



April 2022



VOLUME LIV

Sword & Shield

JAMES MADISON MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT NEWSPAPER



// *Oscars Review*

// *Taylor Swift Faces Backlash From Fans After Adopting a Dog*

// *Cross Country: The Easiest of All High School and Professional Sports*

// *Spotlight: Memorial's Wonderful Venting System*

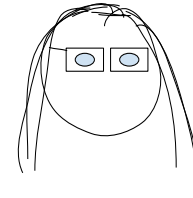
// *Queen Celebrates 70 Years of Blood Sacrifices*

// *Memorial is the Richest School in Wisconsin!*

Happy April!

Hi Spartans!

Thanks for checking out the April Issue! We are Olivia and Sophia, the Student Life editors. Contrary to the previous issues, what you are about to read is mostly satire, which means that these articles use humor in the spirit of April Fool's and are not meant to be offensive in any way. All satire articles will be clearly indicated before the respective articles. We hope you have a good laugh and enjoy reading the paper! Happy reading!



Sophia Jiang & Olivia Zhu

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What's happening THIS MONTH at JMM?

- 1 — No School- Spring Break/ April Fool's Day
- 2 — ACT Test
- 3 —
- 4 — School Resumes; Beginning of 4th Quarter
- 5 — Spring Election
- 6 —
- 7 —
- 8 —
- 9 —
- 10 —
- 11 —
- 12 — ACT/ASPIRE Test (9/10 only)
- 13 —
- 14 —
- 15 —
- 16 —
- 17 — Easter
- 18 — Tax Day
- 19 —
- 20 —
- 21 —
- 22 —
- 23 —
- 24 —
- 25 —
- 26 —
- 27 —
- 28 —
- 29 —
- 30 —

WANTED

The Sword and Shield is currently looking for editors for the 2022 - 23 school year. Please send an email to Teri Parris Ford (tparrisford@madison.k12.wi.us) if you have any questions or would like the application form emailed to you directly.

1. Fill out this form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQfe2c-d20FFbfwiZGn7jHh-VUALERh2NmQH6E0OvL9TJTTe1g/viewform?usp=sf_link
2. Please note your qualifications in the form, include your interest in writing, editing, experiences in English classes or other publications, and participation (if any) in layout.
3. All applicants should have submitted at least 2 articles for the past year (but not required). Applications are due Monday, May 2nd, 2022 at 11:59pm! . Positions will be announced at the end of May or top of June with a meeting will be scheduled late in June. New editors will be expected to work during the summer to have the first issue ready for September 2022.

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STUDENT LIFE

FRESHMAN ADVICE

SATIRE By Bill Chen and Patrick Yu

As the new fish of the sea, us freshmen have little to learn. We already have everything figured out because we're independent mature young adults, but even the best of us need advice and that's what I'm here for. My first piece of advice is to not focus on your classes at all. See education isn't important at all, what's more important is being able to do the latest TikTok dances. TikTok is 10 times more important than school, did Charli E'Armadillo get famous through school? Nooooooo, she got famous through TikTok, this is why TikTok is so much better than school. Now, my second piece of advice is to become popular. When you're popular, grades don't matter anymore, not like they mattered in the first place. If you're popular, all colleges will accept you, no matter what grades you have or what extracurriculars you do. Mmmmmmmhfff, I can already smell the scholarships flowing in. Speaking of extracurricular activities, don't join any clubs. A wise person once said "Extracurricular has the word extra in it, don't be extra". We should all live by that quote. My next piece of advice is to always be late for class, if we get to class late our teachers give us a tardy correct? Since tardy starts with t, and if you make a t with your hands, that means you want a timeout, so I think instead of giving us a tardy the first time we do it, we get 3 timeouts in the first semester, and 3 timeouts in the second, just like the NFL. Woah, connections! Wait, if everyone is always late to class, then maybe the school will give us more passing time, so instead of talking to your friends for only 2 minutes in the hall we might get 4 minutes to chat!!!! Parents always want you to socialize and make new friends in high school, but socializing is overrated, just like (Mid)dleton. Everyone makes a big deal out of grades but are they really that important? Grades just tell you how well you're doing in a class and if you're actually focusing class, but didn't I say that we don't need to focus in class. So instead of worrying over grades we should instead be worrying about how many likes we get on TikTok. Back to classes because that's what people say is the most important, what you should be worrying about is if you have any F's in any classes. F stands for fresh and

you always want the freshest fits, now when you get an F on your test, you can just tell your parents that you're half-way there! At least you tried right? Since the school makes you go to bridge week if you have a D or F, you can just tell your parents that bridge week is for a very advanced engineering class where you build bridges and study them. Have you ever heard people say "Life is unfair" or "You don't get everything you wish for"? Well, life can be fair and you can get everything you wish for if you complain. Complaining is so fun!!!! You get to annoy people and make them hate you at the same time, what a deal! Wait, is that a reason that upperclassmen try to avoid us? Or is it because we're too cool? I think it's because we're too cool. Freshman are really the best out there and will always be the best, so you don't really need to follow this advice but if you do you know where to find it. Actually it's probably better if you don't follow this advice.

HOW TO BE FOCUSED IN SCHOOL

SATIRE By Sophia Jiang

Are you having trouble staying on top of things? Well, I've got the best advice for you!

Go on your phone

While you're in class, go on Instagram or watch Tik Tok!

Don't listen to what your teacher says because it isn't important for your learning.

Don't do your homework

Homework will not take you far. In the long run, completing school work is relatively pointless and won't make you do better in school.

Watch Netflix

Why focus on school when you can binge watch your favorite shows on a Wednesday night? It's a lot more interesting than doing math anyway.

Don't take notes

Don't listen to what people say about how notes help you. Writing or typing important key ideas will NOT be beneficial to your academic performance. Just ace the

test—that’s all you need to do.

Don’t check your email or Google Classroom To-do lists? Support from teachers over email? Important updates? Useless. Just organize your agenda in your head; you don’t need to use your resources.

ADVICE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

SATIRE By Mali Weix

Q: What kind of pet is the best study partner?
Tarantulas. Now, you might be saying “Oh, but I’m scared of tarantulas,” and if you are saying that you should definitely have a tarantula as a study partner, because it’ll keep you on the straight-and-narrow. Got distracted by a text? You move to answer it, and the tarantula stares at you. Judging your every move. It knows your sins, and you cannot escape its wrath. You are no longer distracted by the text.

Q: Will chewing gum help me on my test?
No. But if you do it loud enough, it might irritate the students around you enough that it’ll bring down their grades, making you look better.

Q: I have an idea for a project but someone else took it. How do I take it back?

Challenge them to a duel for rights to the project idea. Now, there’s a number of ways you can do this. There’s duels of wits, traditional sword fights, checkers, Uno, competitive hotdog eating, the list goes on. Find one that fits your skillset, and be prepared to decimate your opponent. Show no mercy, because if you fail you’ll have to come up with another project idea.

Q: I’m on a group project, and the other students want me to do work. How do I avoid this?
Well, first things first, get a ninja costume. This’ll get you into the mindset of avoiding everything, like any and all responsibilities you have. Then, learn the way of the ninja. After you’ve learned the way of ninja, you’ll hopefully either have a work ethic or be clever enough to escape your co-workers when they try to make you do things. Win-win!

Q: How do I get enough sleep? How do I sleep? What even is sleep? I have just experienced 72 uninterrupted hours of consciousness.
Congratulations, you’re clinically insane. If you want to change that, try eating a Snickers and drinking a can of Red Bull. You’ll feel better, definitely.



SUMMER WRITING OPPORTUNITIES!

Non-Satire By Bryn Orum

Rise Up & Write - an advocacy and activism workshop for high school writers - is returning for summer 2022 with two in-person sessions! These supportive and inspiring sessions engage young writers in addressing an issue that matters to them and using writing to connect to peers, community members, and change-makers. With a solutions-oriented focus and many opportunities to publish their work, Rise Up & Write helps young activist writers use their voices to change the world!

Youth Voices for the Environment: June 20 - 24, 9AM - 2PM @ Olbrich Gardens

Youth Voices for Human Rights: August 1 - 5, 9AM - 2PM @ Olbrich Gardens

Youth Press Corps - a youth journalism writing workshops for high school writers - will be in-person for the first time this summer! This session is supported by our publishing partner and host, The Cap Times of Madison, and will provide youth journalists an opportunity to work with current and former journalists as well as journalism educators as they research and report on stories that matter to them. All participants will have the opportunity to publish their work in The Cap Times!

Youth Press Corps: July 18 - 22, 9AM - 2PM @ The Cap Times

Pricing for any of the above sessions is \$350 (\$300 early bird pricing before May 1). It is important to us that any student who wants to participate is able; if you have a student in mind who will need financial assistance, please get in touch.

A BEEF STROGANOFF RECIPE BY SOMEONE WHO HATES YOUR GUTS

SATIRE By Elliott Weix

Ingredients:

Beef. 0.45 kg

Butter. 9.86 mL

Onions, chopped. 2

Flour. 7.81 g

Paprika. 4.54 g

Water. 946.35 mL

Garlic, finely chopped. 3 metric cloves

Mushrooms, chopped. 0.45 kg

Egg noodles. 0.45 kg

Sour cream. 118.29 mL

Mustard. 44.36 mL

Salt and Pepper. To taste

Chop the beef into 2.7 centimeter pieces and season generously with salt and pepper, and your own tears.

Melt half the butter in a large saucepan on enough heat to give you a first-degree burn.

Cover the bottom of the pan with the meat. You may need to cook the meat in two batches,

depending on the size of the pan and how much you suck at cooking. Brown the meat on all

sides, and remove it from the pan when finished.

Add the onions to the pan and sauté. Sprinkle with the flour and paprika. Drop the meat

back in the pot. Cover it with a lid, but leave it askew so the steam can escape. Wow. Better coping strategies than you. Cook it on low heat for about 2 hours, making beef stock and tender meat.

If you are using a less tough cut of beef, you don't need to cook it for nearly as long.

Simply burn the meat on accident, mess up the recipe, and go back to the store to buy more ingredients so you won't get to actually accomplish anything today.

Meanwhile, in another pan on medium heat, melt the rest of the butter. Add the garlic and cook for a minute.

Add the mushrooms and toss to coat them with garlic and butter. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Let the mushrooms cook for 5-ish minutes, stirring occasionally, until they shrink (just like everyone's expectations of you).

Cook the noodles according to package instructions before you remember there's a better way to do it but it's already too late and the noodles are sticking together and

this whole recipe is falling apart just like your life. Time your mental breakdown so you finish up just as the stock is ready.

Check on the beef. If the water has reduced to about a cup of thick, flavorful liquid and the beef is tender, then it's ready. Stir in the mushrooms, sour cream, and mustard. Turn the heat down to keep it warm until the pasta is ready. Taste it again and add more spices to cover up its many flaws.

Put the noodles into a bowl and top with stew. Sprinkle a little paprika over the top. Cry.



SPOTLIGHT: MEMORIAL'S WONDERFUL VENTING SYSTEM

SATIRE By Olivia Zhu

Memorial's venting system is just fantastic! Our air conditioners models are the latest, cutting-edge technology of the 1900's! You know what this means: perfectly unpredictable temperatures throughout the school that can fluctuate from -5 degrees to 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

What's not to love about our air conditioning system? It supplements the already freezing Wisconsin winters with gusts of icy wind right when you're taking a test (that brain freeze ought to make you more sharp!) and adds a very much welcomed blast of hot air during the closing of spring (at least you're all warmed up for P.E.!) Memorial is very lucky to have such a diverse climate within its building. While the science, math, and world language sections are about as cold as Antarctica, the history English portions are so scalding hot that your sweat evaporates in seconds and your facemask gets drenched from the condensation of your breath.

Luckily, the student body is resilient and well-equipped for Memorial's whimsical venting system. Standard gear that students carry include winter jackets, woolen sweaters, and boots. Of course, the principal strategy is to dress in layers--while a student's first hour class may feel like an icebox, their second hour class might feel like a pre-heated oven (it's a good thing that Goldi-

locks doesn't go here--she'd probably go insane!). But don't forget about the wonderful noises that our vents make! They rattle, sputter, cough, and groan--it's a machine a capella! They definitely do not distract you while in class--rarely are they so loud that you can't hear the teacher or the people next to you.

All in all, Memorial's venting system makes students perfectly content in the temperature extremities. Why would we need to get a new one?

MEMORIAL IS THE RICHEST SCHOOL IN WISCONSIN!

SATIRE By Olivia Zhu

I am pleased to announce that Memorial High School is the richest school in Wisconsin! If you're looking to enroll in the most lavish and pristine school in the state, then come to Memorial!

First, we have no floors or ceilings, which means students have a great, intimate view of our concrete floors and pipe and wire covered ceilings! As a bonus, some of our classrooms have little to no walls! Students can hear the wondrous shouts of frustrated teachers and stressed out students as they take their tests. The art department, then, is, of course, the prize of Memorial--a refreshingly dingy, wall-less and floor-less complex that really inspires our students to create and express themselves in art.

If that isn't enough for you, our chairs and desks are of the highest quality--they're great for killing your lower back, which, according to S. Mall Taters, a professor of furniture sociology at Harvard University, "exponentially increases students' focus while also preserving their back health." Many of our chairs have a wonderful 89° backwards tilt, which is just absolutely perfect for keeping a straight back and proper posture! Furthermore, the variety of desk designs that Memorial has allows students to experience a well-rounded painful experience. A few of the many comforts Memorial's desks offer to students include space-saving desk tops that welcome clutter (because everything is easier when you have to fit your chromebook and notebook on a 10-inch squared surface for a Peardeck lecture), the "I-don't-actually-have-that-one-metal-arm-piece-unlike-the-other-desks-in-this-room" desk that gives you a slight tumble when you accidentally lean the wrong way, and the rock-hard wooden chairs in the library. So rest assured that Memorial has every caliber of chairs out there!

If you're a prospective freshman, come to Memorial! You won't be disappointed by our opulence!

SCHOOL BATHROOMS

SATIRE By Olivia Zhu

If you haven't been to Memorial's bathrooms, you're missing out. They are what define Memorial. They represent the integrity, respect, and responsibility of the student body. If you've only been to Memorial as a visitor and have only gone to the bathrooms located in the cafeteria/commons, you legally cannot say that you've been to Memorial. Because you haven't.

We can all agree that the bathrooms in the commons/cafeeteria are pretty standard. But if you head down to the bathrooms near the art department, you will be so amazed by how pristine and spacious they are that your eyeballs will fall out of their sockets. You will be so freshened by the smell that your nose will promptly run away. You will notice that the sinks are high-functioning and responsive--the water flows out at unpredictable pressures and rates and the faucets that aren't actually faucets never work 50% of the time. We also have a premium on water temperatures--frostbitten cold and fiery hot.

The paper-towel dispensers are just out of this world: a highly intricate design fitted in a compact and sleek hunk of black plastic. Our paper towels are the pinnacle of quintessential school-grade paper towels: thin and woody. The paper towels never run out due to some Spartanian magic that automatically refills the contraptions (however, it has been noted that the magic has been failing for the past 200 years).



NEWS

Woman Finds a Canine Surprise After Returning From Trip

By: Jonathan Buscher

After receiving news on January 5, 2022 that one of her dogs, Fran, had gone missing, Liz Giorgi rushed to her home in Denver, Colorado, taking five days as she was overseas for a funeral. Before leaving on her trip, Giorgi had left the care of her two dogs with Wag, a dog-walking and pet-sitting service. With an inability to quickly return for a search party, Giorgi headed to Twitter, creating a missing poster and stating, "We are now offering a reward to get Fran home." Further utilizing the social media platform, she also attacked Wag, accusing them of not helping to solve the issue, as well as not even apologizing. Then, in another turn of events, about a week after Fran had been reported missing, Giorgi received an automated and unemotional call from Wag which informed her that her dog had passed away, stating that these instances are rare, but do occasionally happen, as well as asking for additional questions. Devastated by this, Giorgi returned to Twitter, warning others not to use Wag, and waiting for an apology in a post tagging Garrett Smallwood, the CEO of Wag. This isn't the first time something like this has happened either, with a June 2019 report of a stolen dog by the dog-walking company, and a lawsuit from an LA couple whose French Bulldog was killed by an SUV under Wag's watch.

A Priceless Graffiti Masterpiece

By: JB

Along with a date reading Dec. 26, 2021, a rock at Texas' Big Bend National Park was engraved with the four names: Issac, Ariel, Norma, and Adrian. This was no ordinary boulder either, but a piece of volcanic rock dating more than 30 million years old, and considered a petroglyph, having been engraved between 4,000 to 8,500 years ago by a Native American artist. Not only was this vandalism damaging, but a later attempt by a visitor to fix the issue resulted in further deterioration of the stone. Their use of tap water introduced chlorine, staining the petroglyph white and making the issue even more difficult for experts to reverse. While the National Park Service has tried to use both a fine brush and distilled, rather than tap, water to remove the stain and scratches, the damage has been dealt, and NPS is now asking the public to look for the offenders, who could face up to \$5,000 in fines and six months prison time as a penalty. This isn't the

first time an act of egregious vandalism has happened at Big Bend either, being the fiftieth instance since tracking began in 2015. Responses by park staff to this violation of property have been rather negative as well, with Superintendent of the park, Bob Krumenaker stating that "With each instance of vandalism, part of our nation's heritage is lost forever," in regards to the priceless loss of a piece of history.



Elon Musk Reveals Plans for Sun Colonization

By: Jonathan B.

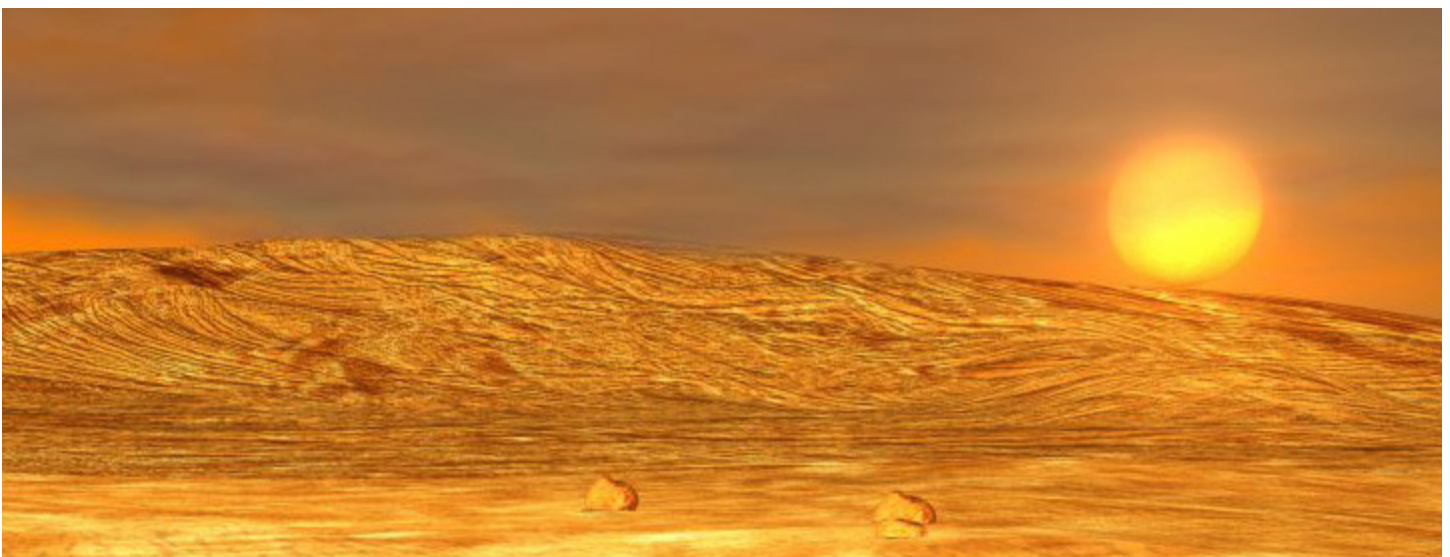
A recent, and somewhat cryptic, tweet sent early in the morning on Saturday March 12, 2022 by Tesla and SpaceX CEO, Elon Musk, has prompted an intense spike in media attention for the billionaire. The subject of the post: a new SpaceX mission, set to launch in April of 2024, with the intended purpose of establishing a colony on the Sun. With critics and media begging for details, Musk held a press conference a week later on March 19, where he explained further details of the project.

When asked about how this recent project will impact his recent efforts to colonize Mars, Musk said that he was setting aside this 2026 goal in order to focus on the Sun project, which is not only shorter term, but could also be more beneficial for humans in the long run. Since the Sun is 207 times larger than Mars, with a significantly more livable environment for humans, the star could provide a larger surface for the rapidly expanding human population. He then presented data analyzed by SpaceX scientists from recent probe operations, showing that the Sun would be a hospitable environment for human life should the Earth fall to the ever-encroaching issue of global warming. While it is slightly warmer on the star than on Earth, the weather conditions are more consistent, with a drop or rise in temperature being unlikely in the near future. This

indicates that current industrial habits of humans, if continued on the Sun colony, wouldn't have the negative environmental impact there as they do on Earth, and that no spacesuits would be required, resulting in a relatively normal life. In another tweet following the conference, Musk posted the specifics of the vessel to be used for this mission, the SpaceX Dragonfire P-ZXV3854R, which is currently in development. Fully equipped with hibernation pods for over 2,000 people, extra deck space, flight attendants, and an onboard casino, resulting in a luxurious ride. Once landed, Tesla robots will help to construct, as Musk has stated, a "real old-fashioned American neighborhood with a modern twist."

Colonizing the sun has prompted discussion among other groups as well, with some questioning an ulterior motive to Musk's project. A leaked image by an anonymous SpaceX employee under the handle @flatearthmartianinvasion revealed scaled alien figures on the surface of the Sun, captured in high quality by SpaceX's probe satellites. Many are wondering whether Musk plans to conquer these beings, or if it is a wise choice to invade their territory at all.

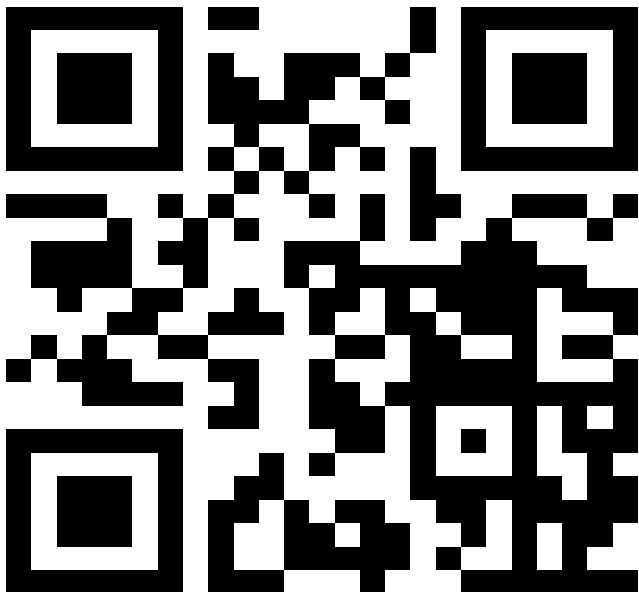
While a surprising and bold statement to be sure, Musk's plans are supported by valid science, and could provide an evolutionary leap for humans. While some of the initial 2,000 colonizers could perish either while in transit to the new Sun colony, or once they arrive, being unaccustomed to the warmer conditions of the sun, the risk, to Musk at least, is worth it, as he intends to be the first one boarding the rocket in April of 2024.



Putin Steps Down in Show of Good Faith

By: Anvika Annyapu

In an act that stunned the world,
Putin stepped down as president,
While considering the repercussions of this act,
People expect full-blown chaos,
Expert analysts,
Including Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos,
Explain that the act will result in peace worldwide,
While people may be searching for ulterior motives,
It is clear to see that Putin has no ulterior motive than world peace and harmony
When his staff was interviewed, they reported, “he claims he is perfectly content,”
“With the state of things in Russia and will step down gracefully,”
People are seeking to undermine this move toward peace by claiming,
That Putin has plans that will only work if he is not in the public spotlight,
However, evidence from PutinRocks shows,
That he has no plans to cause any damage after stepping down,
Although it is unclear whether this step down is legitimate,
Another point of contention is his successor,
Some believe it will be Elon Musk, and signs point to this being the likeliest choice.



↑ scan for more!



Liquid Water on Mars?

By: Jian Wang

MARSIS, a subsurface radar sounder on the Mars Express orbiter has taken one step closer to its goal. MARSIS is a 40-meter antenna that is intended to look for the telltale signs of liquid water on the Martian surface, and on January 25, 2022, one of these signs arose. Oddly bright reflections detected through the bouncing of radio waves and the analyses of its echoes signified the possibility of liquid water under the poles of Mars. The inherent properties of water result in the reflection of stronger, brighter signals, whereas the radar signal for ice and rock would be much smaller. This data has been critiqued by many scientists due to the fact that the poles are at temperatures drastically below the freezing point of water. The radar signals resulting from clay, salts, and saline ices may also be the sources of the bright basal reflections.

An Italian-led team interpreted the phenomena of these reflections through previously published data, simulations, and laboratory experiments designed to clarify their findings. Geophysicist Dr. David Stillman at the Southwest Research Institute has been at the forefront of this discovery. "The exotic salts that we know exist on Mars have amazing 'antifreeze' properties allowing brines to remain liquid down to -103 degrees Fahrenheit. We studied these salts in our lab to understand how they would respond to radar." Stillman is the world's leading expert on the detection of water in various forms- liquid, ice, or absorbed - on planetary bodies. The concentration of salts in the water makes it more difficult for bonds to form between molecules, thus lowering the freezing point, a phenomenon visible in the salting of roads in the winter.

The unique conditions that which the water beneath the surface finds itself is what results in its persistence as a liquid in spite of sub-zero temperatures. Stillman, who has measured the properties of materials at cold temperatures to detect and characterize subsurface ice, unfrozen water, and the potential for life throughout the solar system, measured the properties of perchlorate brines in an SWRI environmental chamber that produces frigid temperatures in Martian conditions.

Southwest Research Institute geophysicist Dr. David Stillman uncovered oddly bright reflections that signify the presence of liquid water but could also be clay, hydrated salts, or saline ices. The water discovered is a mixture as cold as -145 degrees Fahrenheit and exists between grains of ice or sediment under Mars' south pole. "The research showed that we don't have to have lakes of perchlorate and chloride brines, but that these brines could exist between the grains of ice or sediments and are enough to exhibit a strong dielectric response. This is similar to how seawater saturates grains of sand at the shoreline or how flavoring permeates a slushie, but at -103 degrees Fahrenheit below a mile of ice near the South Pole of Mars," Stillman said. This discovery is a stepping stone for the end to the loneliness that we experience as the only known life on a pale blue dot.

all articles are satire!
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

JEFF BEZOS VS. DE HEF

SATIRE By Ava Kahn

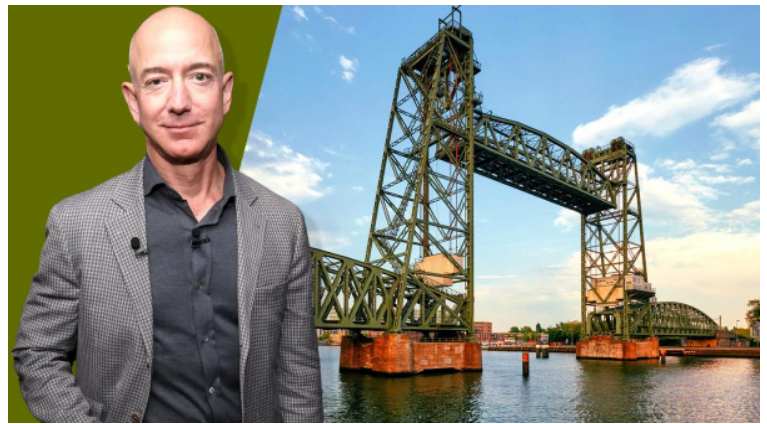
There is controversy between the bridge known as De Hef in Rotterdam, Netherlands, and former CEO of Amazon, Jeff Bezos. The 95-year-old train bridge might be dismantled to let Jeff Bezos' \$485 million yacht through. This has created a lot of controversy with the people of Rotterdam.

One man in particular, Pablo Strörmann, posted an idea on Facebook, to throw rotten eggs at the yacht. This has grown into a massive social media trend with 20,000 people becoming interested in Strörmann's idea. Strörmann shared that he sees the train bridge as a symbol of resurrection after the city was wiped out by Germans during the Rotterdam Blitz in 1940. This bridge was one of the first structures to be restored. According to the NL Times, Strörmann stated, "Normally it's the other way around: If your ship doesn't fit under a bridge, you make it smaller. But when you happen to be the richest person on Earth, you just ask a municipality to dismantle a monument. That's ridiculous." Strörmann makes a very strong argument that Jeff Bezos' yacht should not receive special treatment, considering that the bridge has held strong without problem, except for the Rotterdam Blitz, since 1927. Although Strörmann believes that dismantling this bridge shouldn't take place, he stated that the egging trend began as a joke he had made with his friends and it had gotten, "way out of hand." He did not think that so many people would be interested in throwing eggs at the yacht.

The city has mostly agreed to the bridge dismantling for a variety of reasons. First of all, Bezos offered to pay for the entirety of the process. So, the government definitely wouldn't lose any money due to the removal. Secondly, this action requires workers, meaning that this would create some jobs for the people of Rotterdam, creating income. A Labor Party city councilor in Rotterdam, Dennis Tak, said that he would agree to the offer because of these reasons. There are conflicts with other leaders of Rotterdam. For example, the Rotterdam Historical Society pointed out that city officials had promised to never dismantle the bridge again after completing a major restoration in 2017.

In conclusion, the richest man in the world, Jeff Bezos,

may be scared of eggs. Although the city has agreed to dismantle the bridge, the threat of rotten egg throwing may be enough to keep the 230-foot yacht out of the Koningshaven Channel. This conflict continues to cause controversy.



QUEEN CELEBRATES 70 YEARS OF BLOOD SACRIFICES

SATIRE By Felipe Rey

With Queen Elizabeth II nearing 96 years and 7 decades on the throne, this year she's also honoring another important milestone: her 70th annual blood sacrifice to maintain her throne.

"It's a tradition that's been passed down for generations," explained the Queen. "My mother certainly did it, but my grandmother actually skipped out on it for many years. She didn't even crack 80. Stupid old bat."

What exactly does this sacrifice entail? The reporter who asked the Queen promptly turned into a pile of ash, so we here at Sword and Shield are not entirely sure we want to dig deeper for that information.

For this year, the ceremony that usually only the queen and her victim(or multiple victims, again, details unclear) attend to will be opened up to a slightly larger group. "It's usually a more private ceremony, because of

the gruesomeness of it all,” lamented the Queen. “But this year we’ve sorta expanded the group a little bit.”

For this ceremony, the increased surveillance (using the worldwide bird drones) of the night has allowed for more sensational personalities to arrive without fear of being chased down.

“All the old chaps are coming out of hiding for the big night,” said the Queen cheerily. “They’re unthawing Walt, Elvis is finally taking off that dreadful fake beard, and I hear Kennedy’s being reanimated as we speak, and oh, it’s just so delightful! The loveliest people all in one room.”

It all seems like a lovely evening for the Queen, even if the details are very light. She hopes to do another 30 sacrifices before returning to the witching ground from whence she came, but her plans are still up in the air at this time.



THE UNBEARABLE WEIGHT OF MASSIVE TALENT

SATIRE By Felipe Rey

After years of making movie after movie with seemingly no line in the sand for what he’ll turn down, Nicholas Cage is back in theaters in April with *The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent*, in which he plays himself, looking to make some money in a moment of financial crisis. The film will reference many of his previous projects, such as his action film *Face/Off* and his laugh-out-loud comedy (for the whole family) *Croods 2: A New Age*. While all this seems tailor-made for Cage, it turns out that he was in fact not the first in line. In fact, he was at the very very end of the line.

“Yeah, our idea was basically to have this talented actor play this sort of satirical version of himself who is desperate for a job and will do anything for money,” said director Tom Gormican. “Unfortunately, a lot of the actors turned this project down because they felt like the title

made them out to be this--this overly pompous person who thought unnecessarily highly of themselves, and they just didn’t want to be involved with that image.” Some of the names on this list include Daniel Day-Lewis, Leonardo DiCaprio, Natalie Portman, Samuel L. Jackson, Meryl Streep, Bill Clinton (for his excellent performance in January 1998), and Brad Pitt, who all turned it down. But after catching wind of the title of this film, there was one man who was begging for the role to no avail.

“He actually went to my house with \$3 million in cash in his hand,” continued Gormican. “Just the name alone made him want to be involved. He considers himself very talented.” Fortunately for Cage, no one was left to play the part, and he signed on. After a brief scuffle over the name of the movie (he was vying for “The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent that Nicholas Cage possesses”), filming and post production work is now complete. The film is expected to debut in late April, with Cage’s face on the poster twice (at his behest).



HOROSCOPES

By Anvika Annyapu and Gang J Wang Jr.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19): The day will result in many grapefruits. You may feel a little happy today, but at the end of the day, you'll feel horrible.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18): You'll read your future in a school newspaper. This is to be false, those who pave their future make the future. Take hold of the present and have faith in your abilities.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20): You will never find your keys. It'll be right out of your grasp.

Aries (March 21 - April 19): Stuff.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20): Today is the day for you to seize your dreams: signs point to you becoming the President of the USA. They are likely to be cool, charismatic, and just a little insane.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20): The time for lunch is upon us. This month, you will eat. Food to your greatest expectations and the greatest sandwich.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22): You will find yourself on a plane to the place of Steve's dreams. You will encounter thrilling adventures and lifelong friendships, yet you will feel out of place. As if it were all meant for someone else.

Leo (July 23 - August 22): Wildlife safaris are fun, but you know what's funner? Wikihow. You are a person whose life is in their hands, but this month you'll be unable to resist the temptations of learning from Wikihow.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22): You might not be sad, but the only happiness that you experience might be mild. You might enjoy the little things in life.

Libra (September 23 - October 22): Let it SNOW.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21): Nothing is wrong. Sorry. Come back later.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21): Manifest positive things. Rainbows and puppies. Puppies and rainbows. Your month will be filled with everything, and you will live in luxury. Have fun?

TAYLOR SWIFT FACES BACKLASH FROM FANS AFTER ADOPTING A DOG

SATIRE By Amy Qiao

Swifties were shocked and disappointed to find out that, after decades of claiming to be a self-proclaimed cat lady, Taylor Swift announced through Instagram that she recently adopted a dog. Her new puppy named "Edison" faced unexpected backlash from Swift's loyal fans, many of whom are questioning how much they truly know about the pop artist. One fan tweeted, "Honestly, I don't know if I can trust Taylor anymore. I love her music, but I can't believe she's a dog person." Swift has repeatedly reassured that her new puppy does not and will not affect the love she feels for her three cats Meredith, Olivia, and

Benjiman.

In a recent interview, Swift has emphasized that she does not regret her decision to adopt Edison but still hopes to make things right with her fans. Her fans responded that the only thing that will make things right is if she releases her re-recorded version of Speak Now immediately.



SETH MACFARLANE CELEBRATES 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF TED BY MAKING ANOTHER TERRIBLE FAMILY GUY EPISODE

SATIRE By Felipe Rey

Though to many it may seem like only a few months since the release of the instant comedy classic *Ted*, as well as its successor, *Ted 2*, it has actually been nearly a decade since it was the ruler of the box office (and our hearts). How is Seth MacFarlane, the creator and voice of the titular character, celebrating? His plans have been in place for quite some time now.

Ever since 1999, MacFarlane has been mining the depths of the comedy pits to produce his iconic mishmash of references, cutaway gags, and silly voices. The show is infamous for being a cesspool of mediocrity and growthless characters who spew tired comedy for years on end. Its supposed “satire” is grossly undermined by the show’s need to machine-gun joke after joke in a pointlessly non-sequential fashion that kills any potential quality that the show could ever hope to achieve.

But for *Ted*’s anniversary, you would think Seth MacFarlane would deviate somewhat, no? Maybe put in a little extra effort? Perhaps weave a slightly more complex storyline? Potentially push forward his characters in any sort of interesting or unique way? Well, it turns out that this expected quality from potential viewers may be MacFarlane’s best joke of all.

Seth MacFarlane, or as he likes to be called, Mac-Fart-Lane (his genius cannot be stopped), will not be deviating in any way from his usual routine for this grand occasion. Instead, what he will be doing is adding a little bit more gasoline to the televisual garbage fire that is *Family Guy*. He likes to joke that instead of quality, he will include Quag-lity (named after one of the characters on his show, Quagmire). Though he has not elaborated since, it can only be assumed that by “Quag-lity” he means writing as hideous as Quagmire’s iconic toilet transformation.

As fans celebrate *Ted* by watching the two cult classics over and over, MacFarlane urges fans to not bother him for like at least 5 minutes while he bangs out the plot, script, and references for his next episode of Quag-lity comedy.



AGENT CODY BANKS 2 WINS OSCAR FOR BEST PICTURE

SATIRE By Amy Qiao

In a surprising turn of events, *Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London* won the Academy Award for Best Picture. Although the movie came out almost two decades ago, the beautiful writing and composed cinematography surpassed the limitations of the typical Academy Awards process and gained the support from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to win over films such as *Dune* and *West Side Story*. Movie critics and fans were surprised by the decision, as the movie wasn’t even nominated for an Oscar but somehow won. Even longtime fans of the movie were confused. Passionate fan John Michael Steven LXIX tweeted, “I can’t believe *Agent Cody Banks 2* won Best Picture; I just remember it as the movie where Frankie Muniz throws Mentoes out the window, and Anthony Anderson spills pee on some guy’s sandwich.” For those who aren’t avid fans of the franchise, yes, those are actually things that happen in the movie.

In terms of what the future looks like for *Agent Cody Banks*, Muniz himself has confirmed during an interview that they are filming a new movie to add to the series. The upcoming movie, titled *Agent Cody Banks 3: And Just Like That...*, is scheduled to come out April 31st in the clearance section of Target.



MORBIUS

SATIRE By Felipe Rey

The Marvel Cinematic Universe continues to expand into a gradually more complex and interwoven collection of superhero stories that has been going since 2008, and this year, with the addition of *Morbius*, they'll introduce one of their first films which focuses on an antihero. But what will differentiate this film from the other entries in this franchise? Certainly not plot, writing, humor, action, cinematography, direction, creative depth, or character development, but they do have one major differentiating factor that will ensure *Morbius*' place in the public eye for at least a few months: they will kill the lead actor at the end of the movie.

Now this may sound confusing at first. Did they give away the ending to the movie by saying that *Morbius* will die? No, they won't kill off *Morbius* (as far as we know), they will kill off the actor playing him, Jared Leto.

The director explained that this choice stems from a lack of innovation in superhero cinema as well as an utter distaste for Jared Leto from most people who read anything about who he is (or have seen *House of Gucci*). They put two and two together and realized they could fix both of these problems, and hopefully put Marvel back in the good graces of audiences who have gotten tired of the MCU formula by orchestrating and filming his death by their hands.

Yes, the post-credits tease of an upcoming Marvel production will be absent in the *Morbius* film, but it will be replaced by something arguably much better. A recording of Jared Leto's execution will be shown in all its graphic detail, and from the on-set rumors we've heard, it seems like the death was tied into his vampire character by using wooden stakes, burning him alive, shooting him with silver bullets, and force feeding him garlic. Yes, it looks like Jared Leto won't be returning from the dead anytime soon, unlike the titular *Morbius* character, but it sure will be a treat to watch on the silver screen!

OSCAR REVIEW

SATIRE By Felipe Rey

On March 27th, 2022, the 94th annual Academy Awards aired on ABC, awarding only the greatest of its nominees with the coveted Oscar trophy. An absolutely stacked list of nominees was on the table for the ceremony, and many people were eagerly awaiting to see if their favorite 2021 film would get the gold. What was my opinion of the show? I didn't see it.

After a steady decline in viewership as less people care about the results, I have finally dropped off to do something better with my time. Yes, I may have missed the cool musical show or whatever they did this year (I didn't watch it, so I don't know), and yes, I probably missed that witty joke that some popular comedian made (what comedian you ask, not sure, I didn't watch it), but I instead had a lovely night making empanadas for my family.

The Power of the Dog? More like The Power of Some Good Food, because those empanadas were delicious. Yum yum yum! Who won the Best Director category? Couldn't tell you, but I can tell you who won the Best Empanada-maker category (me!). Some people were upset about one of the surprise victories that occurred during the ceremony, but the only thing we were angry about was our rumbly tummies from eating so many empanadas. Did I mention how yummy they were?

In short, the ceremony was maybe potentially watchable. I'm sure some celebrities gave some great speeches about something, I'm sure *In Memoriam* was a touching segment that had most people going "I'm not sure who that is" until Betty White, and I'm sure that there was a cool ad for a Disney+ show that will be mediocre, but I'm also still sure that I did not watch it and don't plan to do so in the future. But the 3-hour film award hole that it's left in my life has to be filled with something. Hmm... if only there was a delicious Spanish dish that could be prepared in about 3 hours and could feed a family of 5 for 2-3 meals...



SPORTS



JAMAICA TAKES HOME MOST MEDALS AT 2022 WINTER OLYMPICS

By Jonathan Buscher

This article is satire

In a relatively unsurprising conclusion to the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics on February 20, the largest tally of gold medals received by any nation in the history of these games went to Jamaica, with nearly 250 of the over 300 gold medals. This far surpasses the 178 medal record previously set by the country. When interviewed about his nation's success at these games, Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness stated that, "I congratulate the Jamaican national team in their sweeping success at the 2022 Olympic Winter Games. I also realize how lucky our nation is to prepare our athletes in state of the art facilities, and in perfect winter conditions within our own home country. Our environment here is the ideal place to prepare for these events..." Among the few gold medals that the Jamaican team were unable to obtain were those in ice hockey and curling, both of which are sports which can be practiced indoors, without the additional difficult outdoor conditions that Jamaican athletes in other events are prepared for, slightly leveling the playing field for other nations. Germany and Norway were awarded the fewest medals due to their sub-par training environment leaving athletes unequipped to compete with Jamaica.

GOLF AND CURLING: THE ONLY TRUE SPORTS

By Vince Kim

This article is satire

The history of golf and curling has long been accompanied by the ultimate sports drink: alcoholic beverages. It's been passed down that some Scottish who were unbelievably drunk from their whiskey argued over who could wack the hell out of a nearby ball into a far gopher hole with a wooden stick. A similar group of drunkards that winter were also devising a new game with a small pebble and who could direct the pebble to a desired location without touching it. With a lot of drunken yelling, such historical matches would prove that there are only two sports — golf and curling — where an intoxicated player can complete a full game, forever redefining the phrase "true sport".

Speaking of drunken yelling, golf has some amazing success stories. More than a decade ago, Tiger Woods won the 2008 US Open with stress fractures and a torn ACL in his left leg. Golf may be the only true sport where a broken-legged player not only competes in a major professional tournament but wins the whole title. Golfers also need to train for vigorous activity in a single golf match. After all, 119% of the calories burnt in a single golf match come from just walking from hole to hole. Imagine how many calories golfers would burn by riding a golf cart.

Curling also demands such rigor. A recent paper shows curling burns a whopping 150 calories every half hour of activity, compared to walking, which also burns 150 calories every half hour. Sweeping the ice rink for two hours requires both endurance and expertise — skills that are also used when wiping tables and vacuuming the house. Indeed, people who regularly do chores now have a chance at winning the gold at the Games. Intense communication from international players also allows the audience to gain more insight on what each angry person from each country sounds like rather than the actual objective of the game. Perhaps the drunken Scottish yelling from the first curling match was passed down through generations.

EXTREME POGOING TAKES OVER ESPN

By Lydia Lenz

This article is satire

One of the most unusual events in ESPN history occurred over this past weekend at the main headquarters in Connecticut. While a live broadcasting was being filmed there was a distant sound of springs echoing through the hall. Alarmingly, a group of around 20 pogoers burst through the doors and interrupted the heated conversation regarding the winners of March Madness tournament mid sentence. The elaborate takeover began with overwhelming flips and tricks causing damage to audio cords and cracking cameras, causing thousands of dollars of damage. We have now learned it was a planned attack from an alternate group of rebel pogoers protesting that they need more coverage through sports broadcasting at their upcoming “pogopalooza.” This tournament takes place every year competing in different events such as big air, tech, high jump, and best trick. Viewers and listeners were concerned and shocked hearing such news. To everyone’s surprise we have seen results of current coverage spiking viewers and participants of these ongoing pogo events. While this was a very inappropriate and alarming way to gain attention towards the underground sport, I think we are all very interested in seeing how this tournament will turn out. Final words from the pogoers to the ESPN staff included, “don’t be afraid to pogo, and don’t be a no show!” The overwhelmed staff continued to wrap up the show and continue their conversation as usual, but audiences will never forget this hilarious moment that is going down in ESPN broadcasting history.



CROSS COUNTRY: THE EASIEST OF ALL HIGH SCHOOL AND PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

By Jonathan Buscher

This article is satire

Cross country is one of the most popular sports of our time, particularly in America, topping even football for the most watched. With this acclaim, many experts began to research the topic and found, unsurprisingly, that cross country running is the easiest sport by far, beating out golf and curling for sheer effortlessness by a wide margin.

Pew Research Center, within their 39,000 page 2022 sports research report dedicated a full 38,999 pages to cross country, presented several interesting data points. First, during all practices, workouts, and races, the average cross country runner burns a total of zero calories above what they would during an inactive day, resulting in no muscle being built. Also, unlike a lot of other professional sports, where athletes look like they are about to collapse during, and at the end of, the event, cross country professionals are at ease during competitions, not even coming close to vomiting or fainting at the end of races, as it takes little mental or physical determination to get through the grind of the race.

Even at Memorial, cross country is by far the easiest sport, made even more carefree by the coach of the Memorial team, Coach Hopp. During practice, athletes are able to talk all that they want, walking on runs when they feel like it, and only going short distances. Pacing of runs isn’t important either, as it doesn’t matter how fast these athletes are going for them to win, and injuries are almost nonexistent.

Not only is cross country easy to compete in, but it is also extremely easy to watch. With a spread out course, viewers can easily watch almost the entire race, only needing to walk a little bit to see runners the whole time, which is unexpected due to the number of trees and hills, although easier to do with the slow paces that cross country runners run at.

With the facility of competing in cross country, anyone in any sort of physical shape would be easily able to compete nationally or on the Memorial Varsity team, likely winning many races.

PROOF THAT RUSSIA NEVER ACTUALLY CHEATED AT THE OLYMPICS

By Lydia Lenz

This article is satire

For many decades, Russian olympic participants have been proved guilty for using steroids and doping to qualify and participate in the games. While this may seem like an undisputable case, there is proof that it has never actually occurred. At the most recent Olympic games held in Beijing, there was yet again another case of doping from a 15 year old Russian participant, Kamila Valieva, who tested positive before competing in the figure skating competition. Like many years past we have seen across many sports that Russian athletes are using doping mechanisms to crush other competitors. Through advanced tests and trials we are now able to see more and more examples of doping in a majority of Russian athletes, but there are theories that they are being set up and just maybe even just out of everybody's league. Many Russian athletes may just be better than all the opposing competitors and form their own super strengthened muscle and adrenaline. Much like athletes who use steroids or other methods of getting in shape and increase their performance ability in sports like skating, Russians go through rigorous and aggressive training to get on these podiums competing for gold. This training and extreme experience may mess with the testing provided by who is hosting the current Olympics and show that they are using steroids but in reality are just better and superhuman because of their dedication and hardcore training.

Another theory states that Russians are being set up for failure. Other countries knowing that they are strong competitors may be pushing strategies for canceling out their contenders. The WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) is just searching for a person to pinpoint and make their jobs more interesting by creating a narrative they can twist and create the villain. Russians have no fault in this and we are able to believe that they aren't really the villains. The use of targeting, extreme training, and boredom of WADA needing somebody to bust for doping are all possible reasons for the Russian being proven innocent in the end. Russians may never have cheated after all.

NOVAK DJOKOVIC AGREES TO GET THE VACCINE

By Sophia Jiang

This article is satire

On Friday, April 1, 2022, tennis star Novak Djokovic admitted that the COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective, and that he would be completely vaccinated by Wimbledon. "I realize that vaccines are crucial to protecting the general population from COVID," he stated in a press conference last Friday. "Also I'm extremely tired of getting detained in countries so I decided to swallow my pride and just get the vaccine." Djokovic has received praise from fellow tennis players and the general public because of his decision. "I'm so glad that he's come to his senses and decided to play tennis," states star tennis player Rafael Nadal.



DESTRUCTION FOLLOWS RAMS SUPER BOWL VICTORY

By Lydia Lenz

This article is satire

While over 112 million viewers tuned in to the Super Bowl this year, there is a fraction of the public aware of the fiery results that occurred after the game. Celebrating their 23-20 win, they left the field littered with blue and yellow confetti from a well deserved win and began to return to the locker room. Placing the trophy on a custom made pedestal is where issues began to arise. When the shiny trophy began to shimmer too brightly, it caused a tition of extremely bright lights pointing towards the trophy. The

specific light they placed the trophy under was a government level laser meant to be used only in specific defense mechanisms in weapons. We still aren't aware why this was put into the locker room, but we have some convincing speculations. One staff member who had installed this laser was interviewed and had their own opinion on the lighting stating that "it was a unique choice for a laser to be put. I should have questioned why they wanted it there in the first place, but I just didn't."

Odell Beckham Jr. was the first person to notice the strange smell while standing around his teammates in the locker room. As soon as OBJ smelled the smoke, he responded by turning around to see the carpet ignited in flames. It began at the carpet but quickly spread to the rest of the flammable locker room as players and other surrounding staff and coaches were escorted out and to safety. We are lucky to see that the damage goes only as far as the appearance in the locker room, but there will be newly placed precautions on what light is now installed to shine on the Lombardi trophy with the upcoming reconstruction of the locker room.

SOCCER TACTICS THAT NEVER FAIL

By Vince Kim

This article is satire

Diving For Life

Flopping is possibly the most entertaining spectacle to watch in any football match. With players thrashing their whole body in all directions and grabbing their heads when their legs were actually caught, its effectiveness truly shines — the slightest touch from a defender resulting in an all out bawl that even Video Assistant Referees fail to catch. The move has become so popular in these last few decades that Cristiano Ronaldo became first winner of FIFA's The Most Obvious Flopper Award this year, an award that is even more competitive than the Ballon d'Or.

Taking Control

Turning the tides of the match will sometimes need players to take the referee's place. In 2018, Frank Lee Jokin reflected a mirror at the referee just as he was handing out a yellow card, giving a warning back to the referee. The infuriated ref proceeded to boot the player with a red, but Jokin snatched the red card and successfully sent off the ref from the pitch. In addition to these backfiring calls, players have started stealing the vanishing spray used for drawing wall lines to spray white foam onto their opponents' faces and score goals while they're still in confusion, demonstrating some excellent lateral thinking.



OPINIONS

5 TIMES THE KIDS FROM SUPER WHY WERE AWESOME (AND 5 TIMES THEY WERE INSUFFERABLE)

SATIRE By: Felipe Rey

#5:

Insufferable

S1 E35: Finding the Super Letters

Hey morons! The Super Letters are RIGHT BEHIND YOU! You shouldn't need my help. Super Why? More like super dumb!

Awesome

All Episodes: The Songs

I gotta give credit where credit is due. Have you heard those Super Why songs? Incredible stuff.

#4:

Insufferable

S1 E11: Altering History

Super Why himself puts his powers to terrible use by removing the conflict of Little Miss Muffet. What's the story now, bozo?

Awesome

S2 E66: New Additions

Hold on. A dog character?! Super Why should be called Super Perfect, with that kind of addition to the main cast. Awesome!



#3:

Insufferable

S2 E80: Congratulate Yourself, Why Don't Ya?

Two minutes STRAIGHT of applauding themselves for following a simple map. WOW. That's reaaaally impressive, guys. I could've done that map in five seconds, and it took them like fifteen minutes- what are they, infants? Little toddlers? Should I get their dumb little binky?

Awesome

S1 E1: Pilot Kills It

The first episode of this incredible series introduces its fantastic cast with a classic story beautifully subverted. Great work for the whole family.

#2:

Insufferable

S2 E70: Inviting us to Dinner

Oh, your dAd'S cOoKiNg? That's soooo awesome, Super Why. NOT! I don't wanna eat your dad's disgusting spaghetti! He overcooks it! And his sauce smells bad! Don't ask me again!

Awesome

S1 E34: Saving the Gingerbread Boy

When a gingerbread boy is being attacked by a fox, they use their devilish trickery to turn the fox into an inanimate box. Awesome job destroying wildlife populations!

#1:

Insufferable

S3 E103: Series Finale Stinker

Usually, shows try to end on a big moment that cements the show for years to come. Apparently, Super Why didn't get the memo because their last episode was some bland story about a missing Bo Peep. Were they just trying to kill the show so that they didn't have to make any more episodes?

Awesome

All Episodes: Transformation Scene

No Superhero property before or since has been able to replicate the adrenaline-pumping transformation of every character into their super counterpart. Incredible stuff.

STAND-UP COMEDY SHOULD BE DONE SITTING DOWN

SATIRE By: Amy Qiao

CONTROVERSIAL OPINION WARNING!!! I know, I know, controversy in comedy? That's impossible! Obviously, comedy is almost always a safe space with no heated disagreements of any kind, but this is an important topic comedians need to discuss. Should stand-up comedy be done standing up or sitting down (the clearly more preferable option)?

First off, it's important to note that comedians are not known for their athleticism. In fact, they are mostly known for the opposite. And that makes sense; you shouldn't be allowed to be athletic and funny--that's simply too much power for any person to have. Only The Rock can wield that much power and absolutely no one else.

Secondly, there's almost always a stool at stand-up shows anyways! And almost every time, it's simply used to hold a bottle of water. Why? If it's only used to hold objects, just get a table! Or, if you're going to bring a whole stool onto the stage, just sit on it. Stand-up specials usually last an hour, and that's a ridiculous amount of time to be continuously standing up.

The comedy industry should seriously consider this opportunity to support their comedians and utilize the stools already in place in most stand-up shows. This is definitely the most important issue comedians should address--they're completely perfect otherwise.



WHY FRESHMAN IS THE BEST GRADE

SATIRE By: Bill Chen

Freshman year is known for being the best year of high school. We're known for being the coolest and the most knowledgeable of all the classes. We know the most, not because we focus in class but because we come fresh from middle school, where we received the best education, in the safest schools, especially those who came from Jefferson. During freshman year, our grades don't matter, so we slack off and watch you losers pull all-nighters just for grades. Imagine. Plus, we don't need education from school. Do you know where we get it? Tiktok- have you seen the number of dances that we're able to do? And the skill?!!!

I'm friends with a lot of upperclassmen, so that means I'm popular, and being popular means that colleges will accept you no matter what. I can already see the acceptance letters flowing in. Upperclassmen love to brag about how many AP classes they're in and their grades, but you know what AP stands for? It stands for Not Being Popular. Yeah, that's right, you're not popular. But if you want to be popular, just hit us freshman up. You might be in a lot of AP classes, but do you know what's trending on TikTok? Maybe, but I bet you can't do half of the dances that we do. Do you know where the best places to do TikToks are? The hallway, right where everyone's walking because people walking in the background of TikToks are just so aesthetically pleasing. It's also fun to yell at people when they walk in front of you when you do your Tiktok. It was perfect except for those idiots- like why even bother hurrying to class since we don't need an education anyways.

Then while you upperclassmen and sophomores go to work, guess what we do? We go to our local Starbucks and buy a Vanilla Latte with four shots of espresso and seven pumps of syrup. We might not have jobs, but we have daddy's money. Yeah, we don't need to work because we're independent young adults. This is why being a freshman is the best.



COTTON CANDY GRAPES MAKE ME SO INFURIATED

SATIRE By: Amy Qiao

First off, the phrase “cotton candy grapes” is an oxymoron in and of itself. Half the taste of cotton candy lies in its fluffy texture, something grapes most definitely do not have. It’s honestly insulting to insinuate that grapes could taste anything like the magical flavor and fun of cotton candy.

And before you ask, “Why don’t you just try them first,” I have tried them, thank you very much, and they do not taste like cotton candy. They taste like grapes. Because they are grapes. I don’t even know how it’s legal to falsely advertise that grapes could possibly taste like cotton candy because they don’t. I’m not even mad that they don’t taste like cotton candy- honestly, I didn’t expect them to resemble the treat at all. I’m just mad that they lied. Nay, I’m not mad, just disappointed.

This is an incredibly angering topic for me, and I must stop now before I literally turn into a dragon and breathe fire due to my rage. Just please don’t get your hopes up when you see a bag of grapes promising they will taste like cotton candy because they won’t.



TIPS *and* TRICKS

to save up for the things you need



A Summit savings account is the perfect tool for keeping track of your money so you can buy what you want sooner while saving for future purchases.



What can I get out of saving? I don't make very much money.

Saving is way more than just pooling cash – it's about organizing your life. When you set up a savings account, you can easily lay out your money and plan for the things you want.



Okay, so how is a savings account going to help me organize my life?

One way is to create multiple accounts. Set aside money for the things you pay for each month (like Spotify or your phone bill), and others for the things you want to save for. Whether you want a new phone case, you're saving up to buy a car, or saving for college, you can easily separate that money and see the progress you're making.



That sounds kinda complicated. How hard is it to move all that money around?

It's easy in the Summit app! You can set up automatic withdrawals and never think about it again. And if the things you want to save for change, you can simply adjust what goes where.



This sounds good, but where can I go for more info?

You can call Summit at 800-236-5560, or visit our website at SummitCreditUnion.com for a variety of blogs with great info.



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