



OCTOBER 2021



VOLUME LIV

Sword & Shield

JAMES MADISON MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT NEWSPAPER



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Happy October, Spartans!

Hi Everyone! My name is Ava Kenney and I'm the Arts & Entertainment Editor for the Sword & Shield newspaper! As everyone is adjusting into this new school year, I hope the Sword & Shield will give you an opportunity to connect with the school community, stay informed on current global news, and most importantly to relax and give your mind a small break from everyday commitments. Now that in-person events are returning, I hope you will enjoy reading about all of the exciting things currently happening, both at Memorial and around the world. Stay safe and continue wearing your masks!



Ava Kenney,
Arts & Entertainment
Editor

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Homecoming

Photo Retake Day

Renaming Memorial Meeting

Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble Concert

All-Choir Concert, Concert Bands I & II Concert

No School - Staff Only

Fall Play

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Jian Wang

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STUDENT LIFE

THE EMMYS!

By: *Alexandra Saffman*

On Sunday, September 19th, 2021, Cedric the Entertainer hosted the 73rd Annual Primetime Emmys, an awards show that commemorates extraordinary achievements in film and television. After almost a year and a half of Zoom calls and masked limited gatherings, actors were ecstatic to come together in person and celebrate. To ensure a safe event, vaccination requirements were imposed on all attending. This year's most loved shows included a dramatized tale of the British monarchy (*The Crown*), a story of a prodigious chess champion (*The Queen's Gambit*), a Regency Era take on love and drama that inspired numerous corset fashion trends (*Bridgerton*), a look into the late 90's ballroom culture of New York (*Pose*), a woman's whirlwind exploration of french culture (*Emily in Paris*), a soccer mom's dream show (*Ted Lasso*), and another season of our favorite dystopian world with lead scientologist actor, Elizabeth Moss, *The Handmaid's Tale*. Across the board, Apple TV's *Ted Lasso* and Netflix's *The Crown* made full sweeps. They each won Best Comedy Series and Best Drama Series, respectively, and their lead and supporting actors went home with plenty of accolades as well. On the other hand, *The Handmaid's Tale* set the record for the most losses ever, losing all 21 of its nominations. The highly contested award for Lead Actress in a Limited or Anthology Series rewarded a second Emmy to Kate Winslet (*The Mare of Easttown*) over fellow competitors Anya Taylor Joy (*The Queen's Gambit*), Michaela Coel (*I May Destroy You*), Cynthia Erivo (*Genius: Aretha*), and Elizabeth Olsen (*Wandavision*). Although she lost her acting nomination, Coel made history as the first Black woman to win in Outstanding Writing in a Limited/Anthology Series. She dedicated her award and speech to all survivors of sexual assault and dared the world to "write the tale that scares you, that makes you feel uncertain, that isn't comfortable". This year's Governors Award, an award that celebrates "outstanding achievement in the arts and sciences or management of television which is either of a cumulative nature or so extraordinary and universal in nature

as to go beyond the scope of the Emmy Awards", went to none other than Debbie Allen. Allen has been a long-time contributor to acting, dance, choreography, music, directing, and producing, making her one of the most highly-regarded people, and women of color, in our present-day film industry. She has won five Emmys (out of 20 total nominations), two Tony Awards, and a Golden Globe. Alongside Allen, the Emmys also highlighted a record number of people of color in its acting nominations (44% total). Top contenders included the fantastic MJ Rodriguez (*Pose*), Billy Porter (*Pose*), Michael K. Williams (*Lovecraft Country*), Bowen Yang (*SNL*), and Kenan Thompson (*SNL*). However, all twelve major acting awards went to white actors. The Emmys attempted to take large leaps this year but ultimately stuck to the status quo.



TOP 8 MOVIES TO WATCH FOR HALLOWEEN

By: *Elfin Wiriyana & Gersely Rios*

Whether you are a fan of horror movies, or you prefer cute stories of witches, Halloween movies have a wide variety of sub-genres. On a night like this, it's always best to go safe and rewatch some classics. Here are some of the best Halloween movies.

1. *Jennifer's Body*

Jennifer's Body is arguably one of the best movies of

cont.

our generation, although that's an opinion I'll save for another day. Telling the story of high school student Needy and her best friend Jennifer, this late-2000's movie is edgy, bloody, and filled to the brim with cringy slang. It has an unmatched blend of gratuitous bloodshed, demons, and Satan that makes it the perfect companion for your Halloween evening.

2. Coraline

While the stop-motion animation and whimsical colors may seem innocent on the surface, this children's horror movie has left many feeling uneasy, disturbed, and horrified. Unlike other horror movies, *Coraline* laughs in the face of corny jump scares and embraces eerie imagery and unsettling dialogue. Coraline Jones learns to be careful what you wish for through a series of lessons that prey on very real fears that we all have. If you want a spine-chilling night, *Coraline* is the perfect movie for you.

3. Hocus Pocus

Although it wasn't a hit when it first hit theaters, *Hocus Pocus* has become a Halloween cult classic. Following the lovable Max Dennison, the spirit of Halloween comes back to life in the form of three batty witches and an iconic soundtrack. If you're looking for a light-hearted movie to watch with your family, try spending the night with the Sanderson Sisters.

4. The Nightmare Before Christmas

A Tim Burton masterpiece, *The Nightmare Before Christmas* is the quintessential Halloween movie for people of all ages. Jack Skellington's wit and sharp tongue carry us through a movie with a unique plot and an important lesson about being true to yourself. With brilliant stop-motion animation and an incredible soundtrack, *Nightmare Before Christmas* is one of the best Halloween films.

5. Corpse Bride

Another animated treasure from Tim Burton, *Corpse Bride* is a masterfully crafted movie that will teach you to appreciate the beauty of life, even if many of the characters are dead. Through stunning visuals, terrific storytelling, an amazing soundtrack, and a whimsical eeriness perfect for Halloween, Burton captures the true spirit of Halloween in 74 magical minutes.

6. Halloweentown

Yet another Disney favorite released in the 90s. The

plot follows a young witch whose grandmother's house is enchanted, every day is Halloween. The successful movie became a saga, giving us three more movies.

7. The Blair Witch Project

Maybe you are more into horror. This eerie movie is the stamp for many others! This story is told through a series of young hikers who were interested in knowing more about the legend of the Blair Witch--its vlogging style makes you connect to the character on a deeper level, especially when they disappear.

8. Practical Magic

What about rom-coms? In this movie, the audience observes how Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman reconnect to their inherited witchcraft after a tragic accident. Turns out, there's a curse preventing them from love--will they be able to break it?

THE BEST HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

By: Ava Kahn

Need an awesome Halloween costume for yourself, your group, or your partner? There are many good costumes for either a group of friends or solo. You could be bikers, racecar drivers, fairies, cowgirl/boys, space/aliens, Bratz dolls, Greek goddesses, angels and devils, disco, or character you like.

If you're going with a smaller group, the Powerpuff Girls, Cheetah Girls, Tune Squad, the Scooby-Do cast, or Phineas and Ferb characters are always good choices.

If you're doing a couples or best friend costume you could be Bugs Bunny and Lola from Space Jam, Mario and Peach, The Incredibles, Batman and Robin, Rio and Tokyo from Money Heist, Buzz Lightyear and Woody, Daphne and Velma from Scooby-Doo, or the Sun and Moon.

There are many great costumes to choose from and many places to get them. If you're looking for more ideas or how to carry out an idea, check-out Pinterest. If you're looking for a place to buy a costume, try Amazon or Party City. Amazon would be a good place to buy different pieces of your costume. Party City has full costumes and props. You could also make a costume, depending on the one, with a little bit of creativity and less money. So, there are many different ways to buy or produce costumes, you just need to do what's best for you and plan ahead.

5 FUN HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES

By: *Gersely Rios and Olivia Zhu*

Halloween is right around the corner, and we know it! Here are some of our favorite activities to do for this day-- and basically for the rest of fall!

1. Carve pumpkins

This is a classic October activity that never gets old! Before you start carving, make sure you have a sharp knife. Start by cutting an opening around the stem of the pumpkin, then scoop out the seeds inside. Next, use a marker to sketch what you want to carve. The final step is to carve. Add light to bring it to life!

2. Bake Halloween cookies

Maybe start by using some cookies from scratch or using Pillsbury Ready to Bake Cookies Dough. Either way, baking some sweets will always be a great way to spend Halloween. Go crazy with the decorations! Ghosts, pumpkins, or witch hats; any Halloween-themed decorations will make them look as awesome as they will taste!

3. Binge-watch horror/Halloween movies

Nothing beats snuggling with some blankets and eating your favorite comfort food while watching movies late at night! Whether you're watching oldie goldies like *The Exorcist* or more contemporary ones like *The Conjuring* (1 and 2), this is a great way to experience the thrills of horror!

4. Hang out with friends

Either in person or online, spending this time of the year with others is always super fun! For in-person activities, you all can go to a corn maze or go (safely) trick or treating. Maybe you can host a Zoom party and binge-watch the movies recommended above, or do an online escape room. If you are meeting with others in person, remember to follow COVID-19 protocols.

5. DIY Costume

This can be a month-long project or a last-minute thing. If you need ideas, talk to your friends or visit Pinterest. Maybe you want to dress up as a ghost or as Rihanna and A\$AP Rocky at the Met Gala.



10 FACTS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT HALLOWEEN CANDY

By: *Lauren Lopez*

1. Reese's Peanut Butter Cup was named after businessman Harry Burnett Reese!
2. Did you know that more than 35 million pounds of Candy Corn are sold each year?
3. In Japan, there are more than 200 flavors of Kit Kat (who knew there were so many flavors)!
4. The famous delicious Snickers Chocolate Bar was named after Frank Mars' family horse...
5. The one and only Red M&M's disappeared for a whole decade due to the concern of amaranth being one of the ingredients in the red dye.
6. Fun fact, Sour Patch Kids were originally called Mars Men due to the popularity of UFO's in the 1970's.
7. Did you know that Skittles was the number one Halloween candy of 2020?
8. Do you know a safe candy to eat? Tootsie Rolls and Tootsie pops are sweet candy for everyone. Tootsie candies are gluten-free and peanut-free!
9. This is crazy, but did you know that Hershey's makes one million miles of red Twizzlers every year?
10. The famous cute little chocolates made by Hershey's named Kisses got their name from the sound the machine made when it deposited the candy onto the conveyor belt.

UNsung HEROES: CUSTODIAL STAFF

By: *Nadya Konadu*

Each fall, when James Madison Memorial High School teachers and students return to class, they find their buildings sparkling clean and in excellent condition. There is an uncelebrated but truly great group of individuals who go above and beyond to prepare and maintain the school buildings, ensuring a safe and healthy environment for students and teachers so they can focus on their work of education. They are our incredible custodians.

It's been a year since the COVID-19 pandemic began, and finally, the reopening of schools is beginning. Custodians have played an important role in getting schools open again and have helped prepare for face-to-face learning so that students and staff feel safe when they return to school. While health care workers and law enforcement are critical during these times, we cannot forget our custodial staff. Our custodial staff includes Kc Cross, Jeffrey Dahl, Chadd Gullickson, Brady Hagen, Dawn Hauge, Nicholas Kortsch, Jose Pelayo Gudino, Timothy Rietmann, Dennis Scurlock, Tammy Stalsberg, and Mohamed Yahiaoui.

I'm sure I can say for the seniors in this year's class that we are appreciative of them because without our janitors, we would have no chance of returning to school. A few of us have lost our motivation, however coming back to campus as a high school student for the last time is meaningful to us. It is important for us to remember that our custodians work very hard to make sure we are safe and comfortable at school. Not only during this pandemic but also during "normal times".

Memorial thanks them all for their hard work and the steps they have taken to make us feel safe.



SENIOR ADVICE COLUMN

By: *Eliana Sauer*

When people ask me what my biggest tip is about surviving Memorial, my answer isn't to memorize your route to class or to talk to as many people as you can (although these are both good ideas too). My biggest piece of advice is to use your time wisely. As corny as it may seem, my planner has been an absolute lifesaver. As someone who participates in clubs and activities outside of school, I've never had oodles of time to do my work. So whenever I have a free 20 minutes at the end of class or at flex time I take out my planner and knock out pieces of my homework in small pieces. As long as you use your time wisely, 9 times out of 10 you won't have more than 30 minutes of homework when you get home from practice or rehearsal.

My second piece of advice is to 100% join a club or sport. I participated in the fall play my freshman year and that is where I made so many friends that I still have today. Not only did I meet lots of people in my own grade with similar interests, but I also made friends with lots of upperclassmen who could give me helpful tips and show me the ropes of Memorial. Don't worry about choosing just one sport or club. Does more than one sound interesting to you? Go for it! In my freshman year I participated in five clubs, and although now I only still fully participate in three of those I'm glad that I tried them all out to find what I really like. Even if you don't end up sticking with the sport or club you choose, it's a great way to get involved and meet great people.

Finally, I want to encourage all of you to make the most of your time at Memorial. These years just fly by, and it feels like if you blink you might miss it. So go out there and take that interesting class, join that club, and go to that football game. You won't regret it.



INTERVIEW WITH ALUMNUS: FRESHMAN YEAR

By: *Laura Lopez*

Andreas Lopez, Class of 2017

When was your freshman year?

2013.

What kind of activities were you involved in when you attended Memorial?

While I was at Memorial, I was the president of the French club which I really enjoyed. I met a lot of cool people through this club that I otherwise would not have gotten the chance to meet, especially kids that were not in my year. I was also on the varsity soccer team during my senior year. I was very grateful that they let me join my senior year and made it an unforgettable season. The girls revived my love for soccer and brought so much fun energy to every practice and game.

What were some of your favorite classes at Memorial?

One of my favorite classes was Astronomy with Mr. Camosy, who is now retired. He made the class very fun and I thought the planetarium was really cool. I actually continued to go to the local planetarium while I was in college so this class really sparked a personal interest in me. Another one of my favorite classes that greatly influenced me was AP Psychology. During this class, I was genuinely curious about the topics and was left wanting more. This curiosity led me to major in Psychology in college and is the field I hope to continue working in. I got very lucky that this elective sparked an interest in my future!

Where was your go-to place to eat?

We definitely didn't have as many options as you guys do now! My favorite place to eat when I was in high school was Noodles and Co. It's still a yummy place to eat in my opinion. We also went to Panera which I worked at for a couple years in high school as well. They got good pastries. I also remember how excited a lot of people were that they were building a Chick-fil-A across the street.

What were some memorable moments at Memorial?

I was part of a book club that helped organize a really important event. During my senior year, we were doing an all-school read which was *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brandon Kiely. I remember being a bit nervous to see how the school would react to this since it was our first time trying to organize something like this. I got to introduce the authors to the school in the auditorium when they came in for a presentation and Q and A session. It was really cool to meet the authors and listen to the inspiring conversation between the students and the authors about race and police brutality in America.

What advice do you give to Memorial students?

Take advantage of the cool electives. You never know what might spark your interests. If you can, join a club and take a risk, you might meet some amazing people. Last thing is to have fun and try new things because you can learn more about yourself when you do.

What do you think is special about Memorial?

One of the reasons Memorial is special is because of the students that are in it. I learned so much not just from the teachers, but from the kids in my classes. As someone who went to private school before attending Memorial, I appreciated how authentic everyone was. People were unapologetically themselves and I don't think I experienced that much until Memorial. Everyone had different experiences and I learned so much about life just by listening and learning with the people around me. Memorial has a lot of creative, intelligent, and inspiring people.

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY

By: Elfin Wiriyani

Whether or not you've come out, it's an integral part of any queer person's identity. In fact, it's so important that there's a whole day dedicated to it. Inspired by the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights in 1987, National Coming Out Day was proposed by Rob Eichberg and Jean O'Leary. Since then, more and more people celebrate National Coming Out Day, and more and more celebrities bring attention to it through their platforms.

I sat down to talk with Amira Pierotti about coming out; you may know them as one of the Sword and Shield Co-Editors-in-Chief, or as the president of the Gender Equity Association. They identify as nonbinary, queer, and bisexual, and use they/them pronouns.

When did you come out?

I honestly cannot remember when I first came out about my sexuality. Sometime during the fall of 2019, I had my first crush on a girl and started questioning my sexuality. One thing led to another and now I've realized I am attracted to people of all / regardless of gender. I like people and if gender is part of themselves, I like that too. I had my first gender identity crisis in December 2019 (it was an exciting and hectic few months!). I came out a few days later as questioning as the anxiety that had been building for years finally teased.

Who did you come out to first, and why?

I came out to my mom first for both instances. My parents have always been supportive and welcoming so I logically knew they would be great allies (even though coming out was still terrifying). I mostly came out to my mom and not both my parents first due to timing (work trip, etc.).

How do you think coming out has changed how you view yourself, or how others view you?

Coming out has been so wonderful. I am incredibly privileged that my family has given nothing less than unconditional support. My mental health and well-being have skyrocketed since coming out--I didn't even know how unhappy I was pretending to be someone else. Until high school, I did not know bisexuality or nonbinary genders existed nor did I

know what it meant to thrive.

What advice would you have for people who want to come out, or are trying to in a safe manner?

If you are safe and ready, coming out can be a gift. There is not a rulebook, a script, or designated recipient- only what is best for you. If they react poorly, they are in the wrong. You deserve unconditional love and your community is waiting to celebrate with you.

Being able to chat with Amira about coming out has been super enlightening. Their story is one of the many incredible ones in our community, and I encourage you to listen to the stories of others in the queer community this October 11th.

FIRST MONTH REVIEW

By: Ava Kahn

I am a Sophomore at JMM and I am very glad to be back in in-person school. I was one of many students who experienced the first year of high school on Zoom. Personally, I feel that in-person school is much better than my year online. However, there are a few things that I miss about being online everyday.

There are many pros to physically being in school. For me, the biggest upside is being with real people. You can actually interact with others and have conversations. You can meet new people and talk to friends. I feel much more of a sense of community being in person. You can also talk to your teachers much easier. Another upside is that it's much easier to pay attention. On Zoom, it was very hard to pay attention to schoolwork while you were lying in bed. Being right in front of your teachers makes it hard to not pay attention. Another thing that I have really enjoyed in my first month is sports. I just finished up my tennis season which was super fun. It was awesome to have a full season. I have also been enjoying going to football games. The first month of the real high school experience has been great, despite all of the homework.

There are a few things that I miss from virtual school. I miss being able to sleep more and the small amount of homework. I also miss being able to do school from anywhere. However, after a year and a half of laying around, I am very glad to be back to in-person school, and I have had a great first month.

HOW TO MANAGE HARD CLASSES

By: *Sophia Jiang*

1. Try not to use your phone during class

As tempting as it may be, save it for when you actually have free time! You can always check social media during lunch and after school. It is important that you give the teacher your full attention during class because they will go over the specific material that you need to know.

2. Take notes

Whether you prefer typing or writing, taking notes, even if they are short and messy, will help you when the exams come. As soon as you hear important information, jot them down and review them afterward.

3. Make a To-Do List

On the side bar of your email, you can create your own to-do list! Furthermore, Google Classroom provides a to-do list for you, based on the assignments that teachers give you on Google Classroom. To access this, simply click the three lines on the top left, then click "To-Do."

4. Ask questions

The moment you don't understand something, just ask your teacher! Remember that no question is a stupid question; what matters is that you understand the material.

5. Review once in a while

If you are the type of person who learns quickly but immediately forgets the material, then make sure you go back to previous material every so often, just to ensure that you remember the information you need to know. This will make your life a lot easier once final exams arrive.

6. When absent, let your teachers know beforehand

Absences can be frustrating, especially when you have a lot of work to catch up on. But if you email the teacher beforehand and find out what exactly you will be missing, they can give you materials and explain in advance.

7. Eat enough, sleep enough, drink enough water

Eating, sleeping, and hydrating ensures that your physical health is in check. Without these basic needs, you will not be able to function to your best ability. Not getting enough food, sleep, or water will make you even more tired, which will make you less productive.

8. Take breaks when you need to

Self-love is important! Don't overwork yourself. If you feel burnt out, take a break and then work again later.

9. Use time wisely

Does your teacher give you class time to study independently? Well, then they did that for a reason! Even if you only get one math problem done, or read only one page, you are freeing up time for extracurriculars and other homework.

10. Create folders for emails and assignments

Many times a day, your email may be flooded with Google Classroom notifications, club updates, replies from questions, etc. This may overwhelm you, especially when you need to find an email from months ago. Luckily, there is a solution! Gmail offers a handy tool that permits you to create organized folders for your emails. In your school email, there should be a tab called "priority." When you hover your mouse over this tab, there should be 3 dots on the right. Click on these dots, then click "add sub label." With this, you can create new folders and simply drag emails into the categories that you find fit. Personally, I arrange my folders by subjects and clubs, so I can just click on the folder to find emails from specific teachers.



GENDER EQUITY ASSOCIATION UPDATE

By: *Amira Pierotti*

Enjoy gender justice work? Want to make a difference in your community? Hope to meet new people? Join GEA! A group of dedicated students, we educate ourselves and Memorial about injustice, fundraise and plan rallies, and more. Some of our past work includes organizing the 2021 MMSD Breaking the Silence Rally, working to stop city-wide anti-trans policies, and getting menstrual products in all Memorial bathrooms. We are so excited for this year and hope to continue with past projects and start new ones as well. After a great first few weeks of discussions, debates, and donuts, we cannot wait to get into our Transnational Feminism month! We plan to learn about imperialism, the harms of white feminism, and movements across the globe to advance women's and trans / gender-expansive rights. GEA will also plan and host a fundraiser for Afghan-led organizations to support education access for people with historically marginalized genders and sexes.

Interested in joining? Feel free to stop by any of our meetings. No sign-up needed! Come as often as you like / can, no attendance required. Meeting information: Tuesdays and Thursdays during lunch in room 856.

Email: jmmgenderequity@gmail.com

Instagram: [jmmgenderequityassociation](https://www.instagram.com/jmmgenderequityassociation)

DDAF CLUB UPDATE

By: *Eliana Sauer*

Do you love to act? How about arguing? Do you have opinions you want to share? Are you interested in working behind the scenes on theater productions? Well, DDAF is the home for you. Drama, Debate, and Forensics is the hub of fine arts at Memorial. Our nationally recognized debate team and 13-time state champion forensics team are just starting yearly practices, and we would love new members! Forensics is competitive public speaking, and there are both speech events and acting events where you can perform scenes from your favorite movies, plays, or books on your own or in a group! Are you more interested in theater? We have that too! DDAF puts on three productions a year, a fall and spring play and a winter musical. Our fall production is underway right now in fact! Auditions may have passed, but we are always open for new crew members to join us. If you're interested in stage crew stop by the auditorium any Monday or Wednesday from 5:30-8. Our fall play is a fairytale medley for younger audiences and we will be performing outdoors at Garner Park on October 22, 23, and 24th.

For more details about how to purchase tickets or how to get involved with any area of DDAF, join our Google Classroom with the code `whaotks` or stop by one of our Tuesday meetings after school in Theater 300. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to us on Instagram [@jmmemorialddaf](https://www.instagram.com/jmmemorialddaf) or email es-sauer@madison.k12.wi.us. We can't wait to see you all at a meeting soon!

OCTOBER MEDLIFE MEETING!

By: *Sophia Jiang*

When: October 6 at Lunch

Where: Rm. 863 (Mr. Mawer's Rm)

What: A fun, Halloween-themed meeting where we discuss upcoming volunteer events and give out prizes!

How to contact us: jmmmedlife@gmail.com

Follow us on Insta [@jmm_medlife](https://www.instagram.com/jmm_medlife)



SUPPORT NATIVE COMMUNITIES ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY

By: Olivia Zhu

Instead of honoring a violent colonizer, Indigenous communities across America created a new, anti-racist holiday: Indigenous People's Day. On October 11th, Native communities celebrate their heritage and resistance to imperialism and allies work to uplift Native movements, work, and community care.

So what can you do for Indigenous People's Day on October 11th?

Educate yourself!

The most important thing you can do is to educate yourself on the historical interactions not just between Columbus and the indigenous peoples he encountered, but also the broader context of interactions between indigenous peoples and European colonists. You can also spend some time learning about the culture and contributions of indigenous individuals/individuals with indigenous heritage that you don't know about--some figures to learn about are Shi-ka-She/A-dat-til-chi (known as "Cochise" in English), a historical leader of one of the Chihuicahui groups called the Chokonen who led the Apache Wars into a peace treaty, Chrystos, an indigenous American activist and poet, Sharice Davids, a current representative of Kansas, and Martha Berry, an influential Cherokee Nation bead artist.

Take action!

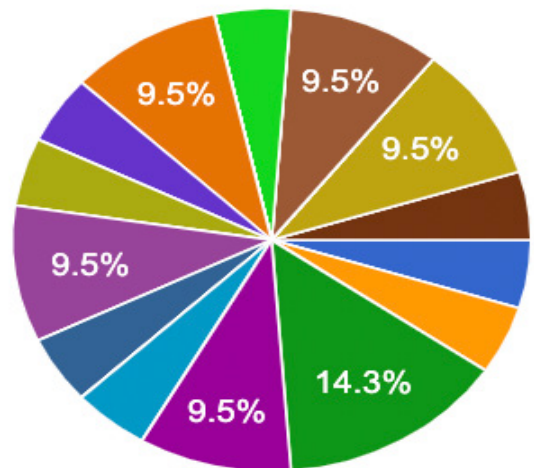
Whether joining a protest or donating time or money, try to support Native liberation. Listen to the needs and requests of Native communities before taking action. Does a community center need volunteers? Is a Wisconsin tribe raising money to combat food insecurity? Indigenous People's Day is a wonderful way to begin a year-long -- and hopefully life-long -- commitment to supporting Native justice movements.

WHAT ARE SPARTANS' FAVORITE CANDIES?

By: Sophia Jiang and Anvika Annyapu

Last week, we conducted a Halloween themed poll, asking Memorial students what their favorite candies are! Here are the results:

- Snickers: 14.3 %
- Kit Kat: 9.5 %
- Twix: 4.8 %
- Starbursts: 4.8 %
- Sour Patch Kids: 9.5 %
- Candy Corn: 4.8 %
- Almond Joys: 4.8 %
- Butterfinger: 9.5 %
- Swedish Fish: 4.8 %
- 100 Grand: 9.5 %
- Crunch Bars: 9.5 %
- Hershey Kiss: 4.8 %
- M&Ms: 4.8 %
- Hershey Bar: 4.8 %



- 3 Musketeers
- Starbursts
- Sour Patch Kids
- Jolly Ranchers
- Candy Corn
- Almond Joy
- Butterfinger
- Milky Way
- Laffy Taffy
- Jelly Beans
- Gummy Bear
- Hot Tamale
- Werther's Original
- Swedish Fish
- Dots
- Air Heads
- M&M's
- Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
- Hershey Bar
- Snickers
- Kit Kat
- Twix
- Twizzlers
- Skittles
- 100 Grand
- Dum Dums
- Whoppers
- Baby Ruth
- Crunch Bar
- I don't eat candy
- Hershey's Kisses

WRITING CLUB/MEMORIAL SPOTLIGHT

By: *Olivia Zhu*

Do you like or are interested in writing, reading, or art? If you answered yes, then join the Writing Club and the Memorial Spotlight! The Writing Club is a space for youth writers to share their work--short stories, poems, song lyrics/rap, plays, dramatic script, and other forms of writing are welcome! The Memorial Spotlight is Memorial's online literary journal--all forms of writing and visual art, such as drawing, painting, photography, and digital art, can be submitted to our semesterly online literary journal! This is your chance to publish your work and express who you are! Last year, we held monthly art and writing contests, student-led workshops, write-ins, and even had the Madison Poet Laureate Angela Trudell Vasquez as a guest speaker! This year, we hope to invite more writers and artists from the Madison community as guest speakers and to collaborate with a local art museum or library. Writing Club and the Memorial Spotlight function as one club--this year, we meet on Thursdays during flex in room 800. We look forward to meeting you!

Advisor: dguse@madison.k12.wi.us

Writing Club/Memorial Spotlight email: jmmlitjournal@gmail.com

Literary journal link: <https://jmmlitjournal.wixsite.com/thememorialspotlight>



FBLA

By: *Lavenia Vulpal*

Interested in business but don't know where to start? Join Future Business Leaders of America! FBLA offers many opportunities such as competitions, service events, additional programs, educational workshops, guest speakers, etc., to members to expand and cultivate their business knowledge. FBLA also offers over 70. Don't fret, it isn't too late to join! Our first couple of meetings so far have been introductions to FBLA and officer elections. Looking forward, we will be introducing Monthly Chapter Chats, Fall Leadership Labs, the National Fall Leadership Conference in Milwaukee, Regional Competitions and State Competitions.

We meet in room 514 (near the art rooms) during lunch on Thursdays. Contact us if you have any questions!

Staff Advisor: spieper@madison.k12.wi.us

Student President: arkrishna@madison.k12.wi.us

Google Classroom Code: 5hddajv

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# NEWS

## NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Latinx Heritage Month

*By: Jian Wang & Brittany Cienfuegos*

The terms, Latinx Heritage Month and Hispanic Heritage Month, have been thrown around quite a bit in the past few days, but some of you may be wondering, what do these terms actually mean? September 15 to October 15 is Latinx Heritage Month, and it celebrates Latin-American culture and diversity. Latinx Heritage Month is a more widely accepted term than Hispanic heritage month, mainly because it is celebrating the independence of many Latin-American Countries from Spanish rule. The term Hispanic means Spanish-speaking and is derived from Spain, however, it is an inaccurate term that many Latin American people do not identify with. September 15th is the first day of

Latinx Heritage Month because it's the day that many Latin-American countries celebrate their independence day. Countries that start their celebrations on the 15th include Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, & Nicaragua, whereas many other countries celebrate their independence day later in the month. Latinx Heritage Month is a way to honor the contributions and achievements of the Latin-American community and celebrate the culture of Latin-America. This may not seem relevant to you, seeing that most of us do not live in Latin-America, but the Latin-American community is the largest ethnic minority group in the U.S.: in fact, one in every five people in the United States identify as Latinx. In celebrating Latin-American culture, we celebrate American ideals, culture, and most of all, the American Dream.

### El Mes de la Herencia Latinx

*Traducido por Ana Alvarado*

Los términos, Mes de la Herencia Latinx y El Mes de la Herencia Hispana han sido predominantes en los últimos días, pero como algunos se preguntaran, ¿qué significan estos términos? Del 15 de Septiembre al 15 de Octubre se celebra el Mes de la Herencia Latinx, lo cual celebra la cultura Latino- Americana y la diversidad. El Mes de la Herencia Latinx es más conocido y aceptado como el Mes de la Herencia Hispana, especialmente porque celebra la independencia de los países Latino Americanos de los Españoles. El término "Hispano" significa hablar español, que originalmente viene de España; pero es un término incorrecto ya que muchas personas Latino Americanos no se identifican con el término. El 15 de Septiembre es el primer día del Mes de la Herencia Latinx porque es el día en que varios países Latino- Americanos celebran su independencia. Unos países que celebran su independencia el 15 de Septiembre son Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, y Nicaragua, aunque también otros países celebran su independencia durante el mes de Septiembre. El Mes de la Herencia Latinx es una manera de honrar las contribuciones y logros de la comunidad Latino- Americana, también celebra la cultura Latino- Americana. Como algunos de ustedes sabrán, esto tal vez no sea relevante para ti, viendo que muchos de nosotros no vivimos en Latino- America, pero la comunidad Latino- Americana es el grupo más grande de mayoría étnica en los Estados Unidos; una en cada cinco personas en los Estados Unidos se identifican como latinx. Al celebrar la cultura Latino- Americana, también celebramos ideas Americanas, culturas, y más que todo, el sueño Americano.

#### RESOURCES / RECURSOS

<https://bit.ly/heritagelatinx>



## 2022 SENATE ELECTIONS

By: *Anvika Annyapu & Alexandra Saffman*

Heading into the 2022 midterm elections, a lot is at stake for a multitude of issues and advancing agendas. After the pivotal presidential election of 2020, the Democrats hold the Senate with a slim 50-50 majority and a tie-breaking Vice-Presidential vote (Harris-D). This balance has impeded senators' abilities to resolve issues that otherwise may be effortlessly pushed through with a larger majority. It will be an uphill battle for both parties to secure additional seats.

Out of 100 total seats, 34 are up for grabs. Normally, the incumbent party of the executive branch is favored to win a majority of the legislative seats in midterm elections. However, with many highly-disputed affairs this year, including the spread of the Delta variant, intra-party conflicts, and the controversial handling of the Afghanistan exit, this race may threaten the norm. As a result, Democrats and Republicans must defend 14 and 20 seats respectively, with both parties hoping to gain a few extras.

Pennsylvania is set to see a potential flip due to incumbent GOP Senator Pat Toomey not running for reelection. Other states that Democrats are looking to flip are Wisconsin, North Carolina, and potentially Florida. On the other hand, Republicans are aiming to flip Arizona, Nevada, and Georgia.

After the recent release of a troubling UN climate report, which asserted that the Earth is expected to reach or exceed 1.5 degrees celsius of warming--a "code red" crisis state--within the next twenty years, climate change is a critical issue in this election. Specifically, voters are debating whether or not candidates are supporting and proposing laws and policies that will successfully combat climate change and its effects, and if they will support President Biden in his climate change plans.

Texas's newest abortion law, as well as recent overall debates surrounding reproductive justice, will surely impact this election as well. The right to bodily autonomy is at stake for AFAB people across the country. Voters are looking to see whether or not candidates will support and protect *Roe v. Wade*.

Although it is still too early to determine any results, this election is expected to be a tough one.

## TEXAS BANS DEPLATFORMING OF RESIDENTS

By: *Anvika Annyapu*

In a controversial move, Governor Abbott signed a law preventing social media companies with more than 50 million users from removing posts or accounts that are citing political viewpoints.

This political "censorship" has been garnering attention since the spike in political misinformation during the 2020 Presidential Election. In the days leading up to the election, there was a record high amount of misleading posts and videos. Clips were edited to make candidates say things out of context, the style of a candidate's speaker was edited, and deep fakes were applied: a technique where artificial intelligence is used to fabricate images and videos and items.

After this spike in misinformation, the insurrection occurred on January 6th, 2021. This led social media companies to reexamine what information to allow, what their algorithms are suggesting to users, and whether accounts and apps should be allowed. Thus, in January, former President Trump was banned from Twitter permanently. This sparked mixed reactions: people cited that Trump's first amendment rights were violated while others agreed that this decision was in the nation's best interest. Following this, the question arose, how far can and will social media platforms push this line of banning accounts?

Governor Abbott's law will serve as moderation for social media platforms: they will have to "produce regular reports of removed content and disclose their content regulations procedures" and will not be allowed to ban users. However, not everyone is on board with this law as state Rep. Giovanni Caprigliano, R-Southlake asks, "How will a government not use this slippery slope to mandate how other companies and what they can or cannot allow their customers to say or to do, conducting private transactions?"

One thing to note is that this bill will only prevent the removal of politically-based content; content that promoted criminal activity or threatened violence would still have grounds to be removed.

# INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY

By: *Olivia Zhu*

October 11th is Indigenous People's Day--at least in Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Vermont, Wisconsin, and in 130 plus cities. For the rest of the United States, October 11th is still celebrated as Columbus Day. How did a national holiday's name and purpose transform in some states and cities, and why?

Columbus Day was first observed in 1792 in New York City to commemorate Italian explorer Christopher Columbus's landing (not discovery, as millions of indigenous peoples already inhabited North America) in the Americas. Since then, Columbus Day had been celebrated in various places around the U.S., but it wasn't until former president Franklin D. Roosevelt declared it as a national holiday. From all the way then and into the present, Columbus Day oversees parades full of floats and public ceremonies and centers the spotlight on Christopher Columbus's "discovery" of the Americas.

The notion to change Columbus Day started in 1977 at the International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas, which was held by the United Nations. At the conference, hundreds of Indigenous representatives spoke out against violations of their human rights and the exploitation of their land by the U.S. government and companies. In response to the injustices they faced, they demanded Columbus Day to be replaced with "International Day of Solidarity with the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas." At the conclusion of the conference, the UN recognized the systematic discrimination and cultural oppression that indigenous people from around the world, but no changes to Columbus Day were made. After 15 years in 1992, the Berkeley City Council in California proclaimed October 12 that year as Day of Solidarity with the Indigenous Peoples and officially renamed Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day. The decision to rename the national holiday was to underscore the atrocities European colonists, Columbus included, inflicted upon indigenous populations in the Americas. Disease, enslavement, and violent struggle killed almost 90% of the indigenous population in the Americas by European colonists. It would take another 24 years, in 2014, before a deluge of cities and states replaced Columbus Day with Indigenous People's Day and/or recognized it.

## ZERO DAYS

By: *Donghyun Vince Kim*

Apple issued an emergency security update on the morning of September 13 after University of Toronto Citizen Lab identified that an anonymous Saudi activist's phone was infected with Pegasus spyware. Developed from Israeli spyware company NSO Group, the Zero-click Pegasus software has the ability to infect any Apple computer, iPhone, or watch and it doesn't require user interaction, including clicking a link or downloading a file, for someone to take control of a user's device. Hackers with Pegasus spyware exploit an iMessage flaw that allows others to take control over the device without the user knowing they have been hacked or that they are a target. Zero-day attacks, vulnerabilities, and exploits all involve a situation where the manufacturer has not created a patch for the vulnerabilities. Since there has been no time for manufacturers to develop a patch for this zero-day exploit, they need to issue updates as quickly as possible, hence the "zero days". Recently, Citizen Lab and other watchdog groups have reported seeing multiple examples of

zero-click exploit technologies that were continually used to conduct surveillance on activists, dissidents, and journalists around the world. It is important to be aware that anyone can always become a potential target. Although there aren't any clear steps to knowing that you have been hacked, the best solution is to keep software up to date and prevent it before it happens.





## NORTH KOREA LAUNCHES “UNIDENTIFIED PROJECTILE”

By: *Elliot Weix*

Since the Korean war divided the Korean Peninsula into the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea) and the Republic of Korea (South Korea), tensions have been high. These tensions only got worse in 2006 when North Korea announced that it had successfully tested its first Nuclear test. These tests have continued until 2018 following diplomatic talks, which pushed for a “Nuclear free Korean Peninsula,” North

Korea publicly dismantled one of their nuclear testing sites. Despite this, North Korea resumed its testing.

In September, North Korea publicly announced that it had successfully tested long range cruise missiles. A North Korean newspaper showed pictures of missiles being launched from a truck, train, and a missile mid-flight, which North Korea says are capable of hitting targets 930 miles away, capable of hitting Japan or South Korea. In response to this test American, Japanese, and South Korean officials recently met in Tokyo to break a diplomatic standoff between the 3 countries and North Korea. And while both sides stated they were willing to continue diplomatic discussions, no action has been taken yet.

## AFGHAN WOMEN, AFAB PEOPLE BANNED FROM HIGHER EDUCATION

By: *Amira Pierotti*

Note: “AFAB” stands for “assigned female at birth.”

Since the shocking, albeit seemingly inevitable, leadership change in Afghanistan, the Taliban have restricted education access across the country. After a quick takeover of much of Afghanistan over the summer, the Taliban established a new regime, bringing fears of the resumption of its past rule. American intervention in the wake of 9 /11 has been widely criticized for brutal tactics, in Afghanistan and beyond. But women, girls, and AFAB people used the past two decades to invent futures for themselves and their communities-- creations now at risk.

The Taliban follow one type of strict interpretation of Sharia law, deriving their government and laws from those beliefs. In the previous Taliban regime, the rights of women and AFAB people were placed in those confines. Many women and girls cherish these roles and are happy with their place while others have worked for more opportunities. Despite historical acceptance of genders beyond the binary in Afghanistan, the Taliban does not extend this inclusivity, nor to the rest of the LGBTQ+ community. While common American and Western narratives place the responsibility for recent changes in the lap of the U.S. government, Afghan women and AFAB people have been advocating and creating change in their communities and country long before 9/11.

While the Taliban originally hinted at few chang-

es to education access for women and AFAB people, many hopes have been dashed in recent weeks. Within a span of a few weeks in September, the Taliban announced only boys would be allowed to return to 7-12th grade education or Kabul University. Other grades and universities will be separated by gender and sex. Women, girls, and AFAB people will also be required to wear a hijab in schools. Men will not be allowed to teach women and AFAB people unless partitioned from the class, exacerbating current teacher shortages. The Chancellor of Kabul University, Mohammad Ashraf Ghairat, tweeted “as long as a real Islamic environment is not provided for all, women will not be allowed to come to school or work.” Students across the country were appalled at the news and have begun to reevaluate their futures.

While the Taliban has not confirmed that girls and AFAB people will not be allowed back to 7-12th grades, many fear the worst. A 17 year-old student, Zayba, interviewed by the New York Times, shared: “I like to study at home. I am trying to, but I cannot, because I don’t see any future for myself with this regime...The day the Taliban took control, I thought: this is the end of life for women.” Zayba survived a bombing at her school earlier in the year. A schoolmate, Sanam, echoed the same concerns.

According to a UNESCO report, since the last Taliban regime, women’s literacy has doubled to 30%. However, as Al Jazeera notes, the majority of those gains are in urban areas, leaving the majority of girls without such access. Data for people with genders beyond the binary is unknown. Organizations by and for Afghan women have been working tirelessly to provide support for students.

# TEXAS PASSES 6-WEEK ABORTION BAN, DRAWS VEHEMENT CRITICISM

By: *Amira Pierotti*

The question of the beginning of a life has gripped theologians, religious leaders, and politicians for centuries has only been complicated with the modern abortion practices. Since *Roe v. Wade*, the legalization of abortion, the debate has only intensified. In early September, the strictest abortion law since *Roe* took effect in Texas. With the future of reproductive justice and countless people up in the air, the nation and world have been watching intently to see how events unfold.

Countless generations have used medicinal and medical methods to end pregnancies. However, the invention of modern abortion practices has led to more reliable and safe results, but drawn widespread criticism of increasing infanticide. Advocacy around abortion has ranged from ensuring all people can access abortions, to banning abortion at varying degrees, to supporting the right for others to choose what to do with their bodies regardless of own beliefs. Since the adoption of *Roe*, numerous states and federal legislators have worked to restrict abortion access, with a majority of states limiting abortion.

However, the Texas law, titled the “Heartbeat Bill,” has tightened abortion access to constrains not seen since *Roe*. Along with banning abortion past six weeks of pregnancy — long before most people know they are pregnant — the statute does not allow for exceptions in cases of rape or incest. The legislature has also drawn widespread condemnation for the provision allowing any individual, regardless of residence in the U.S., to sue medical professionals offering abortion services past the six week cut-off. If the plaintiff wins, they are entitled to \$10,000 and a total recovery of legal fees. Medical staff, however, receive no coverage of legal fees if they win their case. This policy is the first of its kind, with the responsibility of legal action usually falling to state and local governments.

Dr. Jessica Rubino at the Austin Women’s Health Center told the *New York Times*: “If this was a criminal ban, we’d know what this is and what we can and cannot do. But this ban has civil implications...What happens if everybody is sued, not just me?”

In an attempt to block the bill before it took effect,

a case worked its way up to the Supreme Court. In a reversal of past precedent, the Court refused to block the bill. Although past cases have resulted in the Court affirming the right to have an abortion up until 22-24 weeks of pregnancy, except in extraneous circumstances, the Court allowed the 6-week ban become law. The make-up of the Court became much more conservative with the Trump Administration appointments of Justices Amy Coney Barrett, Brett Kavanaugh, and Neil Gorsuch, allowing a slim 5-4 majority to uphold the vote.

Advocates for reproductive justice argue this ban denies pregnant people the right to bodily autonomy. According to an NPR / PBS poll,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Americans want to keep *Roe v. Wade* intact, falling somewhere along the continuum that debate over and religious beliefs of whether a fetus is life or potential life should not interfere with a person’s right to healthcare. Additionally, abortion bans and restrictions are inequitable, disproportionately impacting BIPOC, LGBTQ+ and especially transgender, disabled, and low-income people. While more privileged Texans may be able to travel to other states or even Mexico to get an abortion, the majority of Texans do not have that option.

Many abortion restrictions provide exceptions under extreme circumstances, notably rape, incest, and danger to the parent. However, the Texas statute deviates from that norm, drawing criticism from people with myriad views on the issue. During the House of Representative Oversight Committee hearing about abortion access in the wake of new law, Representative Cori Bush (D-MO) along with two other Congresswomen shared their stories of choosing to get an abortion. Representative Bush shared: “I was raped, I became pregnant, and I chose to have an abortion...” To all the Black women and girls who have had abortions or will have abortions, we have nothing to be ashamed of. We live in a society that has failed to legislate love and justice for us. So we deserve better. We demand better. We are worthy of better.”

After the bill was signed into law, pregnant Texans hoping to get an abortion rushed to clinics before the deadline. Abortion providers became booked and needed to turn many away. At least one abortion provider has already been sued for violating the law.

In the meantime, many people and children are struggling to receive healthcare. Advocates across the country have raised money to support those making an impact on the ground.

# LOCAL NEWS

## MMSD COVID CASES

By: *Elliot Weix*

Positive cases in MMSD are on the rise, as well as in other school districts across Wisconsin. As of Wednesday, September 29, there are fewer than six positive COVID cases among staff and students at Memorial High School, and 15 people required to quarantine due to close contact. West has 9 positive tests and 223 close contacts, compared to East's 15 positive tests and 93 close contacts, and LaFollette's 07 positive tests and 35 close contacts. Across the district, there are 144 positive tests and 1219 close contacts.

More information and weekly updates on MMSD COVID cases and response can be found on the district website at [madison.k12.wi.us](http://madison.k12.wi.us).

### What About Homecoming?

After several thousand students signed a petition, MMSD has given the go-ahead for an outdoor dance. Memorial's Homecoming dance will be Saturday, October 9th. Vaccination will be required for participating staff and volunteers, as well as masks and social distancing. Other COVID-19 prevention measures to be employed include symptom screenings,

cleaning policies, and contact tracing.

### Vaccine Efficacy

Although the Delta variant of COVID-19 is much more infectious, vaccines still offer a generous amount of protection. In August, Dane county residents not fully vaccinated were 2.5 times more likely to be infected, according to Public Health Madison and Dane County. This was an increase from 2.3 times in July. In addition, unvaccinated people are 9 times more likely hospitalized due to COVID infection than those who are fully vaccinated.

### Breakthrough Infection vs. Breakthrough Disease

Breakthrough infections are when a fully vaccinated person tests positive for COVID-19.

Breakthrough disease is when a fully vaccinated person displays symptoms of COVID-19. Recent data published by the CDC shows that vaccinated individuals infected with COVID-19 carry a comparable viral load to unvaccinated individuals; fortunately, the viral load quickly diminishes in fully vaccinated people. A study conducted by UW-Madison, Public Health Madison and Dane County, and Exact Sciences showed similar results.

## RENAMING OF JMM

By: *Olivia Zhu*

On Thursday, October 14th, the *ad hoc* Citizens Naming Committee will review the top four renaming proposals for JMM: Darlene M. Hancock Memorial High School, Memorial High School, Vel Phillips Memorial High School, and Bruce Dahmen Memorial High School. While we will still be known as the Memorial Spartans, our school will not be in memoriam for James Madison, the fourth president of the United States. Why is JMM getting renamed, and how does the process work?

The idea to rename JMM was first proposed by Memorial alum Mya Berry in 2017. Berry, who was then a senior and identifies as black, petitioned for renaming JMM, garnering 1,757 signatures. Berry asserted that the practice of naming buildings after slave-holders needed to change, while also citing the necessity of representing the black student body at Memorial.

While her proposals didn't get through that year, in August of 2020, as a student at UW-Madison, Berry submitted another renaming statement to the MMSD Superintendent Dr. Carlton Jenkins. Berry again emphasized the importance of deconstructing racism towards blacks by separating historical influences from the present: "Madison was a person that benefited off of the exploitation of Black bodies, and those who embarked in such acts of racism should have no influence in today's culture. Expecting Black students to attend a school named after a slave owner is anti-Black."

In the spring of 2021, the Madison Board of Education agreed to consider renaming JMM and invited the Madison community to suggest other names. After the public hearing on October 14th, the Citizens Naming Committee will vote on a name and submit all top four names to the Board of Education, who will then approve one name out of the four to rename JMM.

# GOOD NEWS

In a time where it's easy to get caught up in things that aren't going well in the world, it's important to recognize things going well, inspiring news, or odd things happening. So in this month's feature, here are some funny, interesting, and odd stories to pique your interest (and to take a break from all of the more negative news).

## FLORIDA MAN PLANTS BANANA TREE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD

*By: Jonathan Buscher*

Bryan Reynolds, owner of the Progress and Pride Fitness Group, living in southern Fort Myers Florida, decided to plant a banana tree in the center of his private road, south of U.S. 41. Honda Drive has had repetitive issues with road disrepair, occurrences of cars bottoming out, and repeated attempts to seal potholes. In a clear attempt to deter drivers from dangerous conditions, Reynolds did the first thing that came to his mind; plant a banana tree in the middle of the road. With living on a private drive meaning legality for this action, the banana

## ATLANTIC SUBMARINE DISCOVERS SPONGEBOB AND PATRICK DOPPELGANGERS ON RESEARCH EXPEDITION

*By: Jonathan Buscher*

During an expedition involving seafloor mapping and coral life exploration in the deep sea approximately 200 miles from the eastern U.S. coast, NOAA's Okeanos Explorer discovered a unique oceanic sight resembling the cartoon characters Patrick and Spongebob. Despite this interesting occurrence, the interaction between the two sea creatures is not as friendly as the popular TV show may suggest. In fact, the pink sea star is attempting to feed on the sponge, and the sponge is emitting a chemical response, turning itself yellow in defense. Most importantly, this hilarious discovery has some importance, as scientist Christopher Mah's tweet sharing the cartoon pair has drawn attention to the unique qualities of sea life, a topic many know little about.

## A DUCK THAT CAN IMITATE HUMANS

*By: Alexandra Saffman*

The Australian musk duck is a highly aquatic bird that emits a musky odor during its breeding season, and is equipped with a stiff tail. It also likes to squawk out human obscenities. Ripper is a male musk duck who currently resides in an Australian zoo and was brought up in captivity. In the past month, Ripper was observed uttering a certain sentence "You bloody fool!". This is the first time that a musk duck has ever been recorded mimicking human speech. Scientists believe that this phenomenon is due to Ripper's background, and that wild musk ducks do not have this ability. Regardless, the vocal learning trait of this musk duck is a great scientific achievement, and a comedic

marvel. Who knows what else Ripper will learn to do...



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## PHOEBE BRIDGES CONCERT

*By: Gersely Rios*

On Sunday night, September 12th, Grammy-nominated singer Phoebe Bridgers performed at Breese Stevens Field. The show included the voices of Slow Pulp, an indie rock band originally formed in Madison, and MUNA, a “queer-pop” LA-based band.

The doors opened at around 5:30 pm. There were about 7000 people attending, and proof of COVID vaccination was required to enter the event. The concert was priorly set to be at the Sylvee venue in Downtown Madison; however, Bridgers expressed her concern to keep everyone safe and rescheduled her tour performances to make sure they were held in outdoor venues. Thousands of listeners were excited to get tour merch. Two long lines of buyers extended through almost half of the field. T-shirts, posters, and CDs were sold, yet the infamous skeleton onesie was not in the booth. Options for foods and beverages were also available.

As people got situated, Slow Pulp opened the show at 6:35 pm. The band played songs from their newest album, *Moveys*. They thanked the crowd and shouted out East High School. Shortly afterward, the band MUNA started playing. The trio had gone on tour with Harry Styles in 2017 Live on Tour. They captivated the audience with songs from their 2019 album *Saves the World* and their latest release with Bridgers herself: *Silk Chiffon*.

The night grew darker and after much waiting, the 27-year-old singer finally appeared sometime close to 8:30 pm to the sound of *I Got a Feeling* by the Black Eyed Peas as background music. Bridgers opened with her popular hit *Motion Sickness*, and when Scott Street started playing, the public pulled their phones out and swung their flashlights into the air. She ended with one of her Punisher singles, *I Know the End*. After flashing lights, the musicians left the stage, but they were encored to play one more song. Bridgers ended with *That Funny Feeling*, a song from Bo Burnham’s Netflix special *Inside*. Phoebe said that she wishes she would

have written it.

With some rain and hours of delightful music, Bridger’s concert left Madison with a night to remember.



## FALL POEM

*By: Laura Lopez*

Awake, awake it’s September 22  
 Summer ended and fall is checking in  
 Colorful leaves falling making trees thin  
 Red, orange, yellow, and brown  
 You start to feel the temperature go down  
 Crisp, dry air heading into the pumpkin fair  
 Good old jack sitting by every haystack  
 The little kids trick or treating creating flashbacks  
 Muggy delusional haunted houses filled with endless  
 jump scares  
 Insane clowns not daring to break their intense stares  
 Squeals and giggles compile the historical season  
 Getting lost in the corn mazes on purpose with no  
 reason  
 Neighbors greeting with a “BOO!” after all this is what  
 fall has come to

# MET GALA REVIEW

By: *Lauren Morse*

This year's Met Gala brought together the most irrelevant celebrities with the most questionable outfits on what has traditionally been fashion's biggest night. Many big name celebrities were absent from the event. Whether it was because of host Anna Wintour's vaccine mandate or scheduling conflicts, the lack of A-list stars was astounding. The event did not feel the same without iconic faces that typically grace the Met Gala red carpet such as Beyonce and Zendaya.

This year's theme, In America: A Lexicon of Fashion, was highly anticipated by critics and viewers alike. When the night finally came, many felt underwhelmed by the looks that attendees chose to wear. Many of the looks seemed like they would be worn to prom. While many missed the theme completely, a sizable amount of celebrities in attendance did in fact hit the mark right where they needed to. Looks inspired by Old Hollywood were a common theme throughout the night. Celebrities such as Yara Shahidi and Billie Eilish



channeled their inner classic Hollywood to bring some of the night's best looks. While some took the theme in that direction, others like Kim Kardashian West interpreted it their own way. West stepped out onto the carpet wearing an all black ensemble which covered every inch of her body. At first, many were confused by her outfit seeing as in years past she has been an icon on the Gala red carpet. After some explanation by

Kardashian herself, her look made more sense to critics and viewers. When seeing the look, one could immediately tell who it was simply by the silhouette of the body. Kardashian has one of American culture's most iconic figures, so her message was that one would know it was her without ever having to see her face. Essentially, she is American culture.

Although this year's Met Gala lacked some mainstay attendees, the looks that we did see were rather meaningful. The Met Gala has always been a place to show off art, explore and try new ideas.

Whether in a positive or negative way, this year did just that.

# THE ULTIMATE FALL PLAYLIST

By: *Amy Qiao*

Can you smell that? It's apple cider, pumpkin pie, and Halloween candy! Fall is here, so we've made the perfect playlist for you, whether you're looking forward to the cozy comfort of Fall or the spooky thrills of Halloween!

## Spooky Bops for Halloween

- death wish- ROLE MODEL
- Frankenstein- Claire Rosinkranz
- Dracula's Wedding- Outkast featuring Kelis
- No Body, No Crime- Taylor Swift featuring HAIM
- Dead to me- Kali Uchis
- Ghosts- Mallory Merk

- Vampire- Dominic Fike
- And of course,
- Monster Mash- Bobby "Boris" Pickett and The Crypt-Kickers

## Songs to Jam Out to With Pumpkin Pie

- Harbor- Clairo
- Dark Red- Steve Lacy
- Cardigan- Taylor Swift
- Easily- Bruno Major
- Chamber of Reflection- Mac Demarco
- Canada- Lauv featuring Alessia Cara
- Scared- Jeremy Zucker
- Moonlight- Public Library Commute



# FREE GUY MOVIE REVIEW: A FUN FILM TO WATCH WHEN PROCRASTINING ON YOUR HOMEWORK

By: *Nadya Konadu*

*\*The following is a spoiler-free review of Free Guy, provided you've seen the trailer\**

Free Guy was released in theaters on August 13, 2021. The film stars Ryan Reynolds, Jodie Comer, Joe Keery, Taika Waititi, Channing Tatum, and Lil Rel Howery. Its running time is roughly one hour and 55 minutes.

A bank teller stuck in his familiar routine soon discovers that he is actually a non-player character in a video game after he accidentally meets the girl of his dreams. He decides to change things by becoming a hero and inspiring those around him.

My interest in Free Guy came mostly from the casting of Joe Keery and the fact that Shawn Levy was the director (as I'm a big fan of Stranger Things). As I went through Levy's filmography as part of my exploration, I found that I often like his style and the stories he tends to tell, including the Night at the Museum franchise and, of course, Stranger Things. Like those films, Free Guy seems to be another strong mix of pastiche and idiosyncrasy. Also, is Taika Waititi (Director of Thor: Ragnarok) part of the cast? I am DEFINITELY intrigued.

The film itself surpassed my expectations by far. Free Guy praises homage instead of making it snide. While others cite The Lego Movie and Wreck-It-Ralph as influences, Free Guy forges its own style, its own characters. There is very little that I didn't like and even in the places where it doesn't work, there is a vibe of excitement that is palpable. Some pundits have criticized the film for not digging into the larger issues and origins that Free Guy implicitly presents: the nature of artificial intelligence, corporate strategy, the aftermath versus original intellectual property, what we call a soul - but I would say that the film doesn't completely avoid those topics either. In Free Guy, on the other hand, you can expect dynamic and fun energy. However, I was surprised by the degree of subtlety at play. No, for reals. There is no shortage of

solid, cheeky, even scabrous humor, but it never goes overboard.

Beyond that, the film was fantastic and the effects were perfect. I'm already looking forward to seeing the film again and I'm looking forward to the conversations it will surely inspire. Will it change the world? No, but it's a huge boost. And in these weak times, that's basically what we need as a whole.



## WANT YOUR VOICE TO BE HEARD?

### JOIN THE SWORD & SHIELD!

*Mondays, during lunch  
in the Photo Lab!*

~~~~~

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Can't wait to see you there!

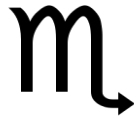
HOROSCOPES

By: Olivia Zhu



Libra (Sept 23-Oct 22):

October will be a productive month for you! Expect mental stamina when it comes to goals and mental acuity when it comes to decision making.



Scorpio (Oct 23-Nov 21):

Anticipate a month filled with deep introspection elicited by stressful situations. October will be a time for self-healing and motivation, so just know that you'll pull through and finish strong!



Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 21):

Your inner party animal will be satisfied as you start to arrange more time for friends and family. Cherish the people who have been with you since day one, but expect to make new friends too!



Capricorn (Dec 22-Jan 19):

Changing classes or jobs, developing a new interest, or starting a personal project may come your way. Believe in your skills and seize the moment!



Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb 18):

You might feel discouraged this month, but don't give up. Keep persevering through challenges, and your hard work will pay off.



Pisces (Feb 19-March 20):

October might be a month of financial planning. Know that you are heading in the right direction.



Aries (March 21-April 19):

New relationships will blossom this month. Trust goodness in yourself and others.



Taurus (April 20-May 20):

As you ride your highs and lows, trust that the drama will eventually die down as you enjoy weekends of movies and outings with your pals.



Gemini (May 21-June 20):

Your greatest wish will come true this month! Share your happiness with family, friends, and teachers!



Cancer (June 21-July 22):

While school life may seem static for you this month, anticipate a dynamic domestic life!



Leo (July 23-Aug 22):

This month may seem sluggish and unproductive but don't stress! Know that planning, coordination, and communication take time. Expect your ideas to come to fruition soon!



Virgo (Aug 23-Sep 22):

Expect a peaceful month--the frustration, regret, and anger from last month will vanish. Your negative energy will morph into renewed self-esteem and tranquility.



SPORTS

BREWERS WIN 3RD NL CENTRAL TITLE

By: Neil Roy

On Sunday, September 6th, the Milwaukee Brewers clinched the NL Central for the third time since switching to the division in 1998. Led by dominant pitching, good hitting, and solid defense, the Brewers will look to win their first ever World Series this year.

The Brewers pitching staff has been phenomenal this year. Headlined by Cy Young candidate Corbin Burnes, it also features all-stars Brandon Woodruff, Freddie Peralta, and Josh Hader. Milwaukee's pitching success has received league-wide attention, as they've managed to allow the third-lowest era in Major League Baseball. When the playoffs start in October, pitching will be imperative towards the Brewers' success.

Along with great pitching comes great batting. Led by former MVP Christian Yelich and trade deadline acquisition Willy Adames, Brewers hitters have been able to score the 10th most runs in the league. Sitting in the bottom five of the Majors in batting average, though the Brewers don't hit the ball very often, walks have been a huge part of their scoring success this year.

Brewers baseball has been full of ups and downs this year. They started off the season at a 27-32 record before the Willy Adames trade, they've dealt with an assault of injuries, and the hitting has been inconsistent at best. Even through all that adversity, they've still managed to push through and secure the NL Central with over a week to go before the playoffs. As October approaches, all Milwaukee can do is prepare the best they can for their toughest challenge yet.



UPSET-FILLED OPENING MONTH OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL

By: Nolan Sullivan

It's typical to expect some teams to under and over achieve compared to their preseason rankings, but this season has already provided fans with more drama than usual. Just over a month into the season, we've seen preseason third overall Clemson lose twice, and nearly a third time to measly Georgia Tech, QB changes at Ohio State and Texas A&M, and a total of 11 schools originally in the poll drop out of the top 25 altogether. When you factor in that nearly all of the remaining top end schools in the poll have underwhelming résumés and have struggled against lesser competition, it's really hard to tell who is actually going to contend for the College Football Playoff this year.

In the SEC, Alabama and Georgia have solidified their claims on the 1 and 2 spots of the top 25 respectively, with Florida and surprisingly, Arkansas, also appearing in the top ten. The Razorbacks defeated Texas A&M in a slugfest at AT&T Stadium, which saw the Aggies offense struggle drastically without their young signal caller, Haynes King. Fighting to hold their spot in the polls is Auburn, who have shown flashes of brilliance at times, yet weren't able to knock off ranked Penn State in a "White Out" game in Happy Valley.

In the north, the entire landscape of Big Ten football has been flipped on its head so far this season. After starting off as the three highest ranked teams out of the conference, Ohio State, Wisconsin, and Indiana have had disappointing starts to the year. While the Buckeyes have remained in the top fifteen and look to bounce back once Big Ten play opens up, both the Badgers and Hoosiers have dropped out of the AP Poll indefinitely. Seeing their counterpart struggle out of the jump, both Penn State and Iowa rose to the occasion and found themselves both ranked in the top five just a few weeks into the season.

SPARTAN SCOREBOARD

By: Nolan Sullivan & Lydia Lenz

Memorial sports are back! After missing out on our favorite activities for the majority of last school year, students are finally able to enjoy playing and watching fall sports for the first time in two years. Let's see how our Spartans are doing!

Our Football team has been practicing and training hard for these high-intensity games we've all been waiting to see this fall. As of right now they sit at 3-3, a solid record given the tough schedule faced so far. A memorable highlight was played out during our Memorial versus Verona away game with a touchdown scored by Tyler Piotrowski in the fourth quarter securing Memorial a win by a score of 12-9. We're looking forward to seeing the boys dominate this month of October.

As for Volleyball, it's been a solid start to the year for both our Girls and Boys teams. In conference play, the Girls have taken home the majority of their games so far, including a 3-1 win on Senior Night over Madison East. As for the boys, it's been an overall positive year, with their biggest win coming against Edgewood also in a 3-1 victory. Both teams have a strong slate of games ahead to close out the season.

The Boy's Soccer team is sitting at 7-5-1 on the season and look to keep their solid record going. The most recent game was on Senior Night against Beloit, which resulted in a strong 2-0 win. With a busy schedule ahead, the team is fully up for the challenge and plans on closing out the season on a strong note.

Girls' Swim has been enjoying a long awaited season, eager to make a splash. An exciting senior night took place and our girls crushed Beloit with flying colors. We are happy to be appreciating and celebrating our seniors that are graduating this year and all the work they've done in the water. Both the Boys and Girls Cross Country teams are rocking speedy starts to their fall seasons! At the Midwest meet, the Girls Varsity team all made new PRs, and the Boys also made big gains, including senior Jake Zarov who made a PR of 16:12 placing him at 25th overall.

RONALDO'S RETURN TO THE PREMIER LEAGUE

By: Donghyun Vince Kim

Football star Cristiano Ronaldo made a sensational return to Manchester United, making his second United debut, 18 years after his first. Ronaldo has always defied logic, and in his debut against Newcastle United, he made his point by scoring two goals and winning the match 4-1.

Ronaldo's move to Man United was anything but quiet. His United Number 7 jersey sales skyrocketed, exceeding \$259 million after his signing became official. Estimates even show that within 12 hours of Ronaldo's kits going on sale, sales had soared over \$45 million. His return led to the most shirt sales in Fanatics history, making more sales than Lionel Messi, Tom Brady, and LeBron James when they moved to their respective new teams.

Ronaldo has a knack for landing rounds of achievements. After debuting in for Manchester United in 2003 and bringing home a European Cup in 2008, Ronaldo departed for Real Madrid, racking up four European Cups and two La Liga titles while also becoming Real's all-time leading goal scorer. Ronaldo continued to exploit his talents internationally, winning a European Championship with Portugal and becoming the all-time leading international goal scorer this September. In a nutshell, his career is nothing short of spectacular on both the club and national level.

At 36, Ronaldo continues to shine in the football world, and his hot start in his return to Manchester has further relayed this message. Despite what the critics have to say, age has not slowed down his journey, and Ronaldo's legendary performances on the pitch don't seem to have an end in sight.



SPARTAN ATHLETES ANSWER “WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE GAME OR MOMENT OF THE SEASON SO FAR?”

By: Nolan Sullivan & Lydia Lenz

Maddie Silverwood (Girls Swimming)

“My favorite memory was the team sleepover this year and/or my favorite meet was the senior night meet.”

Kennedy Elmer (Girls Cross Country)

“Definitely seeing the excitement on all the girls faces after PR-ing at Midwest. Also, sometimes the boys and girls Cross Country seniors get together after the meet for a potluck and it’s always fun.”

Maddie Ballweg (Girls Cross Country)

“I would have to say listening to coach Brian sing for all of us or the Midwest meet because everyone ran for a PR.”

Zach Strobel (Boys Soccer)

“My favorite game of the season so far was against Cedarburg. Not only did we win that game but we also played really well as a team.”

Alex Kimbel (Boys Volleyball)

“My favorite moment of the season so far was when we beat Neenah at an invitational because I felt like it was the best our team played together.”

Ella Graper (Girls Volleyball)

“It was our second game of the season, but we played Parker already in a tournament and lost. So winning in their gym meant a lot and our team played great. We had lots of energy and everyone was giving one hundred percent effort. It was such an intense game but everyone was having fun while playing. I got a record high which I beat again against La Follette.”

Brandon Wohlrab (Football)

“My favorite game of the season so far was when we won against Verona because we were the underdogs and everyone doubted that we could beat them.”



NFL UPDATE

By: Lauren Sparks

Fourteen. That is the number of games so far in the NFL season that has gone to OT or been decided by three points or less. Let’s start in week one with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers versus Dallas Cowboys, which was Dak Prescott’s first game back since his gruesome leg injury last season. In his return, Prescott threw for 403 yards and 3 touchdowns. On the other hand, in his 21st season in the NFL, down by two with less than two minutes left, Tom Brady was the least bit worried. Brady marched the Buccaneers down the field and settled for the last-second field goal for the 31-29 win in Tampa Bay.

The Baltimore Ravens and Las Vegas Raiders played another close one on Monday Night Football. The Ravens took the lead 24-17 with three minutes left, but the Raiders returned the favor and tied the game 24-24. Justin Tucker (who just set the new NFL record for the longest field goal at 66 yards in Week 3 against the Lions), nailed a 47-yard go-ahead field goal with 40 seconds left in the game. Raiders quarterback Derek Carr responded well, taking his team down the field and forcing the game into OT, where he threw the game winning touchdown to receiver Zay Jones to win 33-27. Starting off Week 2 was Thursday Night Football, where the Washington Football Team played the New York Giants. With a strong start, wide receiver Darius Slayton gave the Giants an early lead in the first quarter. But give all the credit to Giants’ kicker Graham Gano who had a great night kicking 5/5 on field goals with a long of 55 yards, accounting for 17 of the Giants’ 29 points. Washington’s signal caller Taylor Heinicke had a great night in the air throwing for 336 yards and 2 touchdowns. 107 of those passing yards went to Ohio State Alumni, Terry McLaurin, who is in the running for catch of the year. Washington went on to get the win at home 30-29, with kicker Dustin Hopkins sealing the win as time expired.

OPINIONS

HOMework STYLE: GIT'ER DONE OR PROCRASTINATE

By: *Nadya Konadu*

Do it Opinion:

Have you ever noticed that when you put off your homework for 10 minutes, those 10 minutes become 20 minutes? Then soon, even hours. The reason is that when you are having fun for an extended period of time, it is much harder to take a break and finish your work. Work is boring and sucks, so procrastination is a direct response to that. Fun things are entertaining and therefore much more appealing. But that's the same reason it will be harder to finish your work after putting it off the first time.



Procrastinate Opinion:

Nothing forces people's attention like being late on a deadline. Given too much time, I'll overthink, over-research, over-Google to the point of paralysis. Leaving important tasks to the last minute forces me to focus all my attention and really get into the flow of work.

In some cases, delaying a decision can work in your favor. Giving yourself time to consider several options, check your intuition or trusted advisors, and really feel comfortable with a decision is a great thing. I often find that when I delay a decision or project, it's because I'm not really aligned with the goal or outcome I'm looking for. Giving yourself some time to breathe helps bring clarity and confidence to the decision when it is made.



WHAT SHOULD HALLOWEEN LOOK LIKE AMIDST COVID-19?

By: *Amy Qiao*

Halloween is here which means haunted houses, trick-or-treating, and pumpkin patches! But even with much higher vaccination rates than last year, many health officials warn against the Covid-19 concerns of Halloween celebrations.

Firstly, trick-or-treating brings up several concerns. There is a lot of contact between different groups of people. Many kids go to 20-30 houses in a night, and each house that they go to would come into contact with multiple groups. Plus, kids under the age of 12, a primary group of trick-or-treaters, aren't able to get vaccinated yet.

Even for older kids and adults, Halloween activities bring up major concerns. Indoor activities where it's hard to social distance such as haunted houses or costume parties pose a health risk, even for vaccinated individuals.

But there are still plenty of ways to celebrate Halloween, even if it's a little different. The CDC suggests many ways that people can still celebrate holidays. There are plenty of ways to have fun with virtual events. For younger children who aren't able to get vaccinated but especially look forward to Halloween, virtual events can be a fun way to see friends, eat food, and watch movies without having to worry about social distancing and masks. Or if people are celebrating with others, they should do so outside with small groups and social distancing. Activities that meet these requirements include apple picking, visiting a pumpkin patch, and hayrides.



PUMPKIN SPICE: Is It Worth the Hype?

By: Rowan Schreiber

Fall is quickly approaching, and with that comes the controversial pumpkin spice latte. To some, it's a decadent exclusive treat to look forward to. To others, it's a sticky-sweet disaster of a beverage.

PUMPKIN SPICE IS GREAT!

The feeling of fall

Pumpkin spice is the soul of autumn. It's pumpkin patches, sweaters, orange leaves, and a forever reminder of the season. There's definitely an association between the flavor and the shift in the weather.

It's something to look forward to

In dreary day-to-day life, it's easy to get knotted up in Earth's issues. This is an expensive and far too short-lived distraction from the human experience. Sometimes you need a sugar and clove-filled coffee to ease your worries.

SO NOT WORTH THE HYPE

Inconsistency

Depending on where you get it from, pumpkin spice can be disastrous. There isn't a consistent ratio of pumpkin sweet and spice. One day, you go to Dunkin' and it tastes like pond water and granulated sugar. The next, it's 10/10.

The stereotype

When you think of pumpkin spice, you probably think of a millennial woman living a cushioned comfortable life that is obsessed with fall. It's annoying. There is an amount of shame that comes with having to tell people you're drinking it.

CHILDHOOD FOODS YOU'LL NEVER FORGET

By: Nadya Konadu

1. Lunchables

While some may say they don't sound appetizing, there's no doubt they were the best lunch in elementary school. From pizza to mini sandwiches, Lunchables never lets kids down.

2. Go-Gurt

Go-Gurt was a lunchbox staple in the 2010s (especially if your mom froze them so they were perfectly fresh at lunchtime).

3. Trix Yogurt

Yoplait Trix yogurt was a favorite because of its swirling rainbow colors. The adorable bunny on the cover

and the cheesy ads claiming "Silly Rabbit, Trix are for kids!" were the icing on the cake.

4. Kid Cuisine

The Kid Cuisine was very popular, as the main course was not only good, but it came with a dessert that made you drool.

5. Utz Baked Cheddar Cheese Balls

Whether you ate them at elementary school parties or by the pool as a summer snack, this snack always came in the same big tub - and they always stained your fingers orange.

6. Bagel Bites

This was a must-have snack after school and during sleepovers. There are never too many bagel bites!

PERFORMATIVE ACTIVISM- WHAT IT IS AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT

By: Amy Qiao

The best way to define performative activism, or “slacktivism” as it is sometimes called, is to look at an example from one of my favorite TV shows. Britta Perry, who is known for being quite simply the worst, is one of the main characters from Dan Harmon’s *Community*. She seems kind, generous, and an activist at first glance, but as we see her more and more, we realize that it’s an act- she’s just performing. She brings up social issues time after time, but it’s clear that she does it to feel superior to others, not to dismantle actual problems. And that is what performative activism is.

Standing up to issues only to put yourself on a pedestal, not others. (By the way, if anyone wants to see the complete definition of performative activism, watch Season 1 Episode 3 of *Community*. It doesn’t villainize Britta for trying but displays her flaws in how she protests.)

Keep in mind that *Community* aired from 2009-2015, a time where

performative activism wasn’t a well-known term yet. Now, when there is a constant expectation of political awareness, as well as a space for anyone to build social capital, performative activism is as common as ever.

One movement that has brought much attention to the issue of performative activism is the Black Lives Matter movement, one that skyrocketed in support over the last two years. A *New York Times* report estimates that about 15-26 million Americans participated in the BLM protests in the summer of 2020. The movement was equally if not more prominent on social media, where many took to posting a black square accompanied by a hashtag. But all of this led

to observers worried about how much of it was performative.

While an incredible amount of people posted on the issue, many of them stopped there. And while that may seem harmless, it led to two problems. First, the influx of black squares flooded out social media posts from activists that featured important information on the movement. Secondly, it creates a false sense of change. When people see that so many people are showing support for an issue, they might assume that change was accomplished when it actually wasn’t. All

of the posts did shine a flashlight on the issue, but that won’t do any good if we don’t focus on the hard part of solving it.

But a *Yale Daily News* podcast provided some optimistic views on this wave of performative activism. While #BlackoutTuesday did receive criticism over performative activism, it caused many to reflect on their actions. This critique caused many

to evaluate how they can help the movement and how to prevent performative activism in the future.

And there are many ways for people to stop putting on an act and truly help the movement. An important step is to bring more attention to authors or experts who can speak on the issue. This can help people research the actual meaning of an issue and educate others. Also, for those who are financially able to, donating money to organizations can help them continue to address these issues.

Performative activism is never ideal, but inevitable with any movement. But if we actively remind ourselves and others to reflect on our activism, we can encourage real support to address issues.



FRIENDS IS NOT A GOOD SHOW

By: *Nadya Konadu*

As soon as I see this 90's style leather couch and the fountain, I know the torture has officially begun. Yes, I know it gave birth to the most popular haircut of the late 20th century. And yes, I'm aware that "Friends" catapulted Jennifer Aniston to fame. And of course, you think "Friends" is an American classic.

News flash: Just because something is iconic or legendary enough to be considered a classic doesn't mean it's actually good. In fact, it might just mean that we've so romanticized something that is otherwise mediocre that we've given it even more life and credit than it really deserves.

Friends is so white

Friends is so white that there is an incredible (albeit very short) rap video on YouTube dedicated to the few black actors with roles on the show. Keep in mind that this YouTube video is less than four minutes long, but "Friends" has been on the air for over ten years.

In those ten years of my personal hell, few storylines have revolved around non-white people.

Not all characters actually progress

Most of the best shows see their main characters grow and develop over the course of the series, but it's safe to say that Friends regressed and started to rely more on stereotype-based laughs towards the end of the series. While some of the main group of friends change throughout the series, including Chandler and Monica growing up, getting married, and starting a family, and Phoebe marrying soulmate Mike, the rest of the friends regress.

Ross and Rachel eventually end up together, after several seasons of a rollercoaster relationship. Ross and Rachel never fully moved on from their relationship—they were always pulled back, which made it difficult for them to develop and grow as individual characters. And Joey, in particular, seemed to regress, becoming even less intelligent as the series progressed, and Joey's personality was presented as a crutch for laughs.

With these and other reasons that I'm too lazy to explain, it's clear that Friends is not a good show as everyone claims.

SCHOOLS NEED TO PRIORITIZE SUSTAINABILITY-MEMORIAL INCLUDED

By: *Amy Qiao*

With schools reopening, there is a lot on our plates. But with all of the new things we have on our plates, it's still important to keep sustainability in mind. Because even if it may feel minuscule, reflecting on how our actions affect the environment can help transform our mindset to be more conscious about sustainability.

One example of when we can remind ourselves to be more sustainable is with class materials. While some worksheets and reading materials are necessary for students' learning, there are many opportunities to use fewer paper resources in general. For example, if students have to design a paper poster, it could be possible to use an online presentation format instead. Or if there is a class activity where students only have to write a few sentences, it could be a Google Classroom assignment instead. Saving a few sheets of paper might not seem like a lot, but it is so helpful in creating sustainable habits.

Another key part of shaping our school's sustainability is through environmental education. While this may not be applicable in every class, every teacher should welcome conversations on environmental issues and encourage students to learn more about environmental advocacy. Another way our school can focus on environmental education is through clubs and organizations. Clubs and organizations that relate to environmental issues can organize ways for students to get involved and provide more in-depth information on environmental issues.

There are countless ways to improve on sustainability, but if we simply keep sustainability in mind during the school year, our school can be a greener place. And our school color already puts us one step



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Q I just got a job, but it seems like I never have any money. Help!

A Try this: Set aside 50% on “must haves” (gas or your cell phone bill), 30% on fun things (takeout and movies) and 20% for saving. Best tip: “Pay” your savings first, with automatic transfers to a savings account. You can also use Summit's Climbr® in mobile banking to set goals, know what you're spending and keep you on track.

Q I just got a notice I overdrew my account. Now I have all these fees! What happened?

A Overdrawing your account means there wasn't enough money in your account to pay for something you bought, and your account went negative. A good way to avoid this is to use Summit's app to check how much money is in your account before you buy. If you do overdraw your account, pay attention to the fees – or it could be easy to overdraw again. And, Summit's Balance Account¹ has no overdrafts, ever! Learn more at SummitCreditUnion.com.

Q I heard my friend got a credit card. Are we even old enough to get one?

A Credit cards can be great for emergencies, and they can help you build credit – which you'll need when you want to borrow money to buy something bigger, like a car. But it can be easy to spend too much with a credit card, so you're smart to think this through!

Some cards won't let you sign up unless you're a certain age and you might need a parent to co-sign. This means that if you get behind on payments, your parents will be responsible for paying your bill. And, if you don't pay for what you buy every month, you'll be charged interest, which can add up quickly.

Pick a card with no annual fee and start with a low credit limit, which is how much you can spend with your card. Get used to your card by only buying one thing with it – like gas or your cell phone bill – and pay the balance in full every month so you don't waste money on interest. Set alerts so you don't miss a bill and have late fees. A card worth checking out: Summit's Student Rewards credit card. It has no annual fees, low rates, double rewards points on all Amazon² and restaurant purchases, plus bonus points for good grades.³

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