin E University at Buffalo SUNY Bernard, Jharius J **Employment** Berner, Caroline N University of Delaware Biondi, Lucas P Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania Biscari, Felicia N **Quinnipiac University** Stony Brook University Bizzaro, Matthew J Bluethgen, Francesca M Stony Brook University Bonura, Dominic J **Binghamton University** York College of Pennsylvania Boudreaux, Justin I SCCC, Western Campus Breimann, Shannon M Brodsky, Carly Pennsylvania State University Roger Williams University Brown, Sarah A Buonincontri, Dylan J **Employment** Burke, Greta M Long Island University, Post Burke, Kelly A St. Joseph's College - Long Island Campus **Cornell University** Burmeister, Gretchen I Burmeister, Lili R McGill University Busch, Lauren N **Endicott College SUNY Fredonia** Butler, Brendan M Butler, Kristin N Messiah College Butler, Mason M SUNY Oswego Butler, Trevor L. SUNY College at Oneonta Cabassa Miskimen, Alejandra B University of Florida Cabassa Miskimen, Esteban D University of South Florida, Tampa Cabello, David B **Cornell University** Nassau Community College Cacace, Kimberly Caccavale II, Michael I **Binghamton University** Caddigan, Matthew C University of Massachusetts, Amherst University of Maryland, College Park Calderone, Conor A SCCC, Western Campus Calla, Franco Callahan, Jack M SCCC. Ammerman



Siena College

SUNY College at Geneseo

Fontana, Daniel F

Foote, Valerie L

Foray, Joseph T

Frank, Spencer

Fricker, Arden B

Farmingdale State College

SUNY College at Cortland

SCCC, Western Campus

University of Hartford

SCCC, Ammerman

Lindenmann, Eve N

Liotta, Connor J

LoFaso, Frank C

Liu, Alice

Liu, JunJie

Binghamton University

Stony Brook University

SCCC, Ammerman

Hofstra University

SCCC, Ammerman

Binghamton University

Camilleri, Andrew A

Campanelli, James C

Camson, Nicholas D

Canales-Vanegas, Marvin J SCCC, Ammerman Baruch College of the CUNY Canelle, Abigail F Cappock, Jennifer M SUNY College at Geneseo Caputo, Danielle M **Quinnipiac University** Carey, Chase G Stony Brook University Carlsen, Lauren E Drexel University Carlson, Taylor C Syracuse University Carlucci, Christian The University of Alabama SCCC, Ammerman Carmella, Joseph. Carmella, Kevin T Siena College Caro, Brielle K Ouinnipiac University Carrano, Carl N **SUNY College at Cortland** Cascone, Erin E University of Hartford St. Joseph's College - Long Island Campus Cassata, Nina N Castelli, Isabella R Syracuse University Chen, Canxin SCCC, Ammerman SCCC, Ammerman Cheung, Angela Stony Brook University Choi, Ye Rim SUNY Albany Cinquemani, Charles W Ciorciari, Morgan M University of Michigar Quinnipiac University Clarke, Morgan A Coane, Tallon J SCCC. Ammerman Colby, Taylor P Farmingdale State College Hofstra University Coletti, Lauren M Conforte, Zachary D Long Island University, Post Conger, Michael R Marist College Conley, Ava R SUNY College at Oneonta Constantino, Samantha P Queens College of the CUNY Contreras, Valentina C SCCC. Ammerman Conzone, Conor J St. Joseph's College - Long Island Campus Coppola, Marissa T Savannah College of Art and Design Cottage Jr., Marc A Wingate University Crockett, Daniel E SUNY Plattsburgh Cuff, John W **Binghamton University Binghamton University** Currao, Corey J Cutolo, Francesca J Farmingdale State College D'Angelo, Kathryn M Pennsylvania State University Dantona, Jillian E State University of New York at New Paltz Datta, Anabill Boston University Davidson, Lily H School of Visual Arts St. Joseph's College - Long Island Campus De La Torre, Giovanna M De Mayo, Anthony M Stony Brook University DeFelice, Nicholas M **Binghamton University** SCCC, Ammerman Delaney, Brian J DelBuono, Ashlee L SCCC, Ammerman Dertouzos, Hannah E Adelphi University SUNY Oswego DeSousa, Jack Di Blanda, Hannah Farmingdale State College DiBlasio, Matthew S SCCC, Ammerman DiCostanzo, Santino G SUNY Albany Diecidue, Paige C Monmouth University Ding, Zhongcen SCCC. Ammerman DiStefano, Sophia D Marymount Manhattan College Dominger, Alexa N Roger Williams University Dovi, Julia M Stony Brook University SCCC, Ammerman Doyle, Emily SCCC, Ammerman Dovle, Rvan J Durcan, Jordan A University of Delaware Ehli. Kevin P University of Utah Elhalawani, Ahmed A Stony Brook University University at Buffalo SUNY Emma, Sophia R Eng, Catherine A Northeastern University Eng, Emily E University at Buffalo SUNY Erny, Grace M Mercy College Esposito, Thomas J Purchase College, SUNY SCCC, Ammerman Fabiani, Dylan J Farrell, Rebecca A Syracuse University Fasano, Carlie A. St. John's University Fauvell, Alexa Molloy College Fedor, Marissa L. University of New England Ferrara, Brandon SUNY College at Brockport Fisch, Marc B SCCC, Ammerman Fischetti, Michael J Georgia Institute of Technology Fisher, Rylie K University of South Carolina Fitzgerald, Matthew J Rochester Institute of Technology Fitzgerald, Sean G University at Buffalo SUNY Flood, Kyle C Farmingdale State College

Northern Vermont University-Lyndon Friscia, Steven A. Froehlich, Philip S Virginia Tech Fuentes-Figueroa, Hector A SCCC, Ammerman Funke, Jessica N State University of New York at New Paltz Gaffney, Sean SCCC. Ammerman Galindo, Christopher R University of Miami Gargano, JonCarlo SCCC. Ammerman Genovese, Francesca R University of Delaware Georgiadis, Christopher J SCCC, Ammerman Gianotti, Carly L Stockton University Gierak, Thomas R St. John's University Farmingdale State College Gilmore, Justin Gioia, Robert M University of Delaware Glisci. Kaila Cornell University Godas, Stephen R Quinnipiac University SCCC, Ammerman Godek, Patrick Gonis, Flias T. Stony Brook University Grande, Ryan J Long Island University, Post SUNY College at Geneseo Green, Evelyn H Griesing, Jillian E Fordham University Fashion Institute of Technology Griesing, Julia S SUNY Plattsburgh Grigolava, Jessica A Grisafi, Gianna C SCCC. Ammerman Hallam, Jenna M Quinnipiac University Harrison, Jacob M St. Joseph's College - Long Island Campus Haug, Alexa Adelphi University Havemeyer, Justin C Binghamton University Hayle, Kristen M Hofstra University Hennessey, Alana R Herbst, Nicklaus R. Hamilton College Hewitt, Brianna A St. Joseph's College - Long Island Campus Hilderbrandt Jr, Gary W. SCCC, Ammerman Hilman, Amanda University of Maryland, College Park SCCC, Ammerman Hladky, Trevor L Hoffman, John L Providence College St. Joseph's College - Long Island Campus Hoffman, Nicholas J Horoszewski, Kristin SUNY College at Geneseo SUNY College at Cortland Hummel, Danielle Hunsucker Jr, Michael J SUNY College at Cortland Hutter, Richard A SUNY Maritime College SCCC. Ammerman Ianella, Jennifer N Iannuzzi, Vincent S Adelphi University Ilasi, Samantha V SUNY Albany Inigo-Tolentino, Ilyssa B. Farmingdale State College Iorizzo, Gabriella T Pace University, Westchester Campus Ioviero, Anthony H Employment SCCC, Ammerman Irwin, Grace A Johansson, Eric R. SCCC. Ammerman Johnston, Nicholas F Seton Hall University Jones, Zachary M Stony Brook University Juarez, Daniel SCCC, Western Campus Kachejian, Cole J SUNY Plattsburgh Kalaitzis, Yanna N Binghamton University Kamel, Rachel L Towson University Kearney, Ryan D Stony Brook University SUNY Buffalo State College Kelley, Caroline E Kellman, Carissa L Marist College Kennedy Augusta, Pearl SCCC, Ammermai SUNY College at Geneseo Kennedy, Madison M Kennedy, Maeve A SCCC, Ammerman Manhattan College Kezys, Kristina A Lovola University Maryland Kielmever, Regan E Killeen, Alicia M Mount Saint Mary College SCCC, Western Campus Killeen, Gabriella R Kinane, Patrick B. University of New Haven James Madison University Klee, James M SUNY College at Potsdam Knapp, James M Kral, Matthew S **SUNY Plattsburgh** Kuper, Kristen V University of Rhode Island Kupka, Brendan M SUNY Fredonia La Rocco, Olivia K Tulane University Lamardo Thomas D St. John's University LaMonica, Robert A LaSalle, Isabella E SCCC, Western Campus Lautande, Nicholas J Marist College Law, Samantha J SCCC, Western Campus Leinwand, Ryan E Binghamton University Licata, Margaret E The New School

Senior Destinations

Lopez, Anna **Employment** Lopez, Marianne E **Hofstra University** Lorefice, Gabrianna E Long Island University, Post Farmingdale State College Louissaint, Louisslande Lowd, Christian Stony Brook University Lubanski, Shane 1 Long Island University, Post Lumsden, Connor W Employment SUNY Oswego Luna, Jake T Lusak, Rebecca Johnson & Wales University (Providence) Roger Williams University Lvnch, Olivia M Farmingdale State College Maagad, Riz Neril A SUNY Plattsburgh Malandruccolo, Nicole M Manesis, Benito P Adelphi University Mango, Chloe M **SUNY College at Cortland** University at Buffalo SUNY Mansbart, Steven Maracina, Charlotte R **Belmont University** SCCC, Western Campus McAleavey, John P McCarthy, Lindsey Mollov College Meaney, Jake M SUNY College at Oneonta Meir, Lorenzo D **SUNY Albany** Mennella, Taylor R Hofstra University Michael, Brenna E SUNY College at Geneseo Michels, Jessica E University of Delaware Migliore, Michelle E St. Joseph's College - Long Island Campus Mignanelli, Taylor R **Hofstra University** Miller, Daniel J Fordham University Wilson Tech Minichini, Peter A Mirabile, Jillian E University of Michigan The University of Tampa Mitchell, Christopher M Moncada, Valerie L SUNY Buffalo State College Mora-Hurtado, Rachell A SCCC, Western Campus Moreno Cortez, Axel D Employment Moses, Shayna B University of Delaware Muellers, Nicholas Northeastern University Nacht, Jacob **New York University** SCCC, Ammerman Nathan, Brandon R SCCC, Ammerman Navarro Martinez, Allan Long Island University, Post Needham, Chloe I Nessler, Shannon E **Employment** Nichols, Nolan T. SCCC, Ammerman Nicolas, Meyca New York University Nieto, Alexandra M Northeastern University Sacred Heart University Nowak, Olivia R O'Brien, Eddie Q SCCC, Ammerman O'Brien, Eugene P SCCC, Ammerman O'Brien, Jaden M **Cornell University** O'Connor, Matthew. SCCC, Ammerman O'Keefe, Kelly M **Hunter Business School** O'Sullivan, Kathryn M Berklee College of Music Long Island University, Post Olson, Ethan S Opi Payne, Christiana T SCCC, Ammermar University of Michigan Ording, Anya M Otonoga, Dante **Employment** Owenburg, Emily P SUNY College at Geneseo Palhun, Volha University at Buffalo SUNY State University of New York at New Paltz Pandaleon, Kelly M State University of New York at New Paltz Paolillo, Jared W Parada, Andres M **Drexel University** Pasquarella, Isabella University of South Carolina Paulson, Madison Five Towns College Methodist University Pawlowski, John L Rochester Institute of Technology Pereira, Enrique L University at Buffalo SUNY Perri, Joseph S Petermann, Jason M Iona College Piccininni, Matthew J SUNY Plattsburgh Piraino, Nancy Sacred Heart University University of Central Florida Pirozzi, Jillian F State University of New York at New Paltz Pizarro, Raven A Pofcher, Jonathan E Rochester Institute of Technology University of South Carolina Portela, Alvse V Psarakis, Madeline I Carnegie Mellon University Northeastern University Quigley, Carly Rall, Jacqueline E State University of New York at New Paltz Stony Brook University Ramcharan, Ariana Raymundo, Rociel M Stony Brook University Hobart and William Smith Colleges Rebholz, Andrew J SUNY Albany Reuter, Erick Reyes, Jaimz Carl R Farmingdale State College

Revnolds, Mallory E

Riccardi, Ronald J

Rivera, Logan T

Quinnipiac University

Binghamton University

St. John's University

Rodriguez, Alexander J Roerden, Alex C Rogers Jr, James W Romanelli, Alexandra Rook, Lauren Rosen, Tara E Rosenberg, Alexandra N Rossano, Vincent J Rubinstein, Rachael H Russo Jr., Michael G Russo, Sophia A Sambach, Julia C Sancilio, Natalie R Sanger, Kyle J. Santoro, Alexandria M Sasso Jr., Dante D Scali, Gabrielle 0 Schaller, Corinne Y Schiavo, Nicolette M Schmidt, Isabella J Schmidt, James E Schneider, Katheryn A Schuchman, Matthew J Schulman, Zachary D Schwalb, Jaclyn B ScottoDiMaso, Christopher J Selem, Assem HHA Sestak, Thomas J Sheehan, Kyle D Sheehy, Connor R Sheridan, Tyler J Shott, Kaitlyn R Siles, Bianca N Sim, David E Simone, Christopher F Simone, Kylie Sklarin, Brandon N Smith, Andrew R Smith, Kathryn A. Smith, Kaylee R Solomon, Julia M Speicher, Tiffany L Staiano, Christopher J Stein, Andrew P Stein, Jennifer E Sternbach, Connor M Stevenson, Caroline J Stewart, Julie G Suris, Janine T Sweeney, Griffin P Syed, Sami H Tabatabai, Darya M. Thebaud, Rudy C Tockarshewsky, Matthew R Torres, Stephen J Tracy, Robert P Trebing, Taylor K IVERSITY Turano, Daniel G Unkenholz, Jillian (Van Nostrand, Julia C VanCott, Bryce A Varone, Stephanie Vencak, Cole R Ver Straten, Dorothy L Verdu, Robert M Vincenzi, Angelina Wahl, Jennifer A Walker, Christopher J Wang, Andy Watson, Rachel S Weiss, Michael R Weitemeyer, Matthew G Wellbrock, Hannah R Wengler, Ryan T White, Connor J Wong, Calvin Wu, Sikai Yaghinloo, Shahin Yoos, Alexa R Zamore, Troy M. Zarcone, Danielle M

Georgia Institute of Technology SUNY Delhi Vanderbilt University St. Joseph's College - Long Island Campus Hofstra University **Binghamton University** St. John's University Stony Brook University SCCC, Ammerman Pennsylvania State University Pace University, New York City Farmingdale State College SUNY College at Oneonta SUNY Albany **Drexel University** Union College Saint Leo University SUNY College at Oneonta University of Massachusetts, Amherst Siena College McDaniel College Fairfield University University of Chicago Loyola University Maryland Adelphi University **Binghamton University** SUNY Albany **Employment** Binghamton University James Madison University Methodist University **SUNY College at Cortland** SCCC. Western Campus **Emory University** Long Island University, Post Long Island University, Post Syracuse University SUNY Oswego SUNY Albany Marist College University of Massachusetts, Amherst St. Joseph's College - Long Island Campus SUNY College at Cortland **Drexel University** SUNY College at Geneseo **SUNY College at Cortland** SUNY Albany Wagner College University of Florida SUNY College at Brockport Hofstra University **Employment** Pennsylvania State University University of South Carolina SCCC, Ammerman SUNY Maritime College **SUNY College at Cortland** SCCC, Ammerman Stony Brook University Hunter College of the CUNY Hartwick College Long Island University, Post **Dominican College** St. Joseph's College - Long Island Campus SCCC, Ammerman College of Make-up Designory University of South Carolina SCCC, Ammerman SCCC. Ammerman High Point University Farmingdale State College SUNY College at Oneonta St. John's University SCCC, Ammerman SCCC, Ammerman

Stony Brook University

Stony Brook University

Farmingdale State College

The University of Tampa

Assumption College

John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the CUNY

Wreck-It Ralph 2: "Ralph Breaks the Internet"

By Isabella Celecia

Released on November 21, 2018, "Ralph Breaks the Internet," sends the audience into an abyss of nostalgia, bringing back the loveable duo—Wreck it Ralph and Vanellope von Schweetz—for yet another adventure.

Taking place six years after the first movie, ultimately making it present time, "Ralph Breaks the Internet" seamlessly ties in old characters and video game references from the previous movie, all while incorporating more modern ideas revolving around technology today— and even a comical cameo of the beloved Disney Princesses.

After the wheel on Vanellope's game, Sugar Rush, breaks, the owner of Litwak's' Arcade is forced to unplug the gaming machine; which ultimately results in all the characters in Sugar Rush needing to escape and seek shelter with other video game characters in the mini universe.

Desperate to help his best friend, Ralph comes up with the idea to "visit the internet" through Mr. Litwak's new plug in to find a new wheel for Sugar Rush. While entering the realm of the world wide web, the film plays homage to more relevant references in today's society, portraying the internet as its own city, full of towers of "Snapchat," "Ebay," "Amazon," "Instagram," and more.

Different from any other movie, especially for this kind of audience, "Ralph Breaks the Internet" introduces fresh motifs of insecurities and how they affect friendships. In short, when Ralph and Vanellope visit the game Slaughter Race to get some money to buy the wheel for Sugar Crush, Vanellope falls in love with not only the lifestyle of the online game, but begins to grow close with the main character of it, Shank; ultimately leading to tensions between the iconic duo as Ralph begins to become insecure, needy, and clingy— fearing that his friendship with Vanellope may be

In addition to this, "Ralph Breaks the Internet" does an impeccable job in creating a dynamic, unpredictable plot—mostly due to the fact that there were multiple, relatively big and important, problems within the film.

Although at times there were things that logically would not make sense, overall, the film does a beautiful job of engaging audience viewers of all ages.

Like almost every other childrens' movie, the film does incorporate the theme of "friendship," but its take on it (especially with the motif mentioned before) helps in avoiding triteness and introduces a new lesson rare to this niche.

Focusing the overall lesson on letting people go and being happy for them, rather than holding them back for your own happiness, this film reminds us: "best friends don't have to have the same dreams." Although this is a fresh, new idea for the little kids of 2018 to obtain from the movie, it also resentates with adults and even the teenagers going off to college who watched the first one six years back.

Overall, "Ralph Breaks the Internet" introduces a contemporary and shockingly real lesson for its audience. Finishing with a heartwarming, yet not overly sappy, ending that was able to even bring the grown man sitting next to me in the theater to tears, the film achieved being more than just another seguel movie



Mean Girls

Based on the 2004 movie starring Lindsay Lohan and Rachel McAdams, the new Broadway musical, Mean Girls, opened this past May. The show was nominated for 12 Tonys, but unfortunately took home none. While this show definitely isn't Tony material, with its mainly bubblegum pop soundtrack, it is certainly a blast to listen to.

During my first listen, I didn't think much of it. It took some liberties with the source material, which is completely unnecessary because the original movie is absolute gold and should be required viewing for anyone in middle school. Part of its charm now is the dated slang and clothes, which the musical, set in the present day, removed.

The music was alright the first listen, but the actors characterized their roles perfectly, with the exception of Erika Henningsen's take on Cady. The woman has talent oozing from her pores, but she played her a bit too quirky and enthusiastic rather than awkward or shy like in the movie but that has nothing to do with her acting ability, it's the writing. In songs like "It Roars" and "Stupid With Love", you have to be enthusiastic, those songs are supposed to be fun and cheesy.

One character change that I really enjoyed was what they did with Ashley Park's version of Gretchen. In the movie, she's simply just one of the Plastics, a loyal drone to the Queen Bee, Regina George. However, Park earned a Tony nomination for her performance, so you can imagine how she made her character far more three dimensional. Her character arc revolves around the issues that being friends with someone as cruel as Regina, mainly the self-esteem problems that stem from her mockery. "What's Wrong With Me?" could make any girl who's ever struggled with self image tear up at least a little bit, including yours truly.

Moving onto my favorite part of this show: Barrett Wilbert Weed as Janis lan.

The iconic actress known for playing Veronica in the off-broadway production of Heathers took on the most perfectly type-casted role in all of history. The fiercely snubbed actress somehow did not receive a Tony nomination for her performance, which is unfair in every sense of the word, "Revenge Party" and "Someone Gets Hurt (Reprise)" are masterpieces. Both of these songs fit Janis' style exceptionally, shifting into heavier music than the rest of the soundtrack.

Then there's the star everyone everyone expected to blow everyone away, Taylor Louderman as the eternal Spring Fling Queen herself, Regina George. Every single one of her songs carry an energy not unlike a classic Disney villain, just with more edge and badassery. "World Burn" and "Someone Gets Hurt" are powerful anthems for the seductively sinister or just those of us that like background music that just makes us feel like we're doing something cool for when we walk to class in silence.

Overall, the show isn't the next Les Miserables or Rent, but it's definitely just as fun to belt to an empty house whenever you're home alone, especially when playing the bad guy can feel so good as it does with this musical.

Reviews Michael Scott's Departure From *The Office*

After seven seasons of fun and laughter in the offices of Dunder Mifflin, Scranton branch manager Michael Scott (Steve Carell) leaves The Office. With the series star departure, it was for sure difficult for fans to watch.

Steve Carell's final episode of The Office, titled "Goodbye, Michael," proved to be a truly wonderful and extremely emotional farewell for one of television's most beloved characters. While the audience knew of it being Steve Carell's final episode, the actual implementation of that story felt, at time, lacking in both sincerity and hilarity. That is, of course, until

Michael revealed what was actually happening. Up until
this point. Michael had been going around the office

"Goodbye, Michael' was not his second to last day, it was Michael's final day at Dunder Mifflin. While it's almost certain that everyone explanation for Michael's ruse was never fully explained, so there were times when the subtle confusion of this world's best boss." plot aspect took away from the more emotional scenes although, not by much.

them (and the viewers watching), today was actually not his cocond to lost day it was Michael's final day at Dunder Mifflin. While it's almost certain that everyone watching felt their heart drop at this revelation, the

Personally disliking the non existent goodbye between Jim Halpert and Michael Scott, saving their goodbyes for lunch the next day, but knowing lunch wasn't happening, made me realize how hard this goodbye was for the both of them. However wishing at the same time that this goodbye could've taken action and been shown between these two great friends, makes me unhappy that it wasn't included within this goodbye episode. Obviously the scene between Jim (John Krasinski) and Michael was absolutely heartbreaking and extremely emotional to watch, I couldn't help but wish that there would have been more of that type of sentiment through- out. Even though Dwight (Rainn Wilson) did become choked up while reading Michael's letter of recommendation, and Pam (Jenna Fischer) beautifully swept in towards the end with her emotional farewell. which was one of the best parts, there was still an underlying feeling that the producers of The Office were trying to downplay Steve Carell's departure, in hopes that it would prove to the viewers that the series can continue without him.

Overall, watching this episode, as a big fan of the show and a big fan of all the characters, especially Michael Scott, this episode brought tears to my eyes as I was watching it with my family. Even with all of its faults, "Goodbye, Michael" was still a truly wonderful way to say goodbye to the world's best boss.

The Bachelor

Since 2003 The Bachelor has been running on ABC. Grouping 25 women together to have them fight over one man—pure genius. There is no question why The Bachelor has been running for 16 years. The inevitable drama that transpires makes for great entertainment. The audience is allowed to embark on the bachelors' journey to find true love. With many ups and downs throughout the season, the bachelor will hopefully end up finding the love of his life within eleven weeks and

Like I said, The Bachelor makes for great entertainment. Entertainment- that's all it is. If you're looking for anything more than a show that will be an enjoyable, drama filled 2 hours, then this is the wrong show for you.

You may feel your IQ dropping as you watch this. Most of these women are not on the show for the right reasons. They just want to be on TV. Their jobs include: content creator, Cinderella, sloth, model and more. They go on the show to gain popularity and a following, not to actually find love.

This show is reality TV, but how much of it is reality? It's no secret that The Bachelor is scripted, so how can anyone watch this show thinking any of it is real? Next time you watch a beautiful scene with two people developing a connection, think to yourself how many times they may have redone that scene. Think how much the producers have told them what to say or do. It's hard to think about this because everything looks so real. In the end these people are really just actors listening

I would be naive to think that every person on The Bachelor there for the wrong reasons. There are women realy looking for love, and they find it. By the eleventh week the bachelor has fallen deeply in love with one women and they get engaged, soon to be married. Well at least that is what's supposed to happen. This show has aired for 22 seasons and only 5 couples have actually gotten married. And only 1 couple has actuallasted. 1 couple!

Do these women not have an ounce of self-esteem or pride? The dreadful time they put themselves through just to be judged by one guy is dehumanizing. If they had any self-respect they would know that they can find a significant other without embarrassing themselves on national television. Can these gorgeous people really not find a significant other without the help of this show? It's honestly pathetic. I cringe so much while watching seeing how the producers make some of the

Being a 15 year old girl, I very much enjoy watching this show every week. Despite all of the facts, I know I still look forward to watching every Monday, and I know a lot of other people feel the same way. The bottom line is, The Bachelor gives people a 2 hour long escape from reality where they can be entertained. There's nothing more to it.



Poke Bowl

"Poke" in Hawaiian means to cut into pieces or "An absolute killer for to slice, and poke bowl is a traditional dish originated from ancient Hawaii. Today, Hawaiian poke bowls are usually mixed in with Japanese style, for the preference of modern the gourmands." people, the taste of this dish was consisted of both eastern and western flavors, bursting out a new cultural experience on your taste buds.

Where can you get a poke bowl? This would date back to the last October, when I was going to a Korean bbg restaurant, I spotted this "Iron Poke" next to it. Not knowing what it was, I decided to give it a shot next time. A couple days later, I went back and ordered a poke bowl. The ordering process was like a "Subway" store, but instead of large subway bread and chicken, we get to pick the "base" first. For the base, there are sushi rice, (Japanese would add a bit of vinegar in the grains so they taste sweet) brown rice, organic mixed green, and half and half. I chose sushi rice, cause I love the sweet taste of the white rice. Second, it's the "protein" section. There are tuna, spicy tuna, salmon, spicy salmon, shrimp, crab meat, grilled chicken, and organic tofu. For a large poke bowl, I got to pick 3 of them. As a huge salmon sashimi lover, of course, I would pick three salmon as protein. Next, are the mix-ins, sauce and toppings, where customers can pick your own additional ingredients to their customized poke bowl. In the large variety of seasonings and toppings, I chose soy sauce, honey wasabi, scallions, red onions, corn kernels, cucumber slices, and tobiko. The cook was very kind and polite all the time during the process, but he would mix all of the delicious nutritions in your poke bowl in front of you, which I found it very annoying, because I can't wait to enjoy it. Finally, the poke bowl is

It tasted like heaven. The sauce was absorbed by the sushi rice in just the right amount, and the seasoning well matches the fresh raw salmon meat. This customized poke bowl combination was perfectly tailor-made for my stomach. It is an absolute a killer for the gourmands.

A Girl Like Her

A Girl Like Her follows the friends and family of a teenage girl, Jessica Burns, and their reactions of Jessica attempting suicide. During this tragic time, a documentary filmer, named Amy, wants to record the school to capture the average public school experience. She is unaware of what has happened to the community, and shortly after arriving, the filmmaker realizes what has happened and has shifts her angle on her film to follow Jessica's story. With the use of found footage and a documentary-like style, "A Girl Like Her" creates a dramatic film that captures the average American teen and the hardships that occur in High Schools across the country.

A Girl Like Her is a sophisticated and emotional drama about America's teen bullying epidemic. The majority of the film is unscripted making certain scenes and conversations feel like you are in the conversation. One of these instances is Jessica's encounters with her bully. These encounters are filmed on a pin with a secret camera given to her by her friend. These conversations are genuine and emotional.

However, many aspects of this movie create inconsistencies in order to further the plot as a documentary; A Girl Like Her seems unrealistic in that the filmmaker is able to record specific situations that they would never be able to film in real life. Jessica's parents give the cameraman permission to record their conversations with the doctors at the hospital pertaining to Jessica. There are many instances of the film intruding on the teens' privacy. The cameraman hides behind a wall to record Jessica's best friend talking to a teacher. Not only is this instance an intrusion of the teen's privacy, but it is also an unrealistic scene. The microphone quality would seem as if you were sitting right next to the teacher. If this was a true documentary and miraculously they cameraman was able to get this shot, the microphone quality would not be that pristine in this type of situation, reminding us that it is a Hollywood movie and not a "...this movie captures genuine documentary.

One of the interesting aspects of the movie **common issues that** is that the filmmaker is focused more on the bully than the victim. The filmmaker does not want to expose the many teenagers have to bully, rather aid her to redeem herself and to become a better person. This allows the audience to not see the bully, Avery, as just a monster but allows the audience to **face every day."** see her side of the story and how this girl struggles with

By: Lily Davidson

The movie known as Us was an absolute masterpiece. It not only had a good story that was captivating and brought on many questions, but also good characters and casting, amazing sense of symbolism, and catchy but horrifying music.

Firstly, I would like to discuss the story, and why it may be deemed as confusing. The story follows an adult Adelaide Wilson and her family. As a child, at a far, Adelaide went to a fair with her parents. She went into a hall of mirrors maze, and saw an alternate version of herself. A spoiler here would be to say that she and the girl switched, so now the one living in a despair alternate place is now the one on the outside. This is figured out at the end of the film. As an adult, she and her family, consisting of her husband and her two children, move back to the town she grew up

Not long after they move in, they are approached by a family that looks very similar to them. However, they wear red outfits, and have golden scissors. In this scene, the antagonist family, with the leader of Red, also known as the mother in the family, explains her side of the story, which is a more twisted version of what the reality is. Her voice is deep and sounds like she has not spoken in ages. This was an absolutely chilling scene. Then, they start singling one another off with their underworld counterpart, becoming alone to "face their demon." With this, the main family escapes, and runs to their neighbors in order to get help. This is when you see that other alternate families exist and, unfortunately, their friendly neighboring family has lost their lives to at this point. Once the family of Adelaide moves onward, then you realize that a chaotic movement from the underground world is going on. Red and her family are leading it. Once they kill their counterpart off, that is when they can join the finished line. This line is consisting of the people all holding hands, like paper dolls, which were pictured in the beginning of the film. The paper dolls that were shown were red, and what cuts paper? Scissors; scissors cut paper. The symbolism in the movie proves to be very

Reviews **Pet Sematary**

The novel known as Pet Sematary, written by Stephen King, hit the shelves in 1983. It was then later turned into a horror film, which was then remade in the year of 2019. As I saw the first movie and then the remake very closely together, I could see similarities and sharp differences between the two.

To understand the similarities and differences, you first have to know the plot. When the movie starts, it shows a family of four moving from the city and into the countryside. The family consists of Luis Creed, who is the father, Rachel Creed, the mother, and their two children, Gage and Ellie Creed, along with their cat, Church. When they move in, that is when they meet their new neighbor, known as Jud Crandall, who has lived there seemingly forever. There is an interesting place in the back of the Creed's property, and this is where the "Pet Sematary" aspect comes into play, which the character Jud explains to mister Louis Creed. Louis also is a doctor, who happens to believe more in science than religious aspects, as seen when he comes in contact with a patient who was in a car crash that actually passes when under his care. This person comes back as a spirit in order to warn Louis and his family.



What causes the downfall of the entire cast essentially, is when their cat, Church, passes after being hit by a truck on a major road in front of their home. In the original and in the remake, Church is taken by Louis and Jud to the back of the pet sematary, which was before discovered by Ellie. This part of the cemetery, which has become almost a tribute to deceased pets. is on land in which used to belong to an Indian Tribe, and now has to do with the legend of the Wendigo.

There is a legend that says when you bring something or someone back from the dead, they are no longer the same. As seen in the film, people and animals come back more violent. The story has to do with how people conceive death. Rachel, who went through a traumatic past involving her sick sister passing away in front of her is afraid of death and all topics entailing it, as seen heavily related within the remake. Louis, who believes there is no afterlife, has his mind changed once he comes to the Pet Sematary. Their children can see the spirit that tried to warn Louis, and attempt to relay his message, but it happens to

When the cat comes back, it proves to be more violent and whenever Church is in the shot of the camera, it is able to be presumed that someone is about to get hurt. The movies differ in which child dies, however, but one of the children pass away regardless and it is because of the truck in the road, which happened to Church. In the original film, little Gage passes away, and in the remake, Ellie is the one who passes, and it is on her birthday. Both of the death scenes were incredibly upset-

What happens next, as expected, is the fact that Louis, overwhelmed with sadness, goes to bring his child back. Rachel leaves to stay with her parents with the remaining child during this time, as she said she had needed space. This is when Louis brings back the other child, disregarding information in which Jud told him, warning him, after Church came back from the

Immediately after the deceased child comes back, they begin to act strange and more violent. Rachel and the other child come home, and are horrified by the fact that their child is back.

In the remake of Pet Sematary, Rachel avoids her daughter and tries to escape her immediately, as Ellie attempts to attack her rather quickly. Jud is killed off the day the child comes back. The remake showcased a different death scene for Jud, which was interesting and took the audience off guard. At the end of the remake, Gage is the only remaining Creed, and is locked in a car. You see the fully deceased family walk up to the car, and they stare at him through the windows. That is when the film ends. In the original, Rachel is brought back by Louis, out of grief, once again, after killing Gage again. When this happens, Rachel attacks and kills him, and that is how the movie ends. In the original, Ellie stayed with her grandparents and did not come home with her mother when they were killed.

Though there were distinct differences, the movies were obviously very similar and came close to the same result in the end. Both movies were well thought out, as they were based off of the novel and had been making a phenomenal story.



10

Why I Shaved My Head

The first time I heard the word "cancer"

I was about six or seven years old, attentively listening to my mother as she explained my grandfather's diagnosis. It

"Growing up surrounded by such strong survivors in my life has given me a different perspective."

was lung cancer. He died a little over a year later. The next time the word "cancer" came into my life was right before starting third grade. This time my mother was telling me about her own diagnosis—breast cancer at the age of thirty five; but unlike her late father, she would beat it. As if the violent cycle would never end, the next time I heard the word "cancer" I was in fifth grade. This time it was my aunt, who despite beating breast cancer almost a decade prior, had been told the disease had come back again. We spent all summer upstate with her and her family, supporting her through the chemo, helping her through the restless nights, giving her hope to stay strong—all until she finally beat the sickness as well.

The most recent time I heard the word "cancer" was about two years ago—but this time it wasn't necessarily a bad thing. Starting in September of 2016, my mother was transferred to another elementary school to teach. Shortly into the school year, the buzz about St. Baldrick's started up, and my mother was told about the school's involvement with the organization, learning about a big fundraising day they did every year in which donated baskets were raffled off, students donated hair, and some even shaved their heads all to raise money for research for childhood cancer. Amazed by the sense of community from this event at her school, my mom decided to join in and shave off her hair that very year.

Inspired by watching my mother shave her head and the St. Baldrick's Foundation itself, I also made the decision to shave off my hair the following year, and plan to participate in the head shaving event for the second time this upcoming March. Despite this being my second year as a shavee, I still get questions on why I would do such a thing and pleads to "just skip this year"; but to me, it is not that simple.

Growing up surrounded by such strong survivors in my life has given me a different perspective. Seeing my mother continue to work and cook and clean and make sure the kids got to school, all while fighting for her life, has shown me a level of human strength that can simply not be described in words. Seeing my aunt lose her hair and rush to the bathroom to cover her bald head in the company of visitors, all while pushing through immense exhaustion and pain, showed me that hair has no value to the person. Rather, her hairless head radiated nothing but beauty and power so great it could hardly be fathomed by the human mind.



With this personal insight on cancer and what it does to the body, it can only be imagined how much strength, wisdom, and courage can be packed into such a tiny body facing the same hardships. That is why the St. Baldrick's Foundation has become such an important part of my life. With about almost 16,000 children between infancy and 19 years of age being diagnosed with cancer in the United States alone (ACCO), the fact that pediatric cancer is one of the most underfunded cancers—with only 4% of federal funding going towards it (St. Baldrick's)—is unacceptable.

Not only is childhood cancer research underfunded, but it has greater long term effects than almost any other cancer; meaning that even if a child is cured, it is very likely that they will face even more health problems down the road such as infertility, and even become more likely to die from heart problems or future cancers when they get older. This is why research for pediatric cancer specifically is a necessity. In the same way that you wouldn't give a child the same menu at a restaurant as an adult, a child cannot simply receive the same treatments and therapies as adults—even if they have the same type of cancer.

Furthermore, this is why organizations like the St. Baldrick's Foundation depend on civilian support to help. Whether you raise money hands on through fundraisers, shaving your head, or even just by donating \$5, all money donated to the foundation aids in bettering the lives for the children of both today and the future that will face childhood cancer. After a donation is made, your money will be used to fund research on new, innovative ways to treat different forms of pediatric cancer through grants, as well as sponsor and support individual children with cancer

To register for or even create your own head shaving event, simply go to www.stbaldricks.org. At the same website, you can donate any amount you would like, as well as choose to donate in general (either one time or recurring monthly), or look up a specific shavee you would like to donate to, with all proceeds going directly to the organization. By working together, one day we will find the cure.



Editorials An Insight Into the Rose Bowl Parade

y: Isabella Celeci

Every New Year's Day, the Rose Bowl Parade captivates not just the nation—but the world. Known for its floats completely covered in organic materials, this parade helps in kicking in the New Year, with about 700,000 people physically attending to spectate and millions of viewers worldwide watching as the bands, floats, horses, and more move down Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena, California. But how do national television networks prepare to broadcast the celebration for Americans all the way to the east coast?

Although coordinators and directors specifically for the Rose Bowl Parade begin to plan for the spectacle at the start of every year, NBC begins to plan their personal broadcast up to three months before the event. Within that time, the script for television personalities Hoda Kotb and Al Roker are written out, crews are booked, staff is hired, the budget is created, and weekly production meetings are held to make sure everything is on task.

Due to the parade being a large event with coverage on all sorts of media—from Funny or Die, to local Los Angeles news channels, to national networks—a great deal of planning and putting things together is done relatively last minute.

Within a week before the Rose Bowl Parade, the side streets around Colorado Boulevard and open lots begin to fill with production trucks, cameras, microphones, and more. New York teams from NBC fly over and meet up with NBC teams based in Los Angeles, yet fluently work as if they spend all year together. Before you know it, everyone—from audio, to tech members, to directors and more—begins to cram inside the truck and get to work in preparation for the big day.

Before January 1st, cameras, music, and microphones are tested, graphics are created, and the script is even read over by Kotb and Rocker at a round table full of employees with different roles—all to be critiqued and edited just three days before the actual Rose Bowl Parade. Along with this, due to the fact that all organic materials are real, the set that the hosts stand on is fully decorated with an array of flowers the day before so they don't die before the show.

Once New Year's Day arrives, everyone has to wake up at 4 am—which in turn resulted in the celebration of a New York New Year's Eve the night before—and get to the set for final preparations before the big show. As the performers for the parade practice their songs, crew members scurry around as graphics for the just released winning floats have to be built, and all audio and cameras are retested for absolute certainty.

Finally, as the millions of viewers are enjoying the Rose Bowl Parade with nothing but cheer, the atmosphere inside the production truck is slightly different, to say the least. For two straight hours directors yell for camera changes,

commercials are decided practically in the moment, tech members make sure that everything is going smoothly, and crew members take down times and save clips for any instances in the hopes to televise floats that the viewers may have missed during breaks; all creating an event that can cause anxiety and an adrenaline rush just for an observer—but nevertheless shows not only a strong sense of teamwork, but the dedication, passion, and talent the employees at NBC have to bring this event to homes across the country.



The Signs You Are Not Aware Of

Childhood should be a fun and adventurous time, a time when you are not afraid to explore and create, and essentially, run freely. At home and at school is where you develop and you flourish, feeling safe, loved, and generating how to become a human and function in our society. This, however, is not the case for all, and for some, is quite the opposite of what they receive.

In a class in which we do year long research here at Smithtown

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"At home and at school is where

High School West, also known as AP Capstone Research, I wanted to study child abuse and how it is registered in their art. I also wanted to look at what can be done to help young abuse victims and possibly save them from the situations in which they have been unfortunately been violently and wrongfully thrown into.

I began to set up a bunch of interviews and questionnaires in order to get teacher, student, and therapist opinions on an important thought. My thought was to introduce art therapy into school systems. Art therapy is actually very useful for those who create, and what better people to do this with than creative young children and adolescents? Art therapy could be extremely beneficial, and, as I noticed in the interviews I did and the questions I had asked art teachers in the district who have dealt with troubled children, I am not the only one who believes so.

Mental health is important. Showing children, from a young age, that their voice matters, is extremely important. Within children's work in which the child is abused, many signs are visible to the viewer. This was discovered within an organization known as Amigos For Kids, in which they showcase children's artwork that display these signs, and they explain them. I mentioned to different teachers, if they received training in order to detect these early stages of abuse in childhood and most say that training regarding signs in artwork does not exist. In this, some of the signs have been noted to be, but are not limited to: no mouth or if there is one, it has sharp teeth, missing limbs, drawn with little color, and the figure may appear immensely sad or may also be floating. Children who create these have been told to be easily irritated or upset, as they are extremely emotional. They tend to possibly be violent with words or actions as well. Now, this does not always mean that a child is absolutely being abused or neglected, but these signs should be further looked into and be evaluated.

From the information which I have collected, I have concluded, thus far, that many believe that art therapy would be beneficial. I anonymously interviewed students as well, and most of them agreed with the statement. It also showed me that not many people know the abuse signs shown in art, and simply say that it would be easier if the child say it or physically showed it. That is extremely difficult for children to do, however, the fact that a few people had said this in my questionnaire, was concerning to me. Also, a few people did not know what art therapy even was. The school system has taught us other forms of therapy, but we have never learned of art therapy. Art therapy would be beneficial, as it would allow students to

The Responses of Varying Phone Policies in Schools

By: Sarah Finkleste

Imagine your life without a cell phone in your pocket: Everyday activities would become a hassle. Parents wouldn't have constant contact with their children. Instead of a simple google search, you would need to spend hours at the library to find information. Phones have transformed what it means to be connected to others; they are an amazing tool that allows messages to get across the world in an instant. Cell phones have become a necessity for everyone in the modern age. But what about in schools? Schools across the country have varying policies regarding this controversial topic, with no consistency. Each district has the freedom to create its own guidelines and expects all staff and students to follow them. These varying policies give way to many questions: Do phones only distract students? Should teachers have the right to take away cell phones and other electronic devices? Most importantly, if a school takes away or searches a student's phone, is it considered an infringement to their right to privacy? State-level policies could shed a light onto what is considered unjust to students and what policies should be instituted for phone usage regulations. Responses

"Strict phone policies are not only unpopular by most students, but many also are non-productive and result in legal disagreements."

The fourth amendment states that Americans are granted the right to privacy, however, in a public institution, like a school some of these rights are modified in order to ensure the safety of faculty and students. New York City was one of the many places with strict cell phone regulations. For

nearly a decade, phones were completely banned on school grounds. However, when this was lifted, schools were responsible for creating their own policies. These policies varied greatly and it was unclear what specific protocols were required or not allowed. In 2015, The New York Civil Liberties Union issued a statement claiming that there should be a universal code regarding cell phone usage and the procedures necessary for phone searches to be just. They also stated that unneeded security confrontation occurred more frequently under the strict phone policies. The new rules resolved these confrontations and are necessary in order to comply with the fourth amendment.

Strict phone policies are not only unpopular by most students, but many also are non-productive and result in legal disagreements. The ACLU is following two schools; one in Washington state and one in Mississippi. These two schools are under fire for their phone policies causing disturbances in education for their students. In DeSoto County, Mississippi, 12-year-old student from Southhaven Middle School had his phone confiscated for simply looking at it during gym class. His phone was searched and the information found had him expelled from the school.

Under current laws, schools are able to search phones only if they have reasonable suspicion that a student is either breaking the law or the specific policies of the school. However, in this case, the student was caught for a minor infraction and the photos found on his phone were deemed innocent by the ACLU. Should the information found on the be capable of incriminating a student if the photograph was not taken on school grounds? The ACLU believes that the case of Morse v. Frederic in 2007, states that students do not shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or due process at the school gate. The school, by the code of conduct instituted by the school, was justified in taking the phone. However, they did not have any suspicion that a phone search was necessary to clear the student's name. The ACLU believes that this search was unconstitutional and should not have happened. Other instances such as this one have occurred across the country and many of these resulted in legal action against the school. Strict phone regulations in schools directly correlate to the number of privacy lawsuits placed upon a school.

Non-conservative school policies tend to not have as many lawsuits, however, the education of these students is compromised. Cell phones cause students to get distracted in class easily and enable them to disengage in social interactions. If a student in class is using their phone, they are not engaging in the class discussion or doing the work assigned to them. Face-to-face social interactions are also lost due to phones. Students do not speak to one another in the hallways frequently. They are more likely than not to be looking at their phones scrolling to social media or listening to music. With lose school phone policies, it is up to the students to be responsible for their phone usage. Despite this, there are positive attributes to having cell phones in class. Many schools use cell phones and other electronic devices to create interactive lessons with students; these assignments allow for students to feel more involved in their learning.

One solution to this problem is to institute a universal model policy, like The New York Civil Liberties Union proposed in NYC. This would allow schools with non conservative policies to have more structure, and show schools with strict policies what is permitted. There are many benefits to cell phones. They can be used for educational purposes, they can be used for emergencies, and they can be used to keep parents and children connected in their day-to-day routine. However, this availability should be limited and unrestricted use should be controlled. Students need to learning in the classroom, not on their phones. This does not mean that they should not be able to carry them on school grounds. In case there is an emergency or if a student wants to search something on the internet, they should be able to have their phones out, when it is appropriate. In contrast, conservative policies are not perfect as well. Some schools have taken their power too far and have been infringing on students 4th amendment right to privacy. A more moderate phone regulation policy could shed a light to both extremes what is necessary and what should be stopped in schools.

Editorials one Bon Iver

By: Jenna Hallam

Most people will probably say they've never heard of the band name Bon Iver (and are almost guaranteed to mispronounce it at first glance), however, it is more than likely that you've heard their music through either movie soundtracks, radio, or the dozens of collaborations they've been apart of. Bon Iver (Bone-ee-VARE) is primarily established as an indie folk band on most platforms of media, but are almost overwhelmingly diverse and experimental as one group could possibly be. Multi-instrumentalist, singer, songwriter, and producer, Justin Vernon, stands as the face of Bon Iver which began in 2009 with the self-released album, For Emma, Forever Ago.

Following the breakup of long time band and girlfriend, Vernon travelled alone to an isolated cabin in the dead of winter where he poured himself into creating the sentimental folk album. Appearing almost out of nowhere, For Emma, Forever Ago received immediate positive acclaim and "became one of the landmark albums of the late 2000s indie folk sound" (Apple Music). The song "Skinny Love" became a particular fan favorite and remains their most recognizable song to this day.

Three years later with the release of Kanye West's arguably greatest album, My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy (2010), Bon Iver shares a strong collaboration on the track "Lost in the World." He's also featured along with Nicki Minaj, Jay-Z, and Rick Ross, on "Monster". Back in an interview in 2016, West hailed Vernon to be his favorite living artist. "I love Justin the way Kanye loves Kanye,' he told BBC Radio 1's Annie Mac." Vernon and West have since worked on multiple collaborations together including another fan favorite with Francis and the Lights on the song "Friends" (2016). The three of them later created a music video for the track.

A year after the release of My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy, Vernon followed up For Emma with a second self titled experimental/indie/folk album proving his talents were far from beginners luck. The album was nominated and won the Grammy for Best Alternative Music Album in 2012 along with Vernon also winning best New Artist. Their music has since been included on multiple film soundtracks throughout the years including The Twilight Saga: New Moon (2009) which features "Roslyn", The Place Beyond the Pines (2012): "The Wolves (Act I and II)", Rust and Bones (2012): "Wash" and "The Wolves (Act I and II)", Paper Towns (2015): "Re: Stacks", and more.



Vernon is an artist who creates music for the pure enjoyment and emotional impact of sound. He's one of the most humble musicians in the industry. For instance, although he was extremely honored for the recognition, he almost didn't attend the Grammy's because he doesn't particularly believe in being rewarded for making music. "...this publicity tornado that seems to follow people around... there's certain things that you're asked to do that just don't feel very good... I think it's more independent and feeling to be doing what I'm doing and be free from any of the pathways that seem to be the only way you can be successful in this industry" (QTV 2011).

Despite a long five year break, Bon Iver finally released their third official album, 22, A Million. Vernon needed five years, three of them intensely focused on the writing, production and perfection of of the album. 22, A Million is so musically distant from past albums but is consistent with the use of experimental sounds from all mediums. It focuses predominantly on the use of electronic vocals and instrumental ranges, once again proving Vernon's immense talents. 22, A Million was nominated for Best Alternative Music Album at the 2017 Grammys.

Bon Iver has since not released any big project productions but just this month they put out two new songs titled "Hey, Ma" and "U (Man Like)" which can be found on all streaming platforms. Additionally, in more recent months, Vernon has been seen entering the hip-hop realm. Though he's had past collaborations with rappers over the years including other big names not mentioned earlier, Travis Scott and Joyner Lucas, Bon Iver can be found on Eminem's 2018 album, Kamikaze, on the track "Fall" and in Creed II: The Album on "Do You Need Power."

As hidden as Vernon may keep himself in the world of publicity, his reputation and credits in the industry are profound. Between their constant tours and sudden features, Bon Iver will continue to stick around and spread their influence. as subtle as it may be.

Deep Fakes: The Future's Battle

By: Alexis Sklarin

What if one day you come across a video on twitter of Donald Trump saying that he is about to launch a nuclear bomb on North Korea? This video of Trump goes viral within minutes, probably even seconds, and Kim Jong-un gets word of it immediately. So, in counterattack, Kim Jong-un launches his nuclear bombs on the US, and suddenly we're in the midsts of a nuclear war.

Now, what if I told you Trump never said those words that you heard in the viral video? He never said he wanted to launch a nuclear bomb, but you saw and heard him say it, right? Well, you actually didn't hear him say that. Instead you saw a video called a "deen fake"

A deep fake is an artificial intelligence-based human image synthesis technique. It is used to combine and superimpose existing images and videos onto source images or videos using a machine learning technique called a "generative adversarial network" (GAN). The combination of the existing and source videos results in a fake video that shows a person or persons performing an action at an event that never occurred in reality. (Wikipedia)

So, what about that video that caused the nuclear war to occur? Some random person made it. This may seem far fetched now, but it's not

According to Oscar Shwartz of The Guardian, there was an incident in May where a video appeared on the internet of Trump offering advice to the Belgium people saying, "As you know, I had the guts to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement... and so should you." This provoked hundreds of comments, many expressing outrage towards our president. But this anger was misdirected. This speech was nothing more than a hi-tech forgery.

Is there a way to cease the dilemma of deep fakes?

Honestly, the answer is probably, no. With this technology now available to your average person, this will be hard to stop. And do we really need to stop it?

Though some may say no, the answer is yes. The amount of danger and trouble that can arise because of these deep fakes is alarming. Some may argue that no real trouble can occur, but this is not accurate. Just the examples above is enough of a reason to be afraid of deep fakes.

Deep fakes—the war waiting to happen; the battle of the future. Though advanced technology has many benefits, there are many dangerous downfalls, such as this.

Sports

Goodbye, Kristaps

By: Trever Ellich

Kristaps Porzingis was once the star of a young Knicks franchise on the up and up waiting for their time to enter the title scene. This was until Porzingis went down with a torn ACL leaving him heartbroken and unable to compete in the NBA all star game. This eventually led to a Knicks rebuild as the franchise traded Carmelo Anthony to the Thunder. This move was the beginning of a new era in Knicks basketball. The new look Porzingis-less Knicks proceeded to go 10-41 without the superstar and this didn't sit well with the Porzingis camp. Seeing no future within the franchise, the all-star and member of the 2016 all rookie team was fed up and requested a trade. This led to his being moved to the Mavericks.



The trade package included Dennis Smith, Wesley Matthews, and Deandre Jordan and two future first round selections for Courtney Lee, Tim Hardaway, Trey Burke, along with Porzingis himself. This trade paired future Hall of famer Dirk Nowitzki with prodigy Kristaps Porzingis to form what some are calling the "European exchange". This trade has been widely regarded, but many disagree on the outcome. Here are the pros and cons of the decision that shocked the basketball world

PROS: By trading Porzingis and shedding Hardaway Jr. and Lee's salaries, the New York Knicks will have up to \$74.6 million available in cap space for the 2019 offseason. This means they now have the money to sign one of the bigger free agents including Durant, Kyrie Irving, and Kemba Walker.

There are many All-Stars to choose from, all of whom can impact the Knicks for years to come and put them in playoff position. Of course, Porzingis was seen as one of those players, but he is no longer available and thus the knicks must move on. Also, before this trade, the Knicks did not have enough money to offer Durant a \$38 million max deal. Now they do, officially making this a destination for the two-time NBA champion in free agency, pending his departure from the Golden State Warriors. It's an incredible number that puts this organization in prime position to make a big splash in free agency.

Another pro is trading someone that did not want to stay. This has been a trend in the NBA with top players expressing unhappiness in their respective situations and seeking out. Paul George did this with the Indiana Pacers, Kawhi Leonard with the San Antonio Spurs, and Kyrie Irving with the Cleveland Cavaliers. This placed the New York Knicks in the same position of teams before them. Porzingis playing next season and beyond would have been terrific for the Knicks, aligning with a top draft pick and whoever signs in free agency. Now, New York has a broader focus for the 2019 offseason, when they can acquire players that want to play at Madison Square Garden and work with Knox, Robinson and the remaining talent. It potentially creates a more positive environment, although trading the team's superstar isn't exactly the best for their team.

CONS: The New York Knicks only had Porzingis available for two-and-a-half seasons, last playing as a 22-year-old. It was hardly enough time to see what he could contribute, especially after just 48 games as the leading man in 2017-18, followed by the torn ACL. So another con of this trade is



the knicks never saw Porzingis' potential. Beyond that, the Knicks were unable to witness the 7-foot-3 Latvian's continued growth as a star and what he could have brought to New York basketball. Before the ACL, Porzingis averaged 22.7 points and 6.6 rebounds per game in 2017-18. It was just tapping into his potential, with higher totals possible down the line. Who knows, maybe he could have matched Dirk Nowitzki, who averaged 26.6 points per game or higher for consecutive seasons. Instead, the Knicks will be left with "What if?" especially if Porzingis plays upon arrival in Dallas. That would make this gut-wrenching and frustrating for Knicks fans, for however long he stays in the NBA.

Everything changed for the Knicks on Thursday, Jan. 31. Whatever is next, after this groundbreaking trade, will be interesting to see. The New York Knicks can sign two players to max contracts in free agency. That's clear. What's not, however, is how the Knicks will sell All-Stars seeking a new destination this offseason. As of this trade, the Knicks have a 10-40 record, the NBA's worst mark in years since the Vancouver Grizzlies. Porzingis was their best player. Now, he's gone, and there's no top name to take the crown the likes of Melo and Ewing left. Basically, the Knicks can sell the players on the city and whichever young talent sticks around from 2018-19 (Dennis Smith Jr) and whoever they select in the 2019 NBA Draft, depending if that pick sticks with the organization after July 1(Anthony Davis?).

If the Knicks choose first in the draft, Zion Williamson's upside offers a selling point for free agents, even as an 18-year-old that never played an NBA game. After that, questions exist from the roster's top to bottom with no real depth at any position. Can the Knicks persuade someone enough to make this franchise their team and take them to the promised land? LeBron James had that with the Los Angeles Lakers, so New York must seek someone with those interests, such as Durant but even that's no guarantee. The Knicks are going all in on free agency and that could lead to colossal failure or a championship New York fans have been waiting for since Ewing.

Should Fans Be Allowed to Distract Opposing Teams?

By: Sabrina Ingrisano

Isn't sportsmanship a part of being a good athlete? Should the fans be a part of the game? Is distracting the opposing team against the rules? How much can the home team fans distract the away team and it still be considered fair?

Arizona State has a method called the "Curtain of Distraction", two students pull apart a black curtain and inside is something to distract the player of the opposing team during a free throw. Inside could be twerking farm animals, a shirtless guitarist, kissing unicorns, or an old lady yelling at you to get off her lawn. This action has led to Arizona State having an extra one to two point lead at home games, according to the New York Times.

To the home teams, this is a very clever idea because you have your school supporting you, cheering for your team. When you have a "Curtain Of Distraction", your team has the advantage which could lead to your team having the extra one or two points and winning the game.

This doesn't just happen in basketball, it happens in all sports. Tom Brady, the quarterback of the New England Patriots, was up against the Kansas City Chiefs during the AFC championships. According to Complex, "After the Chief's overtime loss to the New England Patriots, a local Kansas City television reported that a mysterious green laser was flashed in the eyes of the Patriots' quarterback. This prompted the Chiefs to review their personal film to help the NFL identify the person(s) responsible."

It also states, "This is not the first time NFL fans have used high-powered lasers to distract the opposing team's players... According to several sources, the light when shined directly at an unsuspecting person could cause irreversible eye damage." If you are a fan pointing a laser at an athlete's eye during a game, the player could lose his eyesight and won't be able to play ever again.

When you're an athlete on the visiting team and are taking the free throw and you start seeing a shark attack or the return of Elvis, the distraction could cause the player to mess up the shot and prevent them from winning the game, moving ahead in the playoffs or winning a championship.

It may seem like it's all in good fun helping your team win, but when you look back at the situation, interfering with the natural flow of the game with a "Curtain of Distraction" or a laser compromises the safety of players (and possibly fans) and could end a sport professional's career.

At the end of it all, how good does it really feel to win a game that wasn't fair to both teams?

Get Rid of Ties in the NFL

By: Matthew Page

A game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and Cleveland Browns in week one of the 2018 NFL season was reaching its ending. The Browns had scored a touchdown to tie the game inside the two minute warning and the game needed an overtime, which was recently changed from 15 to 10 minutes. The teams exchanged scoreless drives throughout the period, including a missed field goal for each team that could've won the game. After the Browns missed their last minute field goal, the game officially went down as a rare tie. The following week the Minnesota Vikings and Green Bay Packers tied their game at Lambeau Field

This was the first pair of tied game since the Bengals and Redskins met up in London during week 8 of the 2016 season, and the first pair under the 10 minute overtime format. The result was a mixed conversation on whether 10 minute overtimes can result in more ties. The idea of ties to end a game, albeit a rare occurrence, is not ethical enough in a league of wins and losses, and the NFL should look for new overtime rules from other leagues or internal solutions to end the trend of ties

If the NFL eventually desires to change the overtime format, it could look at its NCAA counterpart for ideas. To start overtime a coin toss is done to determine who gets the first possession of the period starting on the offensive 25 yard line. Both teams will have the chance to score a field goal or a touchdown, with the coin toss winner going first. The game ends once a period of both teams on offense is over and there is a leader. If there is a touchdown, field goal, or no score by each team, the game will continue until a period ends with a leader. Also, there is no game clock other than a play clock, meaning players can take their time between plays. These rules can increase the thrill of the game with exchanged scores throughout the overtime and a higher scoring ballgame overall than a game that ends in regulation. A prime example of this thinking was a 2018 game with LSU and Texas A&M, which ended regulation 31-31, ending after 7 overtimes with a 74-72 A&M victory. As a result, taking up similar rules can increase scoring and lead to more exciting games and an extra session that will leave fans on the edge of their seats.

Although the NFL made this change due to player safety, there are other methods the league could use to avoid ties and keep players in mind. For example, the NFL could move back to a 15 minute period of overtime, but you could put extended breaks between regulation and the first kick of OT, or the league could split the extra session into 7:30 halves and between halves provide an opportunity for the players to catch their breath.



In the NFL's defense, today's overtime is a fair format that is safe and easy to understand. The use of 10 minutes is great for the players because if teams have an upcoming short week, or are playing on Sunday and Thursday, it can prevent players from getting hurt or being fully worn out in the next game. Also, the idea of less time could lead to more aggressive, exciting play styles that could make overtimes better for fans to watch. In a league of player safety, this could be a solution to wearing players out on short weeks. In addition, this trend may prove to be a fluke and games will end before the ten minutes run out. However, if the trend of recent ties continues, the NFL could always find external solutions such as taking up a college football overtime format, or creating a completely new one from scratch that can increase the chance of having a winner and loser and provide means of player safety. As a result, there should not be any ties in the NFL, and if ties continue to appear in the NFL should look to the NCAA for idea to change overtime or develop a new system that provides enjoyment to watch and player safety.