



May 2022



VOLUME LV

# Sword & Shield

JAMES MADISON MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT NEWSPAPER

[www.jmmswordandshield.com](http://www.jmmswordandshield.com)



## Happy May!

Hey Spartans! It's been a hectic year but we are almost through it. This is the last normal issue before summer and we just wanted to say thanks for your support! You are impressive for even making it through the year. Even though the news is depressing, thanks for working to stay informed by reading the Sword & Shield and other publications. We are excited to announce that we will have a mostly virtual paper next year with a renovated website and fantastic opportunities for writers! We hope you enjoy your summer and, to all the seniors, best of luck with your new adventures!



**Amira Pierotti**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief



# What's happening THIS MONTH at JMM?

1	
2	Eid al Fitr-Religious Holiday
3	Eid al Fitr-Religious Holiday
4	Eid al Fitr-Religious Holiday
5	
6	
7	Prom: 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM
8	
9	Memorial Jazz & Percussion Ensemble
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	Memorial Concert Band I & Symphonic Band Concert
18	Memorial Concert Band II & Wind Ensemble Concert
19	Blithe Spirit ( Spring Play)
20	Blithe Spirit ( Spring Play)
21	Blithe Spirit ( Spring Play)
22	
23	Seniors Honors Convocation
24	
25	Memorial Choir Pops Concert
26	
27	Asynchronous Learning Day
28	Ascension of Bah'u'llah ( Religious Holiday)
29	
30	No School - Memorial Day
31	

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# STUDENT LIFE

## RENAMING JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

By: *Jonathan Buscher*

Following in the footsteps of renaming James Madison Memorial High School to Vel Phillips Memorial High School in November of 2021, Thomas Jefferson Middle School recently initiated a name change. Brought up by school principal Sue Abplanalp during the Board of Education's meeting on Monday, February 28th, 2022, numerous emails, letters, and calls from community members to the principal and Superintendent Jenkins alike followed. However, at the time of the suggestion, no specific name was proposed.

The reason for this renaming is much akin to that of Memorial, as, although Thomas Jefferson was the third President of the United States and a drafter of both the Declaration of Independence and Constitution, he was also a slaveholder. Owning over six hundred enslaved individuals, Jefferson is also linked to the sexual abuse of Sally Hemmings, one of the people of which he owned. Not wishing to have such a figure represent them, school families pushed for the change almost unanimously. The process of changing Jefferson's name will also be quite similar to that of JMM's, with the February 28th request to the Board of Education and the Superintendent starting the process. Following this, on March 14th during a Board of Education special meeting, each board member chose two other community members to sit on the Ad Hoc Committee, representing twelve total individuals, along with two alternates, to make the final recommendation. This group is intended to meet over the three months following for discussion regarding community comments, name propositions, and determining a final name recommendation. These conferences started by discussing the suggested names submitted in the March 7th through April 8th window according to MMSD's School Board Policy 6700. Currently ongoing is a time for public input and feedback, where community members can send comments to both the Ad Hoc Committee and Board of Education via a form on Jefferson's MMSD web page. This renaming comes with a slew of other name changes around the Madison area, including the aforementioned

James Madison Memorial High School name change, and that of Falk Elementary School to Milele Chikasa Anana Elementary.



## PROM

By: *Olivia Zhu*

Prom is May 7th from 8pm to 9pm at the Alliant Energy Center! This year will be particularly special since it's the first prom Memorial will be having in 2 years! However, this crowned event is only for upperclassmen. Freshmen and sophomores can look forward to this convivial night in the next few years!

Certain requirements must be met to go to prom. You cannot be on the no-admit list, and you must purchase a ticket to be admitted. Tickets will be sold from May 2-5 during lunch in the cafeteria at \$30 each. When you arrive at the party scene, make sure you have your student ID with you.

Presented by Memorial's junior committee, this year's theme for prom is midnight garden--anticipate original and artful decorations and a great time.

Fun fact: "prom" is actually short for "promenade dance"

## FILM FEST

By: Olivia Zhu

Memorial's annual Student Film Fest is coming soon! Since 2006, students have been submitting short movies for other students, staff, and parents to watch, with crowds of 200-400. This is not only a chance to explore and show your creative side in filmmaking, but it is also an opportunity to win awards: best narrative, best animation, best documentary, best visual achievement, and the best film of the year--which is voted on by the audience--will be presented. Send any submissions or questions to Mr. Frontier (jfrontier@madison.k12.wi.us) by May 9th. Film Fest will be in the auditorium 7-9pm, date TBD. Tickets are \$3 for students and \$9 for adults.

## MEMORIAL RENOVATIONS

By: Olivia Zhu

After a long time of dingy rooms, scuffed concrete floors, precarious ceilings, and sound-susceptible walls, Memorial will finally be getting renovations!

Plans to revamp Memorial had already been in the works, but due to the pandemic, progress was temporarily halted. The project will be picked up again this summer and throughout the next school year.

So far, it seems to be that there will not be any major changes--instead, students can definitely expect to walk on tiled floors, look up to a covered ceiling, and new desks, tables, and ergonomic standing desks in classrooms!

In addition, signs and the interior of Memorial will most likely be changed to say Vel Phillips Memorial" instead of "James Madison Memorial."

## TIPS FOR 4TH QUARTER

By: Olivia Zhu

It's 4th quarter! The end of the first in-person school year is tantalizingly near, and while we most likely won't have final exams again, don't slack off yet--especially if you're taking AP exams in May! For those who aren't prepping for exams, this is your last chance to bump up your grades. Here are some tips to get you through the last stretch of school before summer!

### 1. You've come too far to stop

Give yourself a pat on the back for making it through the first in-person school year since 2019! It's been a turbulent time, and every student has been working hard and persisting for the first 3 quarters. With that, why not go out with a bang?

### 2. Motivate yourself by starting a club

If you're interested in starting your own club for a community, experience, or interest that you don't see represented at Memorial, now is a great time to take action to plan, recruit, and find an advisor (which is usually a teacher you know) to prepare for next year. This is great for developing your interests and a very strong extra-curricular!

### 3. Write some goals

If you're finding yourself in a rut, write down your goals that you want to see yourself accomplish before the year ends. Remind yourself why you want to achieve these goals. Are you doing it for your future? For self fulfillment? For someone else? Figuring out why you started doing the things you are now can help keep you grounded to your purpose and motivate you.

### 4. Get a calendar or planner

If you're not using Memorial's student planner, I highly recommend you finding a planner or calendar to use to plan out the remaining days until summer. This can help you stay on track and break up any work you have into manageable chunks.



## THINGS TO GIVE YOUR MOTHER FOR MOTHER'S DAY

*By Sophia Jiang*

**Breakfast in Bed**

Nothing hits better than waking up to a fresh, hearty breakfast. This Mother's Day, treat your mom to a relaxing start to the day.

**Favorite Restaurant Food**

Everyone has a favorite restaurant. Take your mother out to her favorite dining place; she'll love it!

**Homemade Baked Goods**

Cookies, cake, pastries, anything! Make a batch of something sweet for your dear mother and tell her that what you baked is sweet but "not as sweet as you!"

**Chore Coupons**

This is by far the easiest to do. It doesn't require any money on your part - just labor. Give your mom a homemade "chore coupon" and allow her to use it to have an errand done for free!

**Chocolate**

Ah, the classic. Buy your mother a box of chocolates from the local store! From Ferrer Rocher, Hershey's, chocolates from your local candy shop - you name it!



## SUPER BOWL CHAMPIONS

*By Nolan Sullivan*

The Rams are Super Bowl Champions! After going "all-in" this offseason and at the trade deadline, acquiring players such as quarterback Matthew Stafford, receiver Odell Beckham Jr., and pass rusher Von Miller, the Rams proved that giving up large amounts of draft capital can ultimately pay off. Their opponent, the Cincinnati Bengals, took a much different approach. After drafting Joe Burrow with the first overall pick last season, the future looked bright in Cincy. Despite many analysts insisting that they must draft a lineman in the 2021 draft, the Bengals decided on receiver Ja'Marr Chase out of LSU. In the end, Chase finished the regular season with just under 1500 yards and 13 touchdowns.

After the Rams went up 13-3 early in the second quarter with two touchdowns through the air, on top the Cincinnati defense showed few signs of being able to stop LA, it began to look like Super Bowl LVI was going to be a one-sided affair. However, Joe Burrow & co. responded with 17 unanswered points of their own, including a 75 yard touchdown to Tee Higgins at the start of the 3rd quarter. Unfortunately for them, an Evan McPherson field goal on the following drive would end up being the final points they would score all game. Down 20-16 with just a few minutes left, the Rams took a methodical 15 plays to drive down the field 79 yards, culminating in a one-yard touchdown pass to Cooper Kupp. Kupp, who already won NFL Offensive Player of the Year, added Super Bowl MVP to his collection of accomplishments by the end of the night.

It was a very emotional victory for a handful of long-time Rams, including offensive tackle Andrew Whitworth and defensive lineman Aaron Donald, both of whom were members of the team during their Super Bowl LIII loss. Whitworth, a 4x All-Pro 40-year old likely in the last year of his illustrious career, was up against his former team in this game. Donald, who was drafted by the Rams in 2014, won NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year when the franchise was in St. Louis, and followed it up with three Defensive Player of the Year trophies. The pair embraced after the game, with tears streaming down their faces, having finally accomplished the ultimate goal in their careers.

# JOIN CFF!

By Sophia Jiang

Are you interested in joining a club that is centered around children’s health, advocacy, and volunteering? If so, join Memorial Children For Future! As of now, they are partnered with Healthy Kids Collaborative and advocating to include water access in the MMSD Health and Wellness Policy. Recently, they conducted a survey regarding the student body’s opinions on health and wellness here at Memorial.

Donate to the CFF Book Drive! There will be a bin at the Welcome Center for books (anything from birth to teen) from April 26 to May 17th! All books will be donated to the Madison Reading Project.

Follow them on Instagram @memorialcff! Email them with questions @ memorialcff@gmail.com

## CFF SURVEY RESULTS

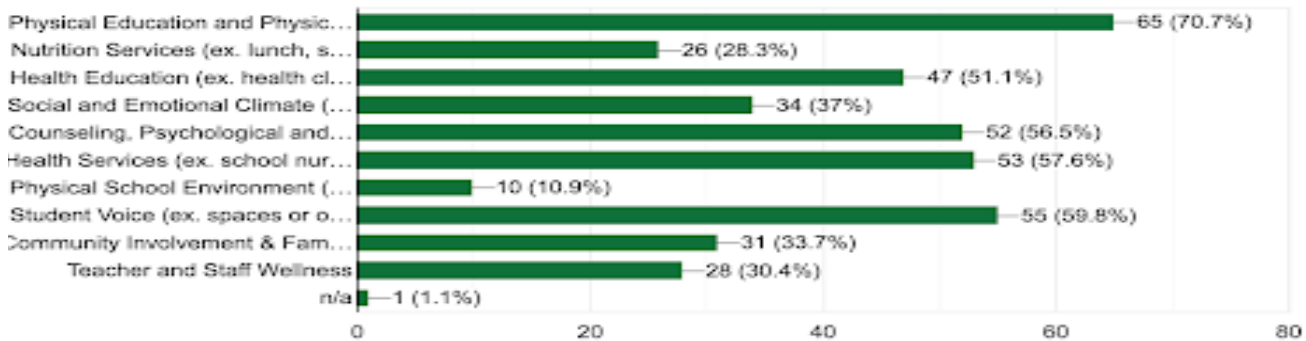
By Sophia Jiang

From the 92 students who filled out the survey regarding health and wellness here at Memorial, here are the results!

We can see that the main issue is the physical environment since that is rated with the lowest approval ratings. Vast majorities of students agree that it is difficult to access clean bathrooms during the day. Many students also feel somewhat or very worried or anxious about the recent safety concerns.

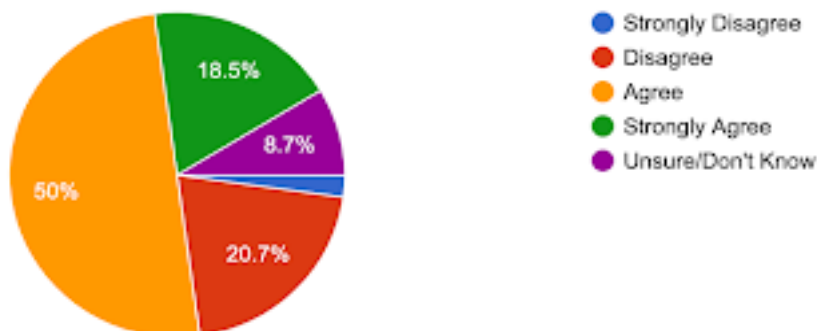
What is your school and MMSD currently doing well to support the health and wellness of you and your classmates? Choose all that apply.

92 responses



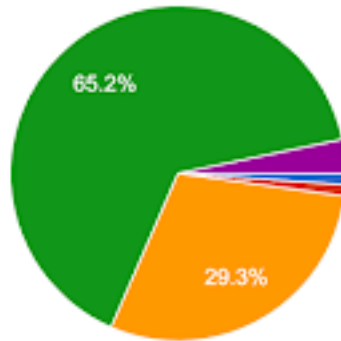
It is easy for me to access free, clean drinking water at school throughout the building and school day.

92 responses



I support improving access to drinking water and water bottle filling stations at my school.

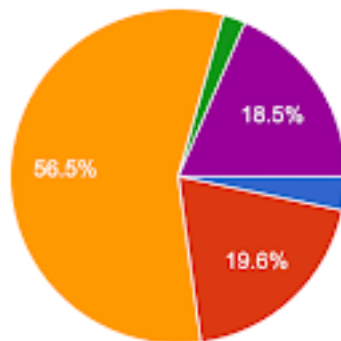
92 responses



- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree
- Unsure/Don't Know

I feel safe in my school.

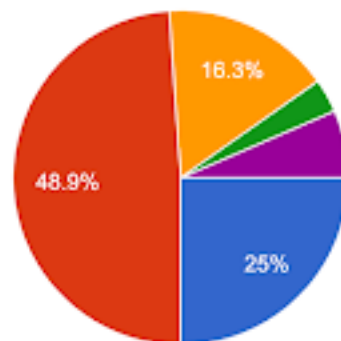
92 responses



- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree
- Unsure/Don't Know

It is easy for me to access clean bathrooms during the school day.

92 responses



- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree
- Unsure/Don't Know

# NEWS

## UPDATE ON UKRAINE-RUSSIA CONFLICT

*By: Ava Kahn*

The war between Russia and Ukraine is advancing quickly. This continued conflict was recently reignited in February of 2022. Since, there have been countless acts of bombing in Ukrainian cities and many thousands have been killed. This conflict is one of the largest refugee crises since 1960.

The cause of this conflict leads back to the 20th century when there was a clear division between western and eastern societies. The two major superpowers of the world were the United States and the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union was a communist state that lasted from 1922 until 1991. It was located in Eastern Europe and Northern Asia, including modern states; Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and more. When the Soviet Union collapsed, Russia and Ukraine became independent, sovereign countries. Vladimir Putin, the current President of Russia, had dreams of reuniting the Soviet Union. Putin also hoped to keep Ukraine from joining the Western alliance, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Russia has justified the invasion by saying that the Ukrainian government officials are neo-Nazis. Others believe that this idea is propaganda to justify the war.

In Mariupol, the southeastern city on the Sea of Azov, war continues. Ukrainian forces have been fighting back hard and they continue to vow to do so. Over the past two months, Russian and Ukrainian troops have been fighting over this city, resulting in tens of thousands of casualties. There are currently 100,000 people trapped without proper access to food or clean water. According to the New York Times, Ukrainian President Zelensky accused Russia of, "deliberately trying to destroy everyone who is there." There has been constant bombardment including the bombing of a maternity ward and a theater being used as a bomb shelter. The Ukrainian Prime Minister has said that their troops will hold on as long as possible because if Russia gained this territory, it would lead to significant advancement. This piece of Ukraine would complete a Russian land bridge to Crimea and allow troops to refocus on other parts of Ukraine. It is unclear as to what will happen with this territory because Ukrainian forces are determined to keep it, but Russian forces outnumber them, six to one.

Although Russia may be gaining territory in Mariupol, they have also suffered setbacks during recent events. Russian forces withdrew from the capital of Ukraine, Kyiv, and the area around it. In Kyiv, they experienced a great deal of loss due to harsh Ukrainian resistance. The Russians have decided to direct their focus on Eastern Ukraine. Also, one of Russia's most important warships, the Moskva, the leader of the Black Sea Fleet, sank. It is unclear as to how this ship sank because Ukrainian and American officials declared the cause a Ukrainian missile, while Russia said it was because of fire started within the ship. Russia has also lost six generals in action due to the lack of communication and discipline.

There have been countless acts of violence in Ukraine throughout the war, including the bombing of many civilian towns. In the town of Bucha and others surrounding Kyiv, local officials accused Russia of carrying out mass executions of civilians. They found around 900 dead bodies of people who had died from gunshot wounds. Russia has denied that they caused this horrific event and blames Ukraine for staging it. However, satellite images revealed that those bodies had been there for weeks. Many western leaders, including President Joe Biden, have called this a hate crime. The number of total casualties from this war is very uncertain because neither nation has publicized it. However, the United Nations estimates about 2,700 Ukrainian civilians, 3,000 Ukrainian soldiers and 20,000 Russian soldiers have passed.

The war between Ukraine and Russia is an ongoing horrific event. It has resulted in an enormous amount of casualties and migration. Sadly, there is not yet an end in sight, however, there is some hope that they will be able to come to some sort of agreement in the near future.



# NATIONAL NEWS

## AAPI HERITAGE MONTH OVERVIEW

By: *Anvika Annyapu*

The month of May is known for spring and nearing the end of school. However, since 1978, May has also been recognized as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage (AAPI) Month. Although it is important to recognize backgrounds and cultures throughout the year, this month is to honor AAPI's achievements, understand their history, and break stereotypes in the US.

### History of Anti-Asian Sentiments

Since the first connections were made between European and the most distant Asian countries, Asians were viewed as “barbarians.” This view continued for centuries past, as America saw its first wave of Asians during the Gold Rush in the 1850s, Asian Americans were treated as outsiders and mistreated. This xenophobia and racism are seen in prominent events throughout history: the massacre of Chinese Americans in 1871, the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War 2, and the aftermath of 9/11 when Muslim, Sikh, and Hindu Americans alike were subjected to discrimination and violence. This continued xenophobia was only exacerbated by world events; following the times when America waged war against three Asian countries, Korea, Japan, and Vietnam, these people groups saw an increase in violence against them.

To compound this, Asian Americans were seen as the model minority. Media portrayal informed the daily American that Asian Americans were on the same level as White people in terms of success. The model minority myth perpetuated the idea that all Asian Americans were successful which pitted other minority groups against Asian Americans. Prior to the acceptance of the term Asian American-Pacific Islander, the term Asian American encompassed all cultures and beliefs that existed in Asia. This erased the individuality of each group that exists in Asia and the different experiences they had. Looking at pay disparities in 2019, for every one dollar a white man makes, on average, a Taiwanese woman makes \$1.16 while a Burmese woman only makes 52 cents. The generalization of Asian American experiences led to ignoring how groups are struggling.

### Impact Today

Unfortunately, the impact increased tenfold during the pandemic. The first COVID-19 case was recorded in China, and existing xenophobia only grew. As lives were upended and people were confused, the blame was pinned on Asian Americans. According to the FBI as of October 2021, hate crimes grew by 76% in 2020, reaching a 12-year high. Many stories reported violent attacks on elderly Asians, stores were looted, and one of the most devastating events was the spa shooting in Atlanta, Georgia. A shooting spree in three different spas led to the death of 8 individuals, 6 of which were Asian women. During this chaos, Mayor Keisha Bottoms of Atlanta outlined the issue, “Whatever the motivation was for this guy, we know that the majority of the victims were Asian...we also know that this is an issue that is happening across the country. It is unacceptable, it is hateful and it has to stop.”

### How To Help

The situation has seen some progress. Following the Atlanta spa shooting, Stop Anti-Asian Hate protests began. Starting in January of 2021, people took to the streets to protest anti-Asian sentiments. Whether it be for legislation, education, or bias training, calls are being made for change. In May 2021, the federal COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act was passed, an act that promotes the reporting of hate crimes through phone lines that accommodate for language barriers. Although this change may seem large-scale, there are things people can do in their everyday lives.

#### 1. Address internal biases

Without realizing you may be making assumptions about AAPI people-- acknowledge that their ethnicity

does not define how they interact with others. This is one of the biggest steps towards addressing the issue: biases can skew the perception of events and people in the negative direction and only perpetuate stereotypes.

## 2. Contact schools to diversify curriculum

Education is also one of the most important aspects to addressing anti-Asian sentiments. Talk to administrators, teachers, and the school board and ask them to institute Asian inclusion in school events and classes! It is essential that common understanding is promoted in a school setting.

## 3. Support local AAPI businesses

Diversify your taste and help support AAPI businesses! A lot of Asian American businesses struggled greatly during the pandemic due to hate crimes and the economic crisis. Celebrate these businesses and their heritage by supporting them.

For more information, check out this link:

<https://www.channel3000.com/list-asian-owned-businesses-to-support-in-and-around-madison/>

# KETANJI BROWN JACKSON: FIRST FEMALE BLACK SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

By: Hayat Brahmer

Since its creation in 1789, there have been 115 justices on the United States Supreme Court, 110 of them have been men.

On February 25th, Ketanji Brown Jackson, a Black woman, was nominated by President Biden to be an Associate Justice to the Supreme Court. Brown Jackson is an attorney and jurist who has served as a US Circuit Judge for the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia; one of the highest courts in the US. After gradu-

ating Harvard Law, Jackson became a defense attorney, clerked for Justice Breyer (the justice she will replace) and was a district judge for the United States district of Columbia. She received the Senate's confirmation on April 7th, with all of the Democratic Senators and three Republican Senators voting in support of the nomination, giving her the majority vote and making Brown Jackson the first black woman to sit on the US Supreme Court.



During her confirmation hearing, the Senate Judiciary Committee interviewed 200 attorneys and judges who had worked with Jackson. These people were quick to say that they enjoyed working with her and praised her intelligence. However, many Republicans questioned her eligibility and intellect during the hearing. They accused her of being soft on crime because of her past rulings on child pornography cases. Senator Blackburn even pressured the chairman of the Judiciary Committee to allow members to view various child

pornography cases Jackson had overseen. However, Senator Durbin resisted opening up these cases to the public to continue the privacy of the people involved. During these allegations, Jackson defended herself, arguing that the problem was not with her rulings but with the law. She argued that the laws no longer apply well since the invention

of the internet changed the way child pornography is created and distributed, therefore making it difficult to accurately convict and sentence someone.

The Democrats on the committee scolded the Republicans for attacking Judge Jackson. However, Ketanji Brown Jackson stayed strong and not only proved herself to be a worthy judge but to be an excellent Associate Justice for the US Supreme Court.

# WHAT IS THE METAVERSE?

By: *Jonathan Buscher*

Following Microsoft's citation of the metaverse for its buying Activision Blizzard, a game developer, for \$68.7 billion, as well as the name change of Facebook to Meta by the company's CEO Mark Zuckerberg in November of 2021, many have been prompted to ask the question: "What is the Metaverse anyway?" Coming from Neal Stephenson's 1992 novel *Snow Crash*, the metaverse is a concept used by technology companies and in business to apply to a digital second life, or an intense integration of physical and digital worlds. Accessible through virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), or simply through a computer, the metaverse is seen as "parallel" to our physical world. Currently, this is involving virtual meetings, where individuals meet as avatars utilizing VR technology, as well as video games such as Roblox, basically an extension of our current internet. Interest regarding metaverse concepts has spiked recently, especially with the Covid-19 pandemic, as non-fungible tokens (NFTs), cryptocurrencies, and other digital items became more popular. While these advancements might seem far in the future, they aren't, and with numerous companies like Nike already prospecting, preparing to sell virtual products, such as sneakers, life in the metaverse is closer than we think.

## MIDTERM ELECTIONS 2022

By: *Ava Kahn*

The midterm elections are nationwide elections that take place halfway through a president's term. This November there will be a number of important elections for the U.S. Senate, House of Representatives, and State Governors. Depending on the results of the midterm elections, the House and Senate majorities can change significantly. There will be 435 elections for the members of the House because they are only in office for two years. There will also be 34 elections for Senate seats because they are elected every six years. In addition, there will be elections in 36 states for governors. Currently, the split between Republicans and Democrats in the Senate is 50-50. So, the newly elected senators will be able to significantly change the ability of President Joe Biden to pass laws. In the past, the party of the president has lost House and Senate seats during midterms, especially when the president's approval rating is low before the elections. In 2022, there is speculation that several legislative seats may be taken by Republicans.

In Wisconsin, we have a lot of elections coming up. One of these elections is for a Senate seat currently held by Republican Ron Johnson. Ron Johnson is running for reelection, however, there are quite a few Democrats running against him; Mandela Barnes (the current Lieutenant Governor), Sarah Godlewski (the State Treasurer), and many others. The state will also need to elect a new governor as Tony Evers' current term will come to an end. Evers is running

for reelection but he will have some competition from Republicans, such as Rebecca Kleefisch, Kevin Nicholson, and others. Voters in Wisconsin will also need to elect a new Lieutenant Governor, as Mandela Barnes is leaving his position to run for Senator. Along with all of these elections, we need to elect eight members for the House, one from each district. Dane County is located in the second district and so far we only have two Republican candidates, Charity Barry and Erik Olson running. Overall, there are a lot of decisions to be made that can significantly affect the way President Biden runs our country.



# GOOD NEWS



## WORLD RECORD FOR MR. POTATO HEAD ASSEMBLY IS BROKEN

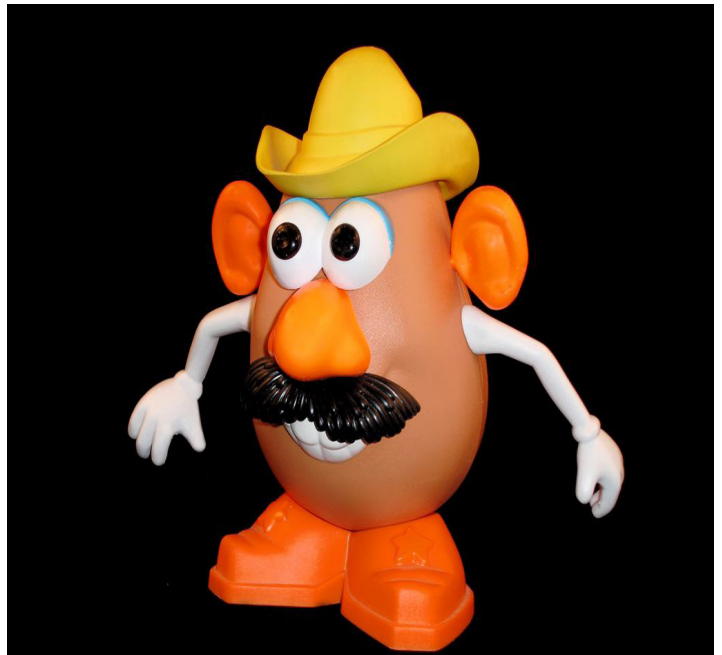
*By: Jonathan Buscher*

In December of 2021, Matilda Walden, a thirteen year old girl from Britain, broke the Guinness World Record for assembling Mr. Potato Head. After its creation in the mid 1900s, Mr. Potato Head became an immensely popular toy, and yet Walden was the first to break the record in over ten years. Beating the previous time by 0.9 seconds, Matilda assembled the spud in 5.69 seconds, an impressive feat to be sure. While it may seem simple, achieving this record took very specific techniques and was a difficult task. In regards to this skill and strategy, when interviewed, Walden stated, "I had to be joining the nose and mustache together as I picked them up in one hand." Her motivation behind this was positive as well, as Walden, who has disabilities, said that she often feels judged and unwelcome in community events, and wanted to give back to Skipton Extended Learning for All (SELFA). This organization, she claims, never judged her for who she was and gave her the conviction she needed to achieve her world record, so she decided to raise awareness for them to express her gratitude. With a newfound self confidence, Matilda Walden now has her sights set on breaking another record of constructing Mr. Potato Head while wearing a blindfold, although she needs to beat 14.9 seconds, the standing time, in order to do so.

## 911 CALLED FOR ERROR IN KFC ORDER

*By: Jonathan Buscher*

On Tuesday March 22, 2022, the Chagrin Valley Ohio Dispatch 911 number received a call from a local woman, according to the Euclid Police Department. The subject of the call: an incorrect amount of chicken at a KFC drive-through, as this anonymous caller received four, as opposed to her previously ordered eight pieces. To the dispatcher, she stated "I only got four pieces of chicken and I want my chicken," and continued to demand that a police officer be sent even after being told that her case was civil, and that she should bring it up with the manager, not law enforcement. Still, someone was sent to the scene, and confirmed that nothing further could be done for the woman. This is not the first time that incidents such as this have happened either, and it is not a local phenomenon, as in 2020, a call was also received at the 999 number in West Yorkshire's Police Contact Management Center in Britain. In this case, a concerned resident reported that a new freezer had been delivered at the wrong house. The Euclid Police Chief, Scott Meyer, is now encouraging all citizens to avoid using 911 for non-emergency situations, as police certainly have significantly more pressing issues to deal with than four small chicken nuggets.



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## HIGHLIGHTING AAPI ARTISTS FOR ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

By: *Amy Qiao*

### AAPI Actors

- **Steven Yeun** is a Korean-American actor most known for his roles in *Burning* and *The Walking Dead*. More recently, he starred in the 2020 film, *Minari*, which won the 2021 Golden Globe Award for Best Foreign Language Film and tells the story of a Korean-American family who moves to Arkansas in search of the American dream. The film beautifully explores the meaning of family as well as the immigrant story in America.
- **Aparna Nancharla** is an Indian-American actress and comedian. She is known for her roles in *Space Force* and (my personal favorite) *Mythic Quest*. She has also written for *Late Night with Seth Meyers* and is currently a voice actor for *The Great North*. She is absolutely hilarious, and I also recommend checking out her stand-up on Comedy Central- after watching, you won't be surprised why she's both a great actor and writer.
- **Charlotte Nicdao** is a Filipino-Australian actress also known for her role as Poppy Li in *Mythic Quest*. Her ability to pull off a humorous role while delivering emotional scenes makes the show amazing.
- **Maya Erskine** is a Japanese-American actress most known for her role in *PEN15*, where she stars alongside Anna Konkle as teenage outcasts. Although the show's premise is a bit ridiculous, the writing and amazing performances somehow make the cringe so fun to watch.
- **Simu Liu** is a Chinese-Canadian actor who is, of course, most known for starring in *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*. Before his role for Marvel, Liu was an actor on *Kim's Convenience*, a comedy TV show.

### AAPI Singers

- **Audrey Nuna** is a Korean-American R&B singer and rapper. She is most known for her songs *damn Right* and *Comic Sans* (ft. Jack Harlow), and she released her debut album, "a liquid breakfast," in May of 2021.
- **Joji** is a Japanese-American singer-songwriter, most known for his song *SLOW DANCING IN THE DARK*. My personal favorites, however, are *Mr. Hollywood* and *Afterthought* (ft. BENEE) on his 2020 album *Nectar*.
- **Japanese Breakfast** is a Korean-American musician, director, and author. She was nominated for two Grammy's in 2022 (best new artist and best alternative music album for *Jubilee*).
- **Weston Estate** has five members, Marco Luka (vocals), who is Cuban-American, and Srikar Nanduri (guitar), Manas Panchavati (vocals), Tanmay Joshi (vocals), and Abhi Manhass (production, bass), who are Indian American. They describe themselves as "ya aunty's favorite boy band, and they recently released their first EP, *Maggie Valley*."
- **Public Library Commute**, or Conrad Hsiang, is a Taiwanese-American singer, songwriter, and producer. My personal favorites of his songs are *Moonlight* and *Summertime*.



## MAY EVENTS AT THE OVERTURE CENTER

By: *Olivia Zhu*

The Overture Center of Performing Arts always has rich and entertaining programs. Here are a few to check out in May.

**Russian Troll Farm: A Workplace Comedy**  
This hilarious play imagines the daily life of a worker in the Internet Research Agency, a real-life organization based in Russia that was found to have proliferated misinformation during the US 2016 presidential election.

**Mariachi Herencia de México:** This group of young Mexican Americans--who were nominees for the Latin Grammy Awards and have topped charts on Billboard and iTunes--will perform their new album *Esencia*, which consists of mariachi music, a genre of 18th century Mexican music.

**Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra Masterworks IV- The Emperor:** If you're into classical music, this is for you! Pieces by Janacek, Cherubini, and Beethoven will be performed by pianist John O'Connor and maestro Andrew Sewell.

**Afrique en Cirque:** This is a wonderful musical and acrobatic performance featuring rhythms and instruments native to Guinea. The founder, Yamoussa Bangoura, incorporates African arts with the North American circus performance.



## THE RED SPECIAL: BRIAN MAY'S LEGENDARY GUITAR

By: *Vince Kim*

As the lead guitarist of the famous band Queen, Brian May is one of the biggest faces in rock & roll history, with his songwriting skills and musical prowess laying the foundation for Queen's greatness. But more than his magical solos and beloved riffs, guitarists still marvel most at his iconic guitar "Red Special" and its incredible history.

In the summer of 1963, a 16-year-old Brian May wanted an electric guitar but his family couldn't afford one at the time, motivating him to build his own guitar from scratch. After discussing with his father Harold, an electronic engineer and builder, the two began a special project to construct a guitar of the highest quality using unorthodox ideas.

The Red Special is essentially an innovative recycling product — a product of May's experimental thinking built with common household items like an old table and fireplace mantel. May's advanced ideas can be seen through Red's uncommon 24-fret neck and variety of switches/audios to extract rich tones. Although May owned no sophisticated tools for his project, his unwavering passion and determination led him to finish building one of most recognizable guitars in today's music.

# EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE

By: Felipe Rey

From the filmmaking powerhouse that is the Daniels (creators of the incredible *Turn Down for What* video and the film *Swiss Army Man*) comes the mind-bending *Everything Everywhere All At Once*, which I believe will go down as one of the most phenomenal films ever made in the history of cinema.

Going in, I thought that perhaps my expectations were too high. Yes, the duo had made one of my all-time favorite films and what is probably considered the best music video ever, but was the bar too high? It turns out it most certainly was not.

I think it's best going into this movie knowing very little, but in essence, it's a movie about a woman named Evelyn as she fights against an incredibly powerful multiversal presence. Other than that, no information is truly needed.

Everything in this film works perfectly. The comedy was hilarious, the action was some of the best I've ever seen, and the multiversal aspect of the world was used in creative ways you would never expect. Yet throughout all of this pulse-pounding, adrenaline-pumping fun, they create an emotional resonance that allows the story to feel complete instead of just a mishmash of action and universe jumping.

There's practically everything an audience could really want out of a movie in this movie. Action, comedy, romance, drama, thriller, cinematography, well-written dialogue, costume design, powerful ideas about family and unity, it has everything, and it balances it perfectly.

Even if you don't believe me, you can see how loved this movie is on Letterboxd (a popular movie rating website), where it has become the highest rated movie of all time, being only the third movie ever in the history of the website to receive this title (after *Parasite* and *The Godfather*).

If you haven't seen *Everything Everywhere All At Once* yet, maybe skip *Doctor Strange's Multiverse of Madness* and go to something that is at a level which I have rarely seen before in the hundreds of movies I've seen. This is essential viewing. Watch it as soon as possible.



## TALENTED MUSIC DUO "SUNDIAL" CONTINUE TO GROW IN POPULARITY

By: Sophia Jiang

With styles ranging from folk to R&B, Jisu Kim and Dorothy Chan are gifted musicians who don't need a large production team: they compose their background music and make official videos all by themselves. After meeting at Berklee College of Music, the couple began making music together, and rose to popularity after they released their song, "your text". Now, they have 200k Monthly Listeners and 14 million Spotify streams. With beautiful overlapping tones and pure, flawless voices, they touch the hearts of all of their fans. They put an emphasis on storytelling, clearly illustrated by their relatable lyrics. "We're not done yet telling our stories," says Kim. "Until we get to that point, it makes sense for us to work through a lot of these things ourselves. Songwriting for us is not just about making a catchy song—it's about putting a story down on paper."

Check them out on Instagram @sundialofficial



## MORBIUS REVIEW: NEW MARVEL FILM FALLS FLAT

By: Felipe Rey

After being postponed a few times, *Morbius*, Sony's most recent Marvel collaboration, was finally released to practically no critical acclaim, instead being greeted with an avalanche of online mockery. Though its critics may seem harsh, their comments are mostly well-deserved, as *Morbius* is one of the worst superhero movies to be released, and it marks another ill-fated attempt on Sony's part at advancing their cinematic universe.

*Morbius* is a film about the Spider-Man villain, Morbius, who here is a doctor named Michael Mor-



bius. His character is diagnosed with a rare blood disease, and he sets out to cure it, with unintended consequences along the way.

There are not many kind words to say about *Morbius*. It's shocking how poorly this movie does everything it sets out to do. The pacing is incredibly odd, as it lingers on moments that are entirely unnecessary (such as a scene where the villain flexes and model-walks in his closet mirror) and quickly brushes over pretty key scenes (such as Morbius figuring out his powers and weaknesses). Truth be told, by the end of the movie, I couldn't tell you with 100% certainty what Morbius's powers even were. I had a general idea, but there's such a lack of specifics that in one scene near the end, I was thinking "wait, he can do that?"

The plot of this film is mundane, and there's few scenes that feel original or new (except the end-credit scene, but in a really terrible way, it's bizarre and

horrendous). The script is full of terrible jokes and lines that are impossible to deliver well, even with Jared Leto putting in some effort. There are plot points in this that make absolutely no sense (see Milo/Lucien's name for an example). Despite its star preaching about the film's originality drawing him to the character, none of it can be found in the final cut. A mundane cast of characters and a mundaner plot makes for one of the poorest entries in Marvel's catalog, and one which I wouldn't recommend seeing unless it's free to watch.



## WISCONSIN FILM FEST

By: Felipe Rey

Wisconsin Film Festival was back in person this year with an absolutely fantastic lineup in multiple locations throughout Madison. Kicking off the festival with a university screening of the absolutely incredible *Everything Everywhere All At Once*, the festival truly started on Thursday, April 7th, and ended the following Thursday.

Some highlights of the festival include *Marcel the Shell with Shoes On*, A24's delightful foray into film for younger audiences, *Cow*, the slow, moving documentary about a cow named Luma, *Mad God*, a pulse-pounding stop motion adventure, *The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent*, the film in which Nicholas Cage plays himself in a love letter to his lengthy filmography, and many more great films.

Despite its 2-year hiatus hurting sales slightly, it seems the festival is back on the rails for future years and will continue to showcase student work, new releases, and old restorations in an effort to keep cinema alive.



# SPORTS

## MLB SEASON STARTS

*By Nolan Sullivan*

After postponing the first couple weeks of the season and working through the second-longest work stoppage in Major League Baseball history, baseball officially returned this past month. The league's biggest stars, such as reigning MVPs Shohei Ohtani and Bryce Harper, will look to continue their impressive play into the new season, while teams like the Atlanta Braves begin their campaign to repeat as World Champions. Let's take a look at some of the biggest stories from the opening weeks of the MLB season.

Out of the gate, there are already a few teams starting to distance themselves from the rest of their divisions. In the National League, the Dodgers unsurprisingly sit atop of the West, despite not receiving great contributions from stars like Mookie Betts and Trea Turner. Staying in the NL, the Mets have a strong hold on first place in the East even without their ace, Jacob deGrom. Their strong core of hitters, including Francisco Lindor, Jeff McNeil, and Pete Alonso, have provided plenty of run support. Lastly, in the NL Central, no team has taken hold of the division. The Cardinals and Brewers, expectedly, are neck and neck just a few games above .500, but the Pirates and Cubs aren't far behind. Despite having the third lowest payroll in all of baseball, Pittsburgh have held their own throughout the opening weeks.

In the American League, two young groups are first in their respective divisions, the Seattle Mariners and Toronto Blue Jays. Seattle, who haven't been to the playoffs since winning a league record 116 games back in 2001, have already started strong after falling just short of clinching last season. After calling up top prospect Julio Rodríguez, hopes are even higher that the Mariners will finally end that drought. Toronto, on the other hand, is off to a hot start on the back of their young superstar, Vladimir Guerrero Jr.. With solid starters like Alek Manoah and Kevin Gausman on the



mound as well, the Blue Jays hope to make it to October this year after missing out, despite their 91-win season, last fall. Similar to the NL, the AL Central is also very up in the air. While the Twins currently sit in first place, the Guardians, Tigers, and White Sox all are right behind them. Expectations were high for Chicago coming into the season, and they haven't gotten off to the start they were looking for. One of the biggest stories from the early goings of this season was Miguel Cabrera becoming just the 33rd player in MLB history to reach the historic 3000 hit mark, achieving the milestone with an opposite-field single to right field.

After all, baseball fans are just glad to see that their sport will be playing its entire 162-game season in 2022. The past couple of years have seen long discourse between Major League Baseball and its Players Association regarding a variety of issues throughout the game, and it's important that they have been able to resolve some of these things while also carrying on with play. Let's hope for a great season!

## 2022 FIGURE SKATING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Amy Qiao

After the Olympics, the 2022 World Figure Skating Championships became the focus in the figure skating world. But it was a much different World Championships than expected. Less than a week before the competition, Nathan Chen announced he would withdraw from the event due to an injury he didn't want to exacerbate. Camden Pulkinen took his place. Plus, with Russian figure skaters banned from Worlds and China not entering any skaters, the women's and pairs events looked much different.

First, let's take a look at the men's division. Shoma Uno, the bronze medalist at the Olympics, took the gold at Worlds, with his teammate Yuma Kagiyama, the silver medalist at the Olympics, winning silver. US figure skater Vincent Zhou skated away with the bronze medal, and Camden Pulkinen, the alternate for Nathan Chen, placed 5th with a 3rd place free skate performance.

Without any Russian skaters, the women's division looked quite different than at the Olympics. Kaori Sakamoto, the bronze medalist at the Olympics, placed first. Belgian figure skater Loena Hendrickx won silver. US figure skater Alysa Liu won bronze. Not too far behind, Mariah Bell placed 4th, and Karen Chen placed 8th.

In the pairs event, Alea Knierim and Brandon Frazier earned their first Worlds gold medal, becoming the first US pairs team to win a gold medal at Worlds since 1979. US pairs team Ashley Cain-Gribble and Timothy Leduc unfortunately had to withdraw after Cain-Gribble's injury from a triple salchow in their free skate.

Finally, in the ice dance division, Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron, representing France, won gold. US team Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donahue won silver, and their teammates Madison Chock and Evan Bates won bronze.

A few weeks after her bronze medal win, Alysa Liu announced she would be retiring from skating at the age of 16. In an Instagram post from early April, Liu stated, "I feel so satisfied with how my skating career has gone. Now that I'm finally done with my goals in skating, I'm going to be moving on with my life... But for real this skating thing has taught me a lot more about life than I anticipated. I'm really glad I skated." Although the figure skating community will miss her iconic triple axel and exuberant performances, I only wish her the best in her future goals, and I hope she carries her immense positivity wherever she goes.

## SOCCKER UPDATE

By Vince Kim

The 2022 Qatar World Cup is half a year away, with the US placed with England, Iran, and the winner of the intercontinental playoffs between Wales, Scotland, and Ukraine in Group B. England is currently ranked fifth in the FIFA rankings, so the match against them should be quite challenging but entertaining. Although this year's WC doesn't seem to have a "group of death", it will surely be unpredictable and exciting since Canada has also qualified for the WC for the first time in almost four decades.

While WC's are usually held during the summer, this year's event is taking place this November because Qatar is too hot in the summer, with average temperatures around a scorching 108 degrees. On top of the schedule conflicting with the next club football season, Qatar has been under some controversy due to the mysterious deaths of migrant workers and the country's lack of human rights. Regardless, football fans hope that all nations can put on another unforgettable show on the world stage.

With summer around the corner, the races for different league titles are becoming very interesting. In the English Premier League, Manchester City and Liverpool are neck and neck for the PL title. After drawing 2-2 in mid-April, it still remains unclear who will claim the 2022 EPL Title. Bayern Munich of the German Bundesliga will most likely claim this year's title, while in La Liga, Real Madrid will most likely become champions of Spain. Meanwhile, Serie A's AC Milan and Inter Milan are leading the race for the Italian title.

With the quarter finals of the UEFA Champions League done, fans are waiting for the next semifinals to spur quite excitement. After moving up to the semi finals with a stunning victory against Bayern Munich, Villarreal is going against Liverpool, the 2019 UCL Champions. On the other side of the bracket, Manchester City and Real Madrid are going head-to-head in what may be the real clash of this semi finals.



## WISCONSIN SPRING FOOTBALL

By Nolan Sullivan

While last season ended on a high note for Wisconsin football with a 20-13 win over Arizona State in the Las Vegas Bowl, it's safe to say that they didn't quite live up to expectations. Coming into last season at #12 in the Associated Press poll, most fans and analysts expected the Badgers to at least win the Big Ten West and possibly fight for a New Year's Six Bowl. From the beginning, things weren't looking too hot, with early home losses to Penn State and Michigan, along with a neutral side game against Notre Dame, which ended up being a blowout. While Paul Chryst's team was able to win six straight games following those losses, the regular season ended with a frustrating, yet symbolic loss for the program in Minneapolis. The defense was once again one of the best in college football, giving up the least amount of yards per game in the entire nation, but despite impressive contributions from freshman tailback Braelon Allen, the offense never really found its groove. While there have been offenses at Wisconsin during the Paul Chryst era that have impressed, such as the 2019 team that featured Jack Coan, Jonathan Taylor, and Quintez Cephus, it has become a recurring theme for the Badgers to rely heavily on their defense to get them out of trouble.

Heading into this offseason, many have continued to question the productivity of redshirt-freshman quarterback Graham Mertz. Everyone knows that Mertz hasn't quite lived up to the hype he received coming out of high school, and some fans are ready for a change at quarterback. When star Oklahoma quarterback, Caleb Williams, entered the transfer portal, the idea that the former 5-star recruit could

come to Wisconsin was far-fetched. After UW hired Bobby Engram as their new offensive coordinator, father of Badger receiver Dean Engram, some began to think that Wisconsin could truly be in the running for Williams after all. Dean and Caleb both played together in high school, and Bobby Engram is close family friends with the Williams family. In the end, that dream was short-lived, and Williams chose USC and millions in NIL money over Madison, signifying that the QB job is Graham Mertz' to lose. The Badgers decided to tap into other markets of the transfer portal, gaining commitments from a handful of talented receivers and cornerbacks, including two former UCLA players, Keontez Lewis and Jay Shaw. On top of those acquisitions, Dean Engram, who used to play corner, made the switch to receiver to join his dad's offense and has already impressed many. We already know what Braelon Allen brings to the team, and with the improved receiving core that already includes talented underclassmen such as Skyler Bell and Markus Allen, there is hope that Graham Mertz can finally live up to his potential in this new offense.



## TAYLOR FRITZ UPSETS NADAL IN MADRID

By Sophia Jiang

Taylor Fritz, a rising tennis star, managed to upset Rafael Nadal in the 2022 March Indian Wells Tournament. Unfortunately, both players faced fitness challenges: Fritz with an injured ankle and Nadal with a broken rib. Fritz was able to push through and win 6-3, 7-6 against one of the greatest players of all time. "I just can't believe it's real. I can't even begin to describe how ridiculous it is that I could play like I did today [with the ankle]. I've never experienced worse pain than that before a match. I took a couple of changes in direction with

CONT...

my steps and screamed. It was tough.” stated Fritz in a post-match interview. Fritz wasn’t the only one concerned about his health, however. Nadal was in a much worse situation, needing to leave the court and speak to the doctor to receive treatment after the first set. He still managed to give Fritz a tough match, however, as he rallied to a tie break in the second set. Although Nadal was disappointed, he still acknowledged Fritz’s wonderful performance and decided to take a break from tennis. “This is not good news and I didn’t expect it,” Nadal wrote at the time. “I’m devastated and sad because it comes after a great start to the season.” Luckily, after a quick 2 month recovery, he is ready to come back to tennis and play in the Madrid Open. Fans are getting ready to see their favorite player on TV again and are excited to see how the rest of Nadal’s season plays out.



## IS SPIKEBALL THE NEW GO-TO SUMMER SPORT?

By Lydia Lenz

While you may be familiar with the simple outdoor game enjoyed on a beach or in your backyard, Spikeball is becoming a widely broadcasted and competitive sporting event. Competitions started as early as April this year with games in Florida, Virginia, Texas, and Washington leading up to the Major taking place May 21st in San Francisco, California. Majors are the matches that increase points and are the only rank of competition where teams can earn bid’s to the championships pro division. These Championship divisions are not only at peak skill level, but are going to be broadcasted across ESPN.

Spikeball is a relatively young sport and really values giving opportunity to players all across the world. From Spikeball.com in a portion that explains their purpose of these challenger events, the group emphasizes their encouragement of the cliché sport across all countries by saying, “It’s a way for us to support the wild growth of this sport. We couldn’t be more excited to stamp our passports and expand our definition of community.” This community is creating a competitive and respectful environment for all of its players no matter where they may be playing from.

These events continue all the way into late August. Not only does this sport offer interesting opportunities to its winners like cash prizes and trophies, but they also hold high value to the community surrounding spikeball. Through their website spikeball.com the opening statement under their season schedule says “You’ll find a mix of event formats, divisions for all types of players, and the greatest community on the planet. Come find out what it’s all about!” As I watched some events online from previous tournaments you can’t help but notice the positive environment they’re all surrounded by. Filled with colorful tents and charismatic teammates, there is plentiful encouragement and pride for the sport they all share that love for. Another observation was the intense sportsmanship shown. No matter who won and what that game may have meant to the team that had lost, all teammates were incredibly humble and showed appreciation to the opponents.

Spikeball may not have the same recognition as the NFL, MLB, or NHL but they do have a welcoming community that is willing to greet any player or fan with open arms. Even while there are intense high pressure spikeball games taking place this summer, don’t be afraid to buy a net of your own and throw down a game with some friends. This new crazed summer sport is here to stay.



## JMM ATHLETES ANSWER

*By Lydia Lenz*

Spring sports have officially sprung and we are looking forward to a great soccer season out of Memorial's girls soccer program this year. For May's JMM Athletes Answer, we asked the question to our seniors, "What are you going to miss from playing soccer with Memorial? And what are you most excited for this season?"

### **Kierstin Mchugh**

"I am most excited to kick Middleton's butt and play with all the girls this season. I'm really going to miss the team dinners and other team bonding stuff."

### **Savi Pursley**

"I'm excited to play and get revenge against Middleton and West. I'm going to miss the atmosphere and seeing all of my teammates and seniors everyday."

### **Sydney Weier**

"I'm gonna miss the team I have been able to play with, but I'm also really excited to bond with everybody this season!"

### **Madi Johnson**

"I have been out because of injury and am excited to finally play again. I will definitely miss the team chemistry and bonding you have all together as a team."

### **Grace Mentel**

"I'm going to miss playing with the team and I'm most excited to finish playing the highschool season with my twin sister."

### **Lydia Lenz**

"I am super excited to play soccer against other teams knowing people on the other side that I've played with on club and throughout the past seasons. But I'm really going to miss being a part of the Memorial team and having such supportive friends on the field."

### **Katherine Mentel**

"I am most excited to get more involved and play more games than last year. I'm going to really miss the car rides with friends."

### **Lidia Bodette**

"I'm excited to watch everyone put their hard work in this season and I will miss all the team lunches, dinners, and stuff like that being able to hang with everyone."

# OPINIONS

## END SCHOOL NOW

By: *Vince Kim*

Ending school now is not such a bad idea when considering the benefits that come with freeing up more time for students. With the AP Exams in the first weeks of May, students complete their biggest task in the whole school year. It's only logical that the end of the school year goes hand-in-hand with the AP Exams and students get a longer break from all that intense work and preparation. The newly freed-up time can also be used as a period for planning more productive summers. Summer is a crucial time for discovering new interests and aspirations while forming new relationships and goals for the next school year. Not only will students use summer more wisely, but they will also make the most out of school time. By ending the school year earlier than usual, students will also be more aware of the work deadlines and push themselves towards finishing work faster. Finally, students should be able to use Teacher's Appreciation Week at the start of May to thank their teachers and then say farewell to start their summer. Besides, teachers would probably feel better about ending the school year right after receiving students' praise.

## THE PROBLEM WITH MAY 5TH

By: *Jian Wang*

With Cinco de Mayo coming up many Latinx students are preparing for the generalization of one of the biggest minority groups in both the US and Memorial High School. Here at Memorial, we are proud of our diverse student body as well as our progressiveness, but this does not take away from the fact that there is still work to be done regarding the idea of what truly is "American."

Here in the United States, we celebrate a day called "Cinco de Mayo," a day that celebrates all the wrong things about Latinx culture. Cinco de Mayo celebrates the Mexican victory at the Battle of Puebla with tacos, mariachi, sombreros, and guac, yet there is nothing Mexican about Cinco de Mayo. America has had a colorful history filled with the oppression of colored people; Cinco de Mayo is only one of the many examples of this. To be Latinx is somehow tied to Cinco de Mayo, if you don't speak Spanish, wear a sombrero, or eat tacos then you aren't Latinx in the eyes of American society, and I know this all too well. Being half Mexican with a Chinese name, people often find it hard to fit me into their pre-existing beliefs on what a Latino should look like, and therefore I am not Latino to them. The idea of Latinx children not conforming to preconceived notions of sombreros, tacos, and guac, has yet to be perceived as distinctly Latinx, and this is the issue.

The US is a country with a very diverse population, yet many minority groups often find themselves encountering the problem of attempted Americanization. Americanization is defined to be the act of making a person or thing American in character or nationality, and is seen in a negative light and is often compared to westernization or assimilation. Rather than Americanizing minority groups, we as people should strive for the diversification of America, establish other cultures as American culture, and get rid of the boundaries which result in so many conflicts. Latinx culture is American culture.



# WHAT MYTHIC QUEST TELLS US ABOUT THE VIDEO GAME INDUSTRY

By: Amy Qiao

If you read that title and immediately recognized the Apple TV+ comedy starring Rob McElhenney and Charlotte Nicdao, then you must be one of the six people in the world, including myself, who have watched *Mythic Quest*. *Mythic Quest* is immensely underrated, even as it thoughtfully combines comedic moments with emotional scenes, all while incorporating a layer of constant chaos in every episode. But what I consider to be one of the most important aspects of the show is that it highlights major issues in the video game industry.

In the show, even as millions of players enjoy playing the *Mythic Quest* video game and the company experiences success after success, their employees find themselves consistently underappreciated and

The show also takes time to highlight the sexism surrounding video games- in both the companies that create them and the people that play them. When a group of young girls interested in coding visit the *Mythic Quest* office, the company's executive producer David Brittlesbee, played by David Hornsby, takes them on a tour. But as he tries to show the aspiring coders what it's like to be a woman in gaming, he learns that *Mythic Quest* has only a few female employees. And he uses the fact that their lead engineer Poppy Li, played by Charlotte Nicdao, is a woman to dismiss the notion of sexism in their office. The show also demonstrates the sexism Poppy experiences as the only woman in a lead position at the company. She is constantly ignored, overlooked, and



underpaid, specifically for their overtime hours. Led by Michelle, played by Aparna Nancherla, the video game programmers exercise their collective bargaining rights and unionize because of a lack of overtime compensation. Their demands were simple. They didn't want to reduce their hours; they love making the game better, even if it takes more time and effort to accomplish that. But they want to be paid for that extra time and effort. The game would be nothing without the programmers, and they want corporate to understand that and value them. By the end of the episode, their creative director Ian Grimm, played by Rob McElhenney, helps them accomplish just that. However, this rarely happens with video game companies in real life. There are countless stories of overworked programmers who are never compensated for their overtime hours. Perhaps the real video game industry could learn a lesson or two from the fabricated industry in *Mythic Quest*.

overworked, even by other women in the company. When women are already underrepresented in an industry, it can pressure them to feel that they have to compete with the few other women they work with. This is a problem that exists both in the show and out. Women can't simply be given a seat at the table to dismantle sexism; there needs to be a change in the video game industry to conscientiously value their female employees as well as make sure their voices are heard.

So if you haven't already seen *Mythic Quest*, go give it a watch. We can learn a lot about the problems that exist behind the video games we love, all while laughing along with the chaotic show. And if you've already seen it, maybe this is a reminder to watch it again.

## TIPS *and* TRICKS

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