

THE SURVEY MARCH

2023

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CAN'T TAME THE LADY CATS

Women's basketball has been under-appreciated and forgotten for decades. Many people overlook girls basketball because there is a false stereotype that their games are boring and lack entertainment. In reality, their games have just as many highlights and showcase the generational talent of the players. Many people who watch girls basketball for the first time are surprised by just how skilled and exciting the players really are.

Seniors, Paige Girardi and Megan Desrats, are girls basketball players here at Warwick Valley High School. They have been playing basketball since they could walk and have experienced all of the negativity pointed towards girls basketball their whole childhood. When asked about her feelings on girls basketball's reputation. Paige said, "I think it's sad that people don't appreciate the hard work and talent that can be shown in women's basketball. There is quality girls basketball being played and it doesn't get appreciated the same way mens sports do."

In Warwick, we have a long-lived tradition of success in girls basketball. Coach James O'Brien holds his basketball program to a very high standard and settles for nothing less than greatness. They have won 20 division titles, 9 section championships, and 1 state title in the program's history. Two of the main key pieces to Warwick's success for the past 5 years have been Paige and Megan. These two senior guards have been playing varsity basketball together since 8th grade. Since the beginning of their high school basketball career, they have made the section championship every year and won it in 2022 (they were also undisputed champs during the COV ID season as they went 12-0).

This pair of best friends has taken the Lady Wildcats to whole new heights. Paige has recently scored her 1,000th point, and they both have goals to make history before they graduate. Megan is looking to win her second straight Section 9 Player of the Year. They are

looking to lead the team to their fifth straight section championship appearance and their second straight section title. When asked about how she feels about their unforgettable success in the Warwick basketball program, Megan said, "I feel great to have won a section champ my junior year and plan to do it again this year. The team and I work hard every day and it truly pays off. We are all best friends and know how to work together which will contribute to our success in the future. For myself, I was honored to be awarded player of the year last year, but all I really cared about is winning as a team and doing my job." Next year, Paige is headed up to Hamden, Connecticut to play Division 1 basketball at Quinnipiac University with a full athletic scholarship, and Megan is looking to continue her basketball career at the collegiate level or attend a top university and focus on academics.

Despite some people's ignorant views on girls basketball, our Lady Wildcats are striving to prove those naysayers wrong. Due to their hard work and discipline, these ladies will never fail to put on a show on the basketball court.

Written by Harrison Neil
Edited by Jenna Mosier



Photo Provided by Megan

Off the Floor, on the (Key)Board

Written by Declan Tobin

Edited by Ally Turner

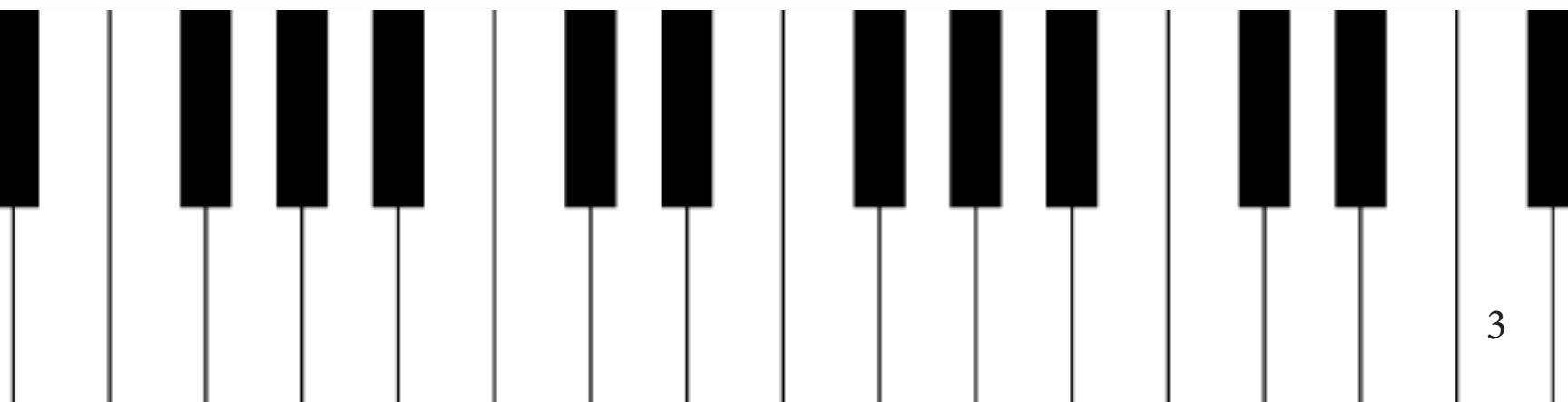
I have been friends with Dylan Orlando for many years now, and there is one outstanding feature that people don't know about him; he has been playing the piano since he was in middle school, and he still attends lessons weekly. Dylan's house is the most popular spot for our friends to hang out, and every time we are in his room, the keyboard in the corner is always brought up as a topic of conversation. Dylan seems pretty casual about it, but I've always felt that he wants to talk more about his accomplishments on the piano. When I asked him about his experience with it, he explained, "I've been playing piano for almost five years now, and I have played in four recitals".

Dylan learned how to play after he got a concussion as a result of a freak accident in a rugby game in November of 2021. Dylan broke his nose in three different places, and his face in four different places. His concussion was so severe that he had to stay in a dark room for about a week. During the time in his room, Dylan could not watch TV or play video games, which are his other favorite pastimes, so he decided to sit down on the keys.

On request, Dylan asked his piano teacher if she could send him harder sheet music so he could give himself a challenge over his injury. His teacher decided to send him "Piano Man" by Billy Joel, a rather long song, and nonetheless a challenge for Dylan. "Practice, swiftness, and accuracy" are three words Dylan used to describe the process of

learning the song. After one week, Dylan's health (and face) began to get better, and so did his ability to play the song. Eventually, his concussion was gone, and he mastered it in just a little less than a month. He said learning how to play it was "probably my greatest accomplishment."

Dylan's story isn't just an inspiration, but every time we see that piano in the corner, we remember how strong our friend is.



Receiving the Seal of Biliteracy

Written by Lena Jodry, Managing Editor

Edited by Brent Secord, Staff Editor

Throughout their four years of high school, most students try to accomplish as much as they can with both their academics and extracurricular activities. One of the things that some of the students enrolled in foreign language courses strive to receive is an additional award on their high school diploma, the Seal of Biliteracy. The Seal of Biliteracy is awarded to students who complete an independent study project on a topic of their choice, which needs to show the significance of said topic in both the United States culture, and the culture of the foreign language class they take. This project includes a written section, which can either be informational or fiction, a video section, which can be a commercial or an interview, and an oral in-person presentation, which is when you present all of your research at the end of the year and is followed by a question and answer section with two teachers of the language. All of this is done in the students language of choice, and takes place over the course of a year.

Along with the project, the student must be enrolled in a University level course for their language and be in good standing with the class. All of these requirements are used to prove that the student is literate and proficient in the language. However, students also need to prove their proficiency in English, which can be done through previous projects they have completed in high school, or with grades on exams, like AP exams and/or regents. Over the course of the year, all of this hard work pays off, and achieving the Seal of Biliteracy can provide the student with more opportunities in the future, including an advantage to the college application and future employment.

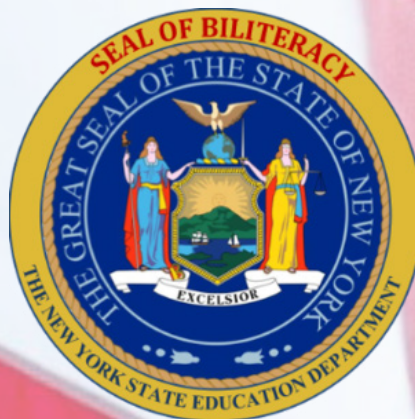
According to the official website for the Seal of Biliteracy, “The Seal of Biliteracy encourages students to pursue biliteracy, honors the skills our students attain, and can

be evidence of skills that are attractive to future employers and college admissions offices” (<https://sealofbiliteracy.org/>).

The original intent of the Seal of Biliteracy was to positively impact the students’ futures, and it certainly does just that. In order to get an even more insightful view into the significance of getting the Seal of Biliteracy, here’s what WVHS student Abigail Gatulda, who is working to receive her Seal of Biliteracy in French, had to say:

I grew up with parents that spoke another language, so because of this I was able to grow up understanding a whole other world. What our French, Spanish, and Chinese classes teach us isn’t just how to speak another language, but how to interact with people outside of our box and learn new cultures. We are very privileged to be able to have this opportunity given to us where we can be taught how to speak, understand, and learn another world. I believe it’s so important to know how to interact with other people because it can give you a new perspective on life and be able to use [this] perspective and apply it to your own life. We can celebrate our differences along with our similarities. I’m taking my seal of biliteracy to challenge my speaking skills, dig in deeper into the culture of French speaking countries, and [hone] my French skills so that I am able to use what I learned in the four years I have taken French in the real world, making connections with people I would not have been able to, had I not spoken French.”

All in all, the Seal of Biliteracy, although a lot of work, is definitely worth it in the end. With benefits for college and the future, it is an honor to receive this after years of working in foreign language classes. Best of luck to all the students working to receive it, and congratulations to all those who have received it before.



Interview: Mr. Hartman

Written by Ramon Irizarry Edited by Harrison Coard

We have many great teachers at Warwick Valley High School. Most kids tend to love the teachers that have been here for a while, but what about the new teachers? Mr. Hartman is just one of many new teachers in Warwick Valley High School. This is Mr. Hartman's first year at Warwick Valley High School and he teaches Oceanography, Astronomy, and Earth Science. I have had an amazing time in Mr. Hartman's Oceanography class and I look forward to taking his Astronomy class next semester.

Q: How long have you been teaching for?

A: "I have been teaching for 5 years now."

Q: What are some of the challenges you face as a new teacher at Warwick Valley High School?

A: "Some challenge as a new teacher at Warwick Valley High School is getting used to the schedule and needing time to get to know the students and the culture."

Q: Have you had any highlights this year?

A: "Some highlights I've had this year are seeing some good projects from those students who put in the effort."

Q: Why do you like teaching Oceanography?

A: "I like teaching oceanography because many students haven't been exposed to all there is to know about the ocean, so it's kind of brand new to them."

Q: What hobbies do you like to do outside of school?

A: "Some hobbies that I like to do outside of school are traveling and gaming. On spring break I'll be going to the Galápagos Islands, and this summer I plan to go on a safari."

Q: If you were to have a different profession what would you like it to be?

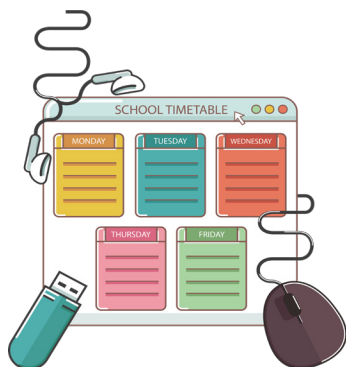
A: "If I were to have a different profession I would be a park ranger."



Although it might be difficult for new teachers to adjust to change, Mr. Hartman is doing very well here at Warwick Valley High School.

Rotating Drop Schedule

Written by Ciara Kelly Edited by Harrison Coard



Whether you love or hate the rotating drop schedule, it affects all of us daily. This schedule means that if there is a class you don't particularly like or one you find stressful, it will drop every few days. It also means that there is more time to do homework on certain days. However, the classes are very long at 55 minutes per class. It can be hard for some students to focus for that long. According to Crossrivertherapy.com, the average 13-15 year old can hold an attention span of about 30-40 minutes, and the average 16-year-old can hold it for 32-48 minutes. Still, longer class periods mean that there is more learning time and there is less rushing to get things done, which makes things less stressful for students and teachers. Having a change in the schedule every day can also get rid of some of the monotony of a long school week. The schedule seems intimidating at first, but once you're used to it, it's pretty simple to keep track of.

Because of the way this schedule is arranged, it allows for unit lunch. Unit lunch is nice because it allows for the whole school to take a break where kids and teachers alike can talk to friends in any grade across the building. Socialization is incredibly important to the mental and physical health of

students. It's not surprising that spending time with friends makes you happier, but it also reduces stress, helps improve sleep, counteracts risks of heart disease, and even helps you live longer, according to We3app.com. Unit Lunch also means that going to clubs is easier, especially for kids in sports, which is around 57% of high schoolers according to Edweek.org. And, most kids would be more willing to go somewhere during lunch than stay after school. Most teachers also have extra help during lunch, which is convenient if you've missed class and have things to make up, or are simply struggling and need some help. On the other hand, the lunch lines are extremely long. Kids can wait up to half the period just to get lunch. There are numerous places throughout the building to buy lunch, but the lines fill up quickly as kids often rush from class to line. There also isn't enough seating in the cafeterias to accommodate everyone, so lots of kids will find a teacher's classroom to eat in or eat on the floor in the hallways, which can be unsanitary. Lunch can feel incredibly chaotic at times. All in all, the rotating drop schedule is certainly unique.

With the end of senior year coming closer and closer, seniors are excited for college and starting the next phase of their lives. With college nearing, so is more studying and test taking. Studying is all about discovering a balance between concentration, retention, and rest. Everyone learns differently, so all students need different studying techniques to fit their way of learning. Whether it is flashcards, or studying with another person, there is something helpful for everyone. Here are some tips to avoid stress and build healthy study techniques:

Time Management and Prep:
It is important to start studying early rather than later. Make a weekly schedule listing what tests are coming up, along with daily work assignments. If you know you have a test coming up, start studying several days before, and have your notes or study techniques already prepared. It can be self made tests, quizlets, or index cards- whatever works for you. This will save you wasted time and give you less stress.

Study Techniques

Written by Kaley Haskew
Edited by Molly Hewitt

Make a schedule and stick to it:
Your mind gets used to fixed habits. Just like other activities, whether sports, fitness, or hobbies, the more you keep to your schedule, the more your mind will get used to building that mental concentration you need. If you set aside 30-60 minutes a day for studying, you will find it is easier than just cramming the night before.

Find a dedicated study area:
This can help your mood and mindset to prepare for studying. Make it your own, whether you prefer to study with others or by yourself. Moreover, you might like to listen to music to relax you, or you may prefer silence. Either way, find the environment that is best for you to succeed with your studies.

Split studying into smaller periods of time:
Having breaks in between studying can help you learn easier and retain more information. You can study in 15-20 minute segments to better focus your mind on one subject. Then take a break or have a snack, whatever works for you. This way you can go at your own pace and do not have the stress of cramming or feeling like you are always trying to catch up on the material.

Do not study in bed:
This is your place to rest your mind; studying here can lead to insomnia or anxiety. You want to stay alert while studying, not doze off. It's better to stick to a table, desk or even your favorite chair while

To see what study techniques are used by seniors at Warwick Valley High School, I interviewed Faith Kelley and Melissa Negron. Faith's overall favorite was using flashcards and Melissa's was creating quizlets to quiz herself before tests. Faith stated, "I make my own flashcards before every test, and I write down mnemonic devices to help me remember the facts." According to "Do Flashcards Work for College Students?" an article published by Herzing College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, there is science behind the use of flashcards. Flashcards have been proven to increase memorization for school and even everyday life: "Flashcards are effective because they promote active recall in your brain, which is the process by which we retrieve a memory."

Whether you recall better by writing the material or reading it, using flashcards to study alone or getting quizzed by others, no study habit is wrong.

THE



WORK

SCHOOL

BALANCE

You have probably met people who seem to balance it all; people who radiate pure organization and management and control; people who never seem to break. Or maybe you are that person and are secretly struggling but have a grace in handling it all. Meanwhile, certain people are just not built to hold up against the whirlwind of stressful daily tasks that fill their days to the brim until they collapse in exhaustion. Whoever you are, there is no shame, and everyone is facing similar challenges. Is adding a neighborhood job onto the list of tasks really worth it for a high schooler? And how much can it benefit our future after high school?

As a sophomore, the college horizon is not far away, and all around are the pressures to start preparing to have the best experience possible. But there is also so much you can do. Extracurriculars, clubs, and high grade point averages can be enough for certain colleges. And for me, balance in life means having enough activities to keep me busy and give me something to work hard for, while also having opportunities to enjoy time with family and friends. However, for other people's lifestyles, a job on the side of their education just seems to fit in perfectly. I spoke with a few sophomores, two with different experiences. "It was a simple process to get a job. My friend's mom interviewed me and it just worked out," said Kayla Sit, who works a job in town on the weekends, sometimes both days. Meanwhile, sophomore Ashlyn West is facing a different situation: "I currently don't have a job but want one. My mom wants me to be able to drive first." Proximity to a job is a crucial factor to consider for some busy families, who often cannot drive their underage children to jobs because it can hinder their work schedules. Ashlyn also has had to consider how difficult time management would be, along with piles of homework and being a competitive dancer.

Even closer to their college experiences are junior Molly Hewitt, and senior Jenna Mosier. Molly works at Café e Dolci in town, and although she can work anywhere from 4 ½ to 18 hours a week, she still feels it is a beneficial experience. "I have learned how to manage time better, learned how to manage money better, and I've also learned about customer service and how to handle different types of people." In a job related to customer service, gaining more social skills is a given, and it is also something colleges look for. Jenna works in a similar social environment. "My friend needed an assistant teaching a class at our dance studio, and when she graduated it got passed down to me." As a senior, Jenna felt she "had not much time for a conventional job," and "I was already there for dance classes I was attending, but now I am able to help the community meanwhile." Jenna believes helping little kids and setting an example as an older role model can be difficult trying to keep them interested and engaged, but is also very rewarding. Every student I asked believed that despite adding extra things onto their plates, work has not affected their stress level much, and for some, it has even improved. This was fascinating to me as someone who is considering a job but is concerned about mental health and more stress. All mentioned how if time is managed wisely, it provides a good feeling of purpose outside of school, provides for social interaction, and develops a greater feeling of independence.

Furthermore, certain jobs may look better to admissions officers than others, which can boost their opinions of students. According to collegevine.com, tutoring, food service & hospitality, and assistant coaching are in the top three. Additionally, no matter the amount of income received for a specific job, the numbers will eventually add up and can provide extra freedom later in life, as well as money security. Whether a side job is in the picture alongside school, or life is already filled to the brim with enough engaging activities, the most important thing is to make sure whatever you are occupying your time

AN ODE TO VIVIENNE WESTWOOD

Written by Molly Hewitt,
Managing Editor

Edited by Lena Jodry,
Managing Editor

Vivienne Westwood: Who is she?

Considered the architect of punk style, Vivienne rose to fame in the late 1970's and has been a crucial icon in the world of fashion since. She has been known for her trend forecasting and dictation, as designers have been highly, and undeniably, influenced by her work. Westwood grew up in Derbyshire, England, in 1941. Westwood later found herself in London, which was where her boyfriend, Sex Pistols Manager, Malcom McLaren, would open a boutique to vend Westwood's designs when she was thirty. Her designs shaped the Sex Pistols' identity. The recognition she gained led to her releasing her Pirate collection which is still seen in today's style.

Her impact on the industry:

Westwood was one of the most influential designers of her time, with more than fifty collections released worldwide before she died in December of 2022. Westwood trailed a legacy behind her through every step of her career. She has also always had a passion for activism and used her fame to promote changing the world for the better. She fought for climate change research, AIDS research, ending violence against women, among so many other humanitarian efforts. Even after her passing, there are collections displayed on her website that correlate with different ecological problems such as Green Space, Cool Earth, Climate Revolution, Humane Society, and Switch. Each of these examples are different campaigns promoting "going green." Vivienne said in one interview, "I just use my fashion as an excuse to say what I think about politically and culturally...My fashion gives you an incredible choice, it makes you look great, and it helps you to express your individuality."

Ways she was iconic and why:

Westwood had a way of creating art within fashion that truly resulted in important works. She is responsible for the famous "It girl" necklace, which is a pearl choker with a Swarovski-encrusted orb charm, that has been seen on Dua Lipa, Rihanna, Janelle Monae, and is becoming a jewelry box essential in today's style. Not only was Vivienne largely praised for her accessories, she also was the maker of the "Portrait Corset" which she called the Statue of Liberty in her Harris Tweed collection; its been seen on singer FKA twigs on the red carpet of the Sundance Film Festival. Even with all of this glam and glitz, at the end of the day she believed "the best accessory for anything is a book" and was also quoted as saying "Buy less, make good choices, and make it last." In lasting fashion moments, Westwood is also responsible for designing Carrie Bradshaw's wedding dress, which is undeniably iconic in itself. The gown is from her 2007 fall/winter collection and made its second appearance on television on the *Sex and the City* reboot, "And Just Like That."

Vivienne Westwood will forever hold a valuable place in the history of fashion. She is a trailblazer with a powerful voice and a smart and beautiful outlook on life inside and out of the fashion industry.

Alix Earle the Latest It Girl

Sienna Thurber, Staff Editor

TikTok has done it again with the latest trend setter, and her name is Alix Earle. She's a 22 year old who is attending the University of Miami and is majoring in marketing. Although she is now a senior and is in her last semester at school, she has been sharing her life on tiktok since June of 2020. Only recently in 2022 has her platform grown by the millions. As she dominates the influencer world, Earle is also bringing in wealth as major brands have begun to reach out to her. According to the influencer coach, Jessica Liliann with Narcity Miami, "Earle makes between \$40,000-70,000 per video depending on the partnership." Alix has met up with Selena Gomez, and even attended Miley Cyrus's NYE party. She first went viral sharing videos of "a day in her life" while living a luxuriant Miami lifestyle down in Florida. Miami culture is known for its diverse and vibrant city, with tropical weather and its pristine beaches.

Just like Miami's spirited persona, brought her followers by the masses. As she class, and hanging out with friends, people to fame her followers referred to her as "girl" has the increasingly popular makeup tanning drops, Charlotte Tillbury, Brazillian is someone that everyone else strives to physically, but also maintaining all of the content, she creates "get ready with me" her makeup, hair and getting dressed as adventurous life. Her followers describe it close friend. She's entertaining and exciting she talks about her everyday struggles that broke up with her boyfriend, MLB player with the respect she deserved. When her didn't post her for her birthday, she knew it fans found out about the public break up and the fact that she stood up for her own self worth, that only boosted her platform. Women and girls became even more involved with Alix as she emphasized the importance of self respect for yourself. For example, according to WVHS junior Hannah Cann, she is "a role model for young girls in our generation to be confident and do things for themselves."



Photo by Gilbert Flores, Women's Wear Daily

Alix's beauty and high-spirited personality goes about her day working out, attending have been drawn to her charm. As she rose the "it girl" everyone aspires to be. An "it lines and trends such as the Drunk Elephant Crush perfume, and Stanley Cup. Alix be, taking care of herself mentally and latest trends. As seen in her more popular videos where she shows herself doing she brings her followers along to her as being on a Facetime or phone call with a to watch, while also being relatable as anyone can relate to. For example, Alix Tyler Wade because he wasn't treating her birthday came around in December and he was time to end the relationship. When her

Ms. Earle's life is energetic and everchanging, and she never fails when it comes to uploading great content. As a young influencer, she is making her own money with lots of brand deals and will always be known as "that girl" for the new year of 2023.

The Only Cup You'll Ever Need

Alexa Borner, Staff Editor



Many influencers on TikTok have given the public a new water bottle to keep their eye on known as the Stanley quencher/tumbler. Tik Tok influencers bring their Stanley to class, to the gym, shopping, pretty much anywhere. Over the past few months, specifically around the holidays, the Stanley has taken over. It was almost as if we came back into school from winter break, and everyone had a Stanley in their hands throughout the hallways. The brand itself has been around for 110 years, and specializes in coolers, tumblers, and camping accessories. Specifically, the most influential quencher is the 40-ounce tumbler which costs \$40 and comes in plentiful colors. They also sell a variety of other sized cups, including 30-ounce and 14-ounce.

You may have been more familiar with the HydroFlask, which has been the water bottle for a considerable amount of time. For years, I always had a HydroFlask, but there is something about my Stanley cup that is incomparable. I got my first Stanley in August, and it hasn't left my side since then. It's almost like an emotional attachment; I bring it everywhere I go. One advantage would definitely be the fact that the Stanley can fit in a normal size cup holder. In my opinion, this definitely beats out HydroFlask because I don't have to get a cup holder adapter. I also love the fact that my cup has a handle. It makes it much more convenient to carry around from place to place. Stanley also has multiple different lid styles, two of which I have myself. I enjoy using my FlowState tumbler on a daily basis for my water and my FlipStraw tumbler for my smoothies every morning. Although some people may say \$40 is way too much to spend on a water bottle, I definitely think it's worth the hype.

Page Editor: Ellie Ladouceur

UGGS: THEY'RE BACK!

Written By Julianna Graff
Edited By Charlie Figueroa



In the early 2000s UGGs were everything. The sheepskin boots were deemed both trendy and comfortable. They were being worn by celebrities like Paris Hilton, who was a Y2K fashion trailblazer. Everyone wanted a pair of UGGs. Around 2010 UGGs slowly began to become less and less popular. People weren't interested in the product anymore. UGGs were completely out of style; then in 2020, UGGs gradually started making their way back into the fashion scene. Now in 2023, Ugg are officially back and better than ever.

UGG boots trace back to the 1800s in Australia. The vision stemmed from Australian shepherds using leather straps to attach sheepskin to their feet and ankles. From there they developed into a real boot by the 1930s. In the 1970s surfers would slip on the sheepskin boot after getting out of the water to keep warm. The name "Ugh" was silently trademarked by local surfer Shane Stedman who sold the trademark rights to Brian Smith. This caught wind through other surfing communities. The idea took off when Doug Otto, who had experience in the footwear industry, stepped in. According to the article "How UGG Boots Work" from howstuffworks.com, by 1995 Otto's company Deckers purchased the UGG boot design and all trademarks from Brian Smith for 12 million dollars. From there UGGs started becoming very popular. The brand began collaborating with well-known footwear companies like Jimmy Choo. UGGs evolved from just shoes to bedding and clothing. The brand was extremely successful and everyone wanted a pair of UGG boots; however, when the Y2K fashion trends started to fizzle out, UGGs went with them (Vogue.com).

Now, after going completely out of style, UGGs are back and hopefully here to stay. So many people received UGGs as a gift for the holidays this year. Celebrities like models Gigi and Bella Hadid have been seen all over Hollywood wearing their UGGs. Other social media influencers have been displaying their love for Uggs all over social media. This gathered a lot of people's attention and everyone began wanting UGGs again. The hashtag #Uggs on TikTok has a whopping 1.3 billion views. People will do anything to get their hands on a pair of UGGs. For example, the article "These 6 Shoes Dominated 2022" from Glossy Pop Newsletter stated, "TikToker Lauren Cariño (31,000 followers) for example, paid \$80 over the retail price to get her hands on the UGG Tazz, via StockX." UGG sales have skyrocketed and most of the time it is hard to get a hold of them as they are usually sold out. For instance, this year for the holidays my sister received a pair of UGG Minis; however, she wanted them in a different color. When she ordered the new pair, she was stunned to see that it was going to take 3 months for the shoes to come in. The demand for UGGs is insane. They have taken over!

People who are lucky enough to get their hands on a pair of UGGs are left with one question. How do I style Uggs in 2023? First, instead of going for the classic calf-high boots we all know and used to love, customers are opting for the UGG Minis and Ultra Minis. These two shoes add a more modern twist to UGGs, separating today's UGGs from the early 2000's UGGs. People are also wearing the Neumel Boot which is different from the other UGG Boots because it has laces. Another best seller is the Tasman Slipper. The Tasman Slippers are very comfortable and easy to slip on and off. With platform shoes being very in right now, customers are also going for platformed UGG boots and slippers. There are many different colors to choose from, but people usually go for tans and blacks.

Today you can pair your UGG shoes with leggings and fashionable white socks. Or while you already got your UGGs on, go fully Y2K and throw on a Juicy Couture Track Suit. UGGs have taken over 2022 and will likely continue to be popular through 2023. With new styles and colors, there is truly something for everyone. Not to mention how incredibly comfortable they are. So, are you going to keep up with the trends and snag yourself a pair of UGGs?

Pictures from Ugg.com, top to bottom: Classic Tall II; Classic Short II; Mini Platform; Ultra Mini Platform; Neumel; Men's Tasman slipper



Dupes: What's the Deal?

Brenna Belasco, Staff Writer

What are dupes? The term “dupe” is a slang term typically used to describe duplicates. Duplicates are a lower-priced version of an expensive product, one that is typically very high end. Gen-Z is big on dupes, and preach about them endlessly. On TikTok especially, a few Millennials have criticized our obsession with dupes, claiming that when they were younger, they were called “knockoffs,” and they were made fun of for having them. But the big question is, why do people like dupes so much? Is it because of their price, their quality, or how easy they are to get? Either way, they're taking the world by storm, and I want to know why.

There's a fine line between dupes and counterfeits, and some designers are opening up about how these replicates make them feel. In Bec Oakes' article, “Inside TikTok's Controversial Dupe Culture,” she quoted the founder of MaisonCléo, designer Marie Dewet. Dewet says, “As a designer, you put all your heart into your brand, so it really affects and hurts you...When it first happened to us, I was very angry, stressed and sad but it's happened so many times that I don't even have time to complain to each brand.” She claims that items being sold by other retailers are exact copies of her work, and they buy trending items for the purpose of replication from other brands as well. Well known websites such as Taobao and AliExpress have been known to copy designs from other companies and market them as less-expensive dupes.

Articles published regarding the difference between dupes and counterfeits also exist, such as the one written by Jessica (no last name provided) on her self-titled blog, *Jeans & a Teacup*. In “Dupes Vs. Counterfeits- Do You Know The Difference,” she provides some examples of the offending products. One of the things she highlights is a fake Gucci belt.

She claims that Amazon was selling them (circa 2019) and that many people buy them, thinking they're getting a well-priced dupe. She says that this item is an illegal counterfeit (because of the trademarked Gucci logo on the belt) and many people don't know that. As of 2020, Amazon has created a new program that can help brands eliminate counterfeit items, without having to go through Amazon itself.

While counterfeits are easily confused with dupes, actual dupes don't cause as big a problem. They provide a cheaper alternative to popular products, and they make things like beauty more accessible and affordable. Dupes are actually a good option for people who want to try out a new product, and they may be more affordable than a sample of the original product. According to the article “TikTok teens are obsessed with fake luxury products” by Megan Graham, “...Generation Z, which comprises a huge part of the TikTok audience, sits at a point where they grew up around the great recession and saw their parents and the generation before them struggle financially. That makes them tend to be careful with money” (Cnbc.com). This could explain why dupes are so popular with our generation. We're drawn to them because the promise of saving money attracts us and our interest.

Dupes have both good and bad sides, and many people have succumbed to their influence. They take to their various social media platforms, preaching about how affordable and easy to obtain they are. They show off how much they look like the original, and sometimes, they compare them. Counterfeits get added to this mix as well. The next time you consider buying a dupe, make sure you're not buying a counterfeit because that could end up hurting both you and the designer.

Chasing Physical Youth

Written by Madison DeSantis, Staff Writer
Edited by Ava Sheils, Staff Editor

There's a saying that life flashes before our eyes, so naturally, we try to preserve each moment of our youth. Accordingly, when a wrinkle appears or a gray hair disrupts a honey-blond pattern, our instinct is to be distraught and flee to a cosmetic procedure. Is this because of the rise of cosmetics and pressure on society or something we biologically yearn for?

Our main concerns as humans are to survive, reproduce, and compete for resources, so if beauty is driven by biology, what umbrella does it fit under? Gray hair, wrinkled skin, and a new pair of glasses that you swear you never needed are Mother Nature's signs that you're growing old, and she made these signs evident for a reason. As you get older, your reproductive ability diminishes. Though performing actions to keep you healthy and looking younger won't preserve this ability, it is still beneficial. Those wrinkle creams can prevent depression, loneliness, and financial stress because evidence shows if you look younger you feel younger; this can lower mortality risk.

There are techniques people use to attempt subtracting a decade off of their physical appearance, for example, by using cosmetics. Worldwide, over \$100 billion is spent on cosmetic products each year. The beauty analytic website Attest stated, "The market is anticipated to grow at a rate of 6.85% each year through 2022-2026." For those who want to take it a step further, plastic surgery is an expensive option. Americans receive an average of 15 million cosmetic surgeries a year, spending about \$14.6 billion annually. Though the market for retaining your old appearance is a vast and multi-billion dollar industry, it also comes with a large stigma.

"Ironically, for women who choose to make themselves look younger, the most likely backlash they experience usually comes from other women rather than men, a finding recently supported by evolutionary psychology research," said Alex Zhavoronkov, an expert in bio-longevity. Once again, we circle back to biology. The attractiveness a woman holds can evoke a competitive disadvantage. The American Psychological Association performed four experiments. The outcome of these experiments was that women were less trusting of other women who have had work done and less likely to associate themselves with them. Although we went through how looking and feeling younger benefits our mental health, for women there is a negative effect of acceptance and forming relationships with other women.

Wanting to look younger doesn't deserve the stigma it receives. You should do what makes you happy and successful in retaining self-confidence, but be wary of the multi-billion dollar cosmetics industry. Though it's hard to not want to change yourself, it's ok to take aging for what it is: an inevitable process. Your age and all that comes with it tells your story.

Dress Code: Equality or Oppression

Written by Ariana Perez
Edited by Kaley Haskew

As the years have advanced, various laws and codes have been altered to advance equal rights. However, dress codes have always been a topic of conversation that continues to be explored. The latest offender to this gray concept was the Missouri House of Representatives, which passed a law altering the former dress code for female representatives to be more strict with its specifics. Now, women are required to cover their shoulders and bare arms with a blazer, cardigan, or knitted sweater.

The change was suggested by Republican State Rep. Ann Kelley, who stated how she wanted to make the dress code more equal to men by allowing more centered wording to leave a clear expectation of what should be mandatory: “Men are required to wear a jacket, a shirt and a tie, correct? And if they walked in here without a tie, they would get gaveled down in a heartbeat. If they walked in without a jacket, they would get gaveled down in a heartbeat. So, we are so interested in being equal” (CNN). It was argued during the floor debate and post-press that the women’s dress code already has a similar rule to the one added, but didn’t specify directly. On the other hand, the men’s code asked for the same formal and covered attire. Thus, no changes were made.

However, this has caused an uproar not only in the media, but also among the democratic representatives that see the action as a sexist take in trying to take away women’s rights yet again. Various members of the House expressed their unhappiness with the law, and how uncomfortable it made them that they had to constantly worry about a group of mainly men judging if what they wear is inappropriate, or if their clothing makes them any less professional. Democratic State Rep. Raychel Proudie commented her disagreement on the situation mentioning the hardships of it: “We are fighting - again - for a woman’s right to choose for something. This time, it’s how she covers herself – and the interpretation of someone who has no background in fashion” (*Vanity Fair*).

Some have pointed out the hypocrisy of lawmakers who support this by bringing up the chaos caused by mandatory mask requirements during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. It covered how many representatives and civilians fought for autonomy rights when asked to cover their faces in the confrontation of the deadly virus, claiming how it was “their body, their choice.” Democratic State Rep. Peter Merideth brought light to this aspect during the debate on the floor, deciding not to vote on the law: “Y’all had a conniption fit the last two years when we talked about maybe, maybe wearing masks in a pandemic to keep each other safer. How dare the government tell you what you have to wear over your face? Well, I know some governments require women to wear things over their face, but here, oh, it’s okay because we’re just talking about how many layers they have to have over their shoulders” (CNN).

Not only that, but many, not just women, have expressed their discontent with the way this concept was put above many other more important topics that need tending nowadays. There are more serious issues around the world and in Missouri that need to be paid more attention to, but they have been pushed back because of the controversy this law has caused. It is understandable there’s a certain expectation and level everyone, no matter the gender, should follow in their space. However, there should also be equal treatment and empathy towards all members involved, where creating a healthy environment should be the main priority for everyone.

Chick-Fil-A: Three Days on, Four Days Off

Written By Alek Gregorzewski

Edited By Kaitlyn Peconie

An owner of a Chick-Fil-A down in Florida has adopted a brand new work week schedule, allowing his employees to work 40 hours in just three days. Justin Lindsey started this three day work plan at his Chick-Fil-A in February 2022. The new system for his restaurant had gotten him 429 applications for a job. Clearly people are interested in this new format.

Justin says it could help a lot with the planning of their lives: "[Employees] could plan their [lives] around it — they could plan vacation, child care, school." He had to create a different way of running his restaurant after implementing this new work week, so he divided them into two "pods." The pods essentially work three days of 13-14 hour shifts, then have four days off. "The three-day schedule is made easier because his restaurant, like all Chick-fil-As, are closed on Sundays. That means six work days can be evenly split among two working pods. One set of employees works Monday through Wednesday, while the other works Thursday through Saturday. The groups switch periodically so the burden of working Saturdays, the busiest day, is spread evenly." Splitting the "pods" up evenly for three days makes it easier for the workers. Rotating the groups each week not only makes it fair when working Saturdays, it also benefits the workers by having Saturday off every other week. With the advantage of the rotating schedule everyone will get a chance to work on the busiest day of the week making a similar amount of pay.

This new option gives people the opportunity to work a full 40 hour work week while still allowing them time for another job, school, or to be with family. Due to the increased number of new applicants, this idea has received a lot of praise from the public and gained a lot of attention. The three-day work plan has been very effective for Chick-Fil-A employees. Since the schedule has more flexibility, workers will have less burnout and more productivity. Now that this plan has proven to be successful, could other corporations start adopting a three day work week for their employees as well? Could we start seeing a three-day work week in other industries or maybe even in schools? I think three-day work weeks and four-day weekends are a great idea when it comes to balancing your lifestyle.



Dunkin' App...New and Improved?

Written by Ally Turner
Edited by Alexa Borner

There are over 8,500 Dunkin' establishments in 41 states across the country. If you're a loyal customer, you probably have learned that it's easier and much quicker to skip the line and take full advantage of the Dunkin' mobile app. However, the coffee chain recently traded their DDPerks for Dunkin' Rewards when they announced upgrades to its rewards app program, and customers are disappointed (Bu.edu).

With the old version of the mobile app, customers earned five points for each dollar spent. Once racked up to 200 points, the customer would receive a free drink. With the new rewards program, each dollar spent is worth 10 points, and there are various ways to use the points earned. Once you earn 150 points you can redeem small food rewards such as munchkins, hash browns, and an espresso shot.

Even though these seem like great deals, the drink deals don't come close to comparing. The price of coffee is increasing, so now it takes 500 points to redeem a regular hot or iced coffee, when compared to the previous \$40 spent. The crafted drinks, like espresso drinks, refreshers, and cold brews in the app are much higher in price. A customer must reach 700 points in order to reach the reward, which is equal to \$70 spent. And it doesn't stop here! The highest tier includes the frozen drinks and signature lattes, which are redeemable at 900 points, or \$90 spent. This is the largest difference from DDPerks, when any drink could be redeemed at 200 points, regardless of if it was a coffee, espresso drink, or refresher.

When comparing the new and old versions

of the rewards programs, it seems like there are more cons than pros, which feels kind of disappointing, especially to us long-term customers. We don't receive a free birthday drink anymore; however, we do earn three times as many points when we order on days surrounding our birthday. On the other hand, there is an offers tab in the app, which is new. This is specifically for Dunkin' Rewards users, and there are deals where you can activate a free drink with a donut purchase or get a free food item with a drink purchase. These change weekly and are only redeemable for customers who use the mobile app.

Customers have compared this new update to the Starbucks mobile app, which is one of the most successful rewards memberships in the industry (BusinessInsider.com). Dunkin' has followed Starbucks' lead, taking the tiered redemption system, which is why certain drinks are worth so much more than others.

Although the new Dunkin' app has its pros and cons, most loyal customers have learned to suck it up and continue to buy their Dunkin' every day. With these new updates, we are able to now redeem points on food and other items instead of just drinks. After discussing this with some of my friends who are also loyal Dunkin' customers, we all came to the same conclusion. Regardless of the new changes, we will still all be visiting Dunkin' and buying coffee. One friend even said, we still have advantages! The app does still have perks, and it's definitely worth it to use the app because ultimately, we can still earn free items, it just will not be as often as we did with the old app. If we get rewarded for any money spent, it seems like a win to me!



The Decline of Nurses

Written by Riley Tulley, Co-Editor-in-Chief
Edited by Sierra Roberts

In recent times, there has been an urgent call for nurses. A majority of the nurse population is older and approaching retirement, which is causing the nurse population to plummet. Likewise, there are staffing shortages due to people in the profession needing a better work-life balance in order to promote better mental health. There is also a shortage of trained nurse educators. Since there are not many educators, fewer aspiring nurses can be taught, but there is a rising demand for providing care to the aging population.

The most in-need area of nurses is the state of California. By 2030, it is estimated that California will be needing 44,000 nurses. In total, countrywide, we will be needing more than 3.6 million nurses. This means that the U.S. would have to hire 55,000 registered nurses every year starting from the year 2014 to be able to meet the extreme demand for nurses (USnews.com). Other states including Vermont, Arizona, Rhode Island, New Mexico, and West Virginia will also need nurses. When the pandemic struck, more women than men suffered job losses in the nursing field. In January 2020, over 13 million women occupied jobs in health-care. Men only occupied 3 million. Come April of that same year, women lost 10.6% of the said 13 million positions but men had only lost 5.5%.

Considering the current population trends, there are some things we can do to prevent the nursing shortage. We need to start listening to nurses' concerns and adjust protocols as we see fit. We need to begin to prioritize workplace culture. Workplace culture is important because it allows for the core values of collaboration, openness, respect, and empowerment (CORE) to be embodied. Making their needs the number one concern should be most important because they are the ones helping us, so in return, we should help them. Addressing the need for more nurse educators will allow for more nurses to be taught; in return, there will be more nurses hired. Supporting nurses leading healthcare innovations will allow nurses to see that their work is just as important and is not going unnoticed. This will help the nurses stay driven and focused. Additionally, increasing diversity and representation in the nursing field ensures that all beliefs, backgrounds, ethnicities, and perspectives are represented equally in the medical field. These are all beneficial ways that we can help with preventing the nursing shortage.

A Unique Form of Therapy

Written by Ellie Ladoucer

Edited by Sienna Thurber

Therapy is one of the most common support systems when encountering mental health issues. According to Usatoday.com, 21.6% of adults are receiving therapy as of 2021. However, it's not the solution for everyone. Due to a lack of trust, feeling misunderstood, or even not finding the right therapist, not everyone is confident it's suitable for them. As a result, animal therapy, a modern alternative, took off.

Animal therapy consists of many different techniques, varying in difficulty and significance. "Handlers" are dog trainers who live with the dog while they are in training and help them perform the therapies they learn. They take them to weekly doctor appointments where they track their progress and provide input to continue development. Once the doctor determines the animal is ready for therapy use, both the handler and the animal must get fully certified. This includes the handler passing a course where they must prove they can perform all the therapies they have learned as well as proving they can interact with the humans that will be receiving their help. The animal must also pass a behavioral course in addition to an immunization checkup to make sure they are healthy. Once this is done, they are both up and ready for business. Handlers typically work as volunteers until fully certified. Then they will be considered "therapists" and work through certain programs such as PetPartners, who supply them with the proper tools and training.

Animal therapies take place at the patient's house or car, depending on the issue. They can help reduce pain, provide comfort, improve motor skills or movement, develop social skills, and increase motivation for activities such as exercising or socialization.

If you think animal therapy is right for you, there are multiple organizations you can get in contact with online, or if you aren't looking for therapy but need emotional support, many of our local animal shelters are overflowing with pets waiting to be adopted.

If you are interested in trying animal therapy, New York Therapy Animals is a non-profit organization that works with intermountain therapy animals bringing them to healthcare facilities, schools and libraries. They serve people of all ages and can be found at newyorktherapyanimals.org. In addition, local shelters including Warwick Valley Humane Society and the Vernon Township Animal Shelter are constantly overflowing with animals. Emotional support animals (which are pets not service animals), can help with anxiety, depression, PTSD, bipolar disorder, ADHD, etc. So if you think emotional support is what you need, check out these shelters.



The Corruption of Concert Ticket Prices

Written by Kaya Lehrer

Edited by Jacob Gibel

Everybody loves listening to music, especially if it's live and in person. Concerts have been going on for hundreds of years, and it's a way to bring people closer together while listening to the music you love. But in today's world; the prices of tickets for concerts are so high, it makes it hard for people to even see live music unless they're rich.

Average concert tickets run for \$100-\$300 for upper level seats, but taxes and fees make these prices much higher. A recent example of these outrageous prices is the price of Taylor Swift tickets. The lowest price tickets are going for is \$702, with the highest being \$9,266. These insane prices don't even include the tax that comes when buying tickets from the vendor. These taxes and fees can be up to \$200 and more depending on the price of the ticket. For example, while trying to buy a ticket on the site "Gametime" I found tickets for a concert for \$658, but after fees and taxes that ticket turned into \$887. These impossibly high prices make it hard for anybody in the lower tax bracket to even think about buying tickets.

In today's day and age, you have to think about other factors in order to go to a concert. After buying overpriced

tickets, you still need to figure out transportation and food. Considering all of these elements, it makes going to a concert a huge expense, not even including buying the ticket itself.

The reason that concert tickets have gotten so high is due to the recent pandemic and inflation, which increased the production costs of all concerts. Companies and artists are making up for the lack of sales in the past few years, making these prices unbelievably high. For example, the production of Beyonce's recent private show in Dubai was over \$24 million.

Senators have even stepped in to regulate vendors like "Ticketmaster" that hadn't been regulated in the past and caused a huge scandal, following the prices of artists like Taylor Swift and Bruce Springsteen's tickets. Senators like Amy Klobuchar and Mike Lee have shared their opinions on huge ticket monopolies. Lee shared, "Regulating ticket transfers to deter scalpers could be "a nightmare dressed like a daydream," quoting one of Taylor Swift's songs. Seeing that governors have tried to step in and change this pattern of corruption shows that there is a huge issue following the unregulated and extremely high prices of concert tickets.



Image Source: Getty / NBC

HADES AND PERSPHONE WERE NOT A LOVE STORY

Sierra Roberts, Staff Editor

Hades and Persphone's story may have turned into love, but it is not a love story. Before I start, let me clear up a few misconceptions about who Hades and Persphone are. Hades is the god of the dead and king of the underworld, not the god of death; he is neither death, nor does he rule over death itself. (That is an entirely different sort of beast/monster/being pick one). He ONLY holds domain over the dead and wealth. Likewise, Persephone is not just the goddess of spring. She also holds domain over the dead, destruction, grain, and nature.

Hades is not some dark, murderous monster, nor is he the devil, and the underworld is not hell. The underworld is the place where, primarily, those of the Greek Pantheon and of Greek descent go when they die. Hades is the eldest male Olympian deity of Kronos and Rhea. And while he is the god of the underworld he is no more murderous than the average deity. (And he personally doesn't want more work for himself.)

Persephone is not some naive ditz without common sense who lights up at sunshine and rainbows. She is the daughter of Demeter and Zeus, neither of whom are known to be very kind deities. She is the goddess of destruction and has earned her title through her cruelty to her enemies. She is also a fierce protectress of those in the afterlife.

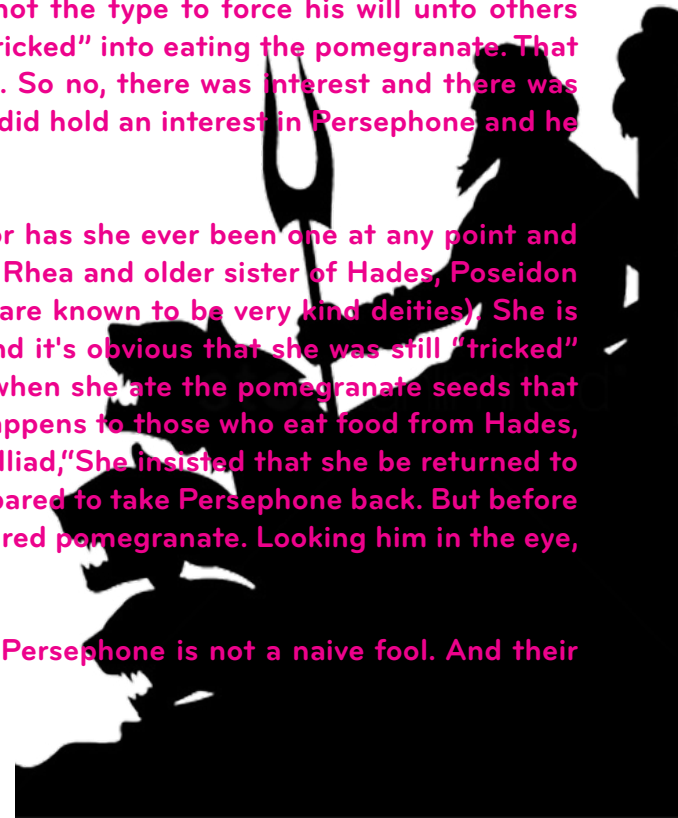
Now that the misconceptions about the two of them have been – hopefully – cleared up, let's start at the origin of Persphone and Hades. While love eventually grew between the seasonal goddess and the god of the dead, their story is not originally a kind or beautiful one. Persphone was seized!

When Hades abducted Persphone, it was not out of love. It was, in my opinion, due to his loneliness. Persphone did not stay because she fell in love with Hades; she stayed because her mother Demter could not enter the underworld as freely as she pleased. So no, there was no love for either of them, especially not in the beginning. Hades offered Persphone an escape from a controlling mother for at least half of the year, and Persephone took away Hades's loneliness that came from being the god of the underworld if only temporarily. They were/are each others chance at freedom.

But obviously Hades was in love with Persphone. He kidnapped her and forced her to eat a pomegranate in order for her to stay with him. No, nope that is completely wrong. First, Hades wasn't in love with Persphone when he kidnapped her; it was interesting at worst, lust at best. Second, it was not the whole pomegranate; it was only three seeds. Thirdly, Hades, as mentioned before, was not the type to force his will unto others (he's a king for Olympus sakes) so it was most likely that she was "tricked" into eating the pomegranate. That only lasted for around three months before Demter came knocking. So no, there was interest and there was probably (most definitely) lust but no love. Well not yet at least. He did hold an interest in Persephone and he was lonely.

Also as previously mentioned Persephone is not a naive goddess nor has she ever been one at any point and time. She is the daughter of Demeter (the third child of Kronos and Rhea and older sister of Hades, Poseidon and Zeus) and Zeus (the youngest of the Big Three, none of whom are known to be very kind deities). She is not nearly as hopeless as one would assume. So with her background it's obvious that she was still "tricked" into eating the seeds. Persphone knew exactly what she was doing when she ate the pomegranate seeds that Hades presented her; after all, it was common knowledge of what happens to those who eat food from Hades, and she chose a perfect time to eat the seeds. To directly quote the Iliad, "She insisted that she be returned to her (Demeter). Hades sadly hitched his horses to his chariot and prepared to take Persephone back. But before they left, he offered Persephone one last thing to eat – a ripe, blood red pomegranate. Looking him in the eye, Persephone took six seeds and ate them."

So, to reiterate, Hades is no more cruel than the average old deity. Persephone is not a naive fool. And their story is not originally a love story.



Recording Police: Helpful or Harmful?

Written by Milo Shaw-Smith Gendelman

Edited by Jackson Mitchell

Police accountability has always been a contentious issue in America. Holding our law enforcement accountable for their actions and ensuring they obey their own code is crucial to keeping the justice system safe and sound for American citizens. Over the past ten years this issue has been brought into the spotlight with the emergence of cell phones and the internet. Handheld cameras and social media have given widespread ability to monitor and record police on duty and report their actions online, effectively exposing their activity to tens of millions of people.

Online videos like this have helped photograph evidence of police brutality and expose several violent incidents to the internet. Incidents like this have increased in the past years, or at least the monitoring of police activity has skyrocketed since the beginning of the pandemic. Some video has been caught on police body cameras, and some video on cellular devices, but all videos have brought public outcry and attention to systemic issues within the American justice system. People in support of police monitoring argue that an eye watching over our law enforcement would keep officers accountable, ensuring that they would use appropriate force and follow police code. However, those opposed to body cameras or public filming of police argue that the recording may not capture the full context of a situation and may misinform the public, causing interference with the justice system and further complicating police operations.

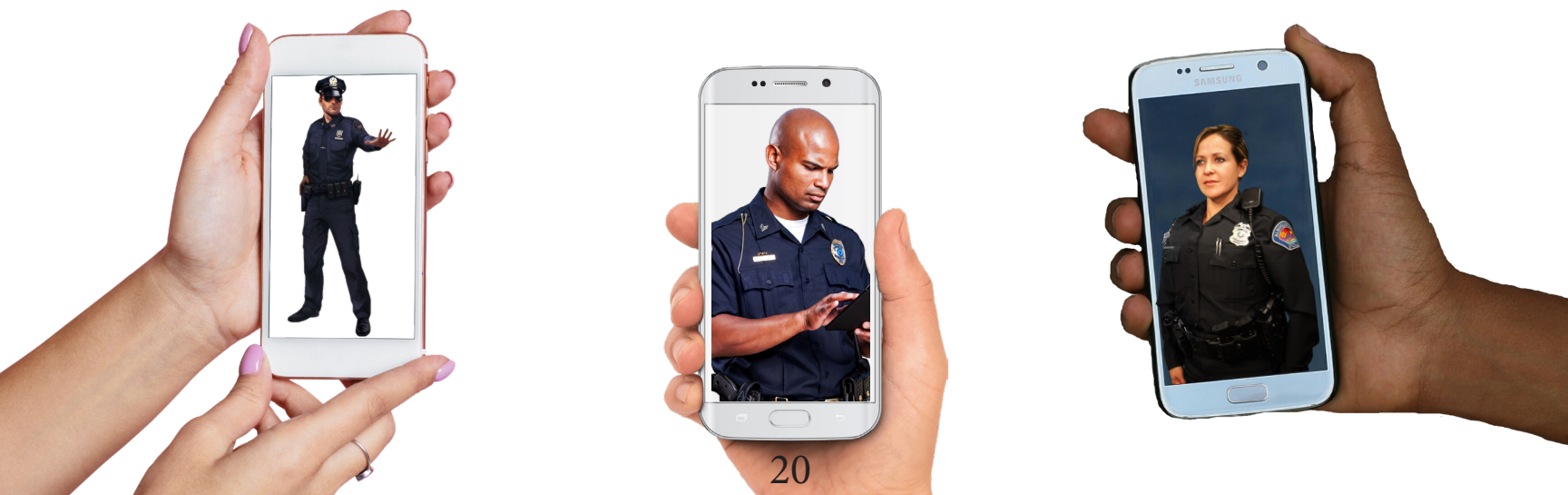
Anti-filming legislation was recently passed in Arizona, prohibiting private citizens from filming police officers from 8 feet or closer from the officer. Some are worried that laws like these will allow officers to get away with misconduct, giving a kind of anonymity to the police that may harm the public in the long run. In some states in the USA, it is illegal to film civilians without their consent in order to protect the general public from unfair monitoring. However, these same laws do not apply to on duty police officers. Uniformed police officers are technically private citizens; however, they are servants of the state, not always having the same protections as private citizens due to the high power and responsibility of the position.

The right to film police has been defended in courts under the First Amendment in recent years, most significantly in *Glik v. Cunniffe* (2011), in which the United States Court Of Appeals for the First Circuit voted unanimously in favor

of the right to film police. Additionally, the *ACLU v. Alvarez* case (2012) determined it was the right of the public to record and distribute audio of on duty police officers to the public creating a pro-recording/filming police stance in the US Court of Appeals, all generally protected under the First Amendment right to free speech. As stated in the *ACLU v. Alvarez* case documents, "Criminalizing all nonconsensual audio recording necessarily limits the information that might later be published or broadcast — whether to the general public or to a single family member or friend — and thus burdens First Amendment rights."

With the courts and a significant majority of the public in support of First Amendment filming, who is pushing through these laws in places like Arizona? The answer is not so simple. The police institution in America is one of the most powerful organizations in the world, and the NYPD's budget alone is higher than the GDP of 66 other countries according to CBNY.org. One of the reasons the institution is so strong is due to some of the largest labor unions in America, independent police unions. These unions fight for police benefits and argue on the officers' behalf, attempting to defend them from any legal changes or fights that may impact police rights. These unions often deal with a large majority of the police's legal battles, and have been motivating an increase in legislation to protect police from filming and recording in public settings. With powerful unions fighting in the courthouse and strong support from police background, it has become much easier for local legislation like this to be passed.

HB 2319 (the Arizona anti-police filming bill) was signed into law on July 6, 2022 by the state's governor; however, before it could go into effect, US district Judge John Tuchi suspended the law by ordering an injunction in September. Tuchi argued the law violated First Amendment rights and sided with local media covering the story. The law, which had so much fuel, lay dead in the water. Nobody came to defend it, not local law enforcement, nor police unions. What could this mean for the future of legislation like this? Even backed by strong police unions and with the support of government officials, laws like these cannot come into effect, always being trumped out by the First Amendment. Bills like these are stuck in development hell, enough to eke out a few headlines and puff pieces, but never enough to actually command legal power.



Meet the Mets

Written by Shane Micallef
Edited by Alek Grzegorzewski

There are two ways to look at the New York Mets 2022 season. If you are an optimistic fan, you may look at the fact that they won 101 games and made the NL Wildcard. However, if you have been a Mets fan for life, and are normal, you will say that the 101 games won was a waste considering they blew the division title and lost to the Padres in the wildcard series. The point is, even with their monster off-season, signing superstars and other great players, the Mets couldn't pull off a World Series or even a deep playoff run. Despite this, many good things came out of 2022 that the fans hope to see continue this 2023 season.

First, let's start with the good of last baseball season. Two key players stepped up big time to lead the Mets to their regular season accomplishments. Francisco Lindor and Pete Alonso absolutely flourished. They posted career numbers, broke their own personal RBI records, and drove in runs like crazy. If it wasn't for them, the Mets may have been looking at third place in the division and no playoffs at all. Then of course, we have the new additions that performed exceptionally well in the Big Apple for their first year. A few standouts were Max Scherzer, Starling Marte, and Mark Canha. Max Scherzer was obviously a fantastic addition to the rotation, along with Jacob deGrom being his normal Hall-of-Fame self, aside from an occasional injury. Starling Marte fit the Mets perfectly playing the role of a second lead-off man behind Brandon Nimmo who offered bunting, swiping bags, and some power. To finish off the list of these off season additions, we have Mark Canha. Now he was never really a HUGE signing. He is always a great guy to

have in the outfield to provide great defense and in the box to provide great plate discipline. One last guy I want to mention closes games out for the Mets, and that is pitcher Edwin Diaz. After a rough 2021, Edwin was lights out on the mound putting up some of the best numbers by a Mets closing pitcher. He struck out 118 batters in 62.0 innings with an ERA of 1.31 and a WHIP of 0.84. These players were a major reason for regular season success in 2022 and as a Mets fan, I hope to see them grow even more this upcoming spring.

Now I would like to take a dive into the Mets off-season pickups of this year. They have acquired a few really solid players. Kodai Senga, a six-time Japan Series winner who became an unrestricted free agent in November, is the wild card of the off-season. Senga was acquired by the Mets with the intention of making him their number 3 starter, but he will need to demonstrate that his "ghost forkball" characteristic pitch can be just as effective against MLB hitters as it was in the Shikoku Island League. The New York Mets' upcoming signing might rank among their best in history. Jacob deGrom's replacement in the Mets' rotation is Justin Verlander, a three-time Cy Young Award winner and former MVP. His contract equals Max Scherzer's in having the highest average annual value in Major League history and contains a \$35 million vesting option for 2025.

With these two star pickups, and the other great role players added, the Mets could be looking at a deep playoff run and a potential World Series. Although last year's fans had these same thoughts, 2023 looks more promising than ever for the New York Metropolitanans.

Division 1 College Baseball Countdown

Written by Jackson Mitchell
Edited by Robbie Foschini

The NCAA baseball preseason is set to start in less than a month and there has been tremendous turnover in the projected top teams. Although there are many months left before the start of the College Baseball World Series every team is training towards the vision of winning in the eternally famous Charles Schwab Field in Omaha, Nebraska. Many say the season is won before it starts so this is a critical point in preparation for all Division 1 teams. Currently, LSU tops the NCAA rankings although winning the championship is far from a sure thing. Here are the top 5 teams according to D1 Baseball Preseason Top 25 Rankings and what advantages they have going into the 2023 season.

LSU:

This year the Tigers had the best offseason of any Division 1 team. With an already outstanding group of returners starring Dylan Crews (projected No. 1 pick in next year's draft) their most important pickups came from the transfer portal in Freshman of the Year Tommy White and All-American Paul Skenes. Additionally, they have the highest-ranked recruiting class and excellent coaching. Coach Jay Johnson in his second year as head coach brought on pitching coach Wes Johnson from the Twins, and Josh Jordan, the 2018 Assistant Coach of the Year. (ncaa.com)

Tennessee:

Last year, the Vols' won 57 games and had a .864 winning percentage. Although they lost All-Americans Drew Gilbert and Trey Lipscomb to professional ball, they will once again be a force of nature in 2023. Furthermore, the Volunteers have one of the best pitching rotations in the NCAA with right-handers Drew Beam, Chase Burns, and Chase Dollander as well as standout players Blacke Burke, Jared Dickey, and Christian Moore to add offense. (ncaa.com)

Stanford:

After some heartbreaking losses this past season and the loss of 5-star players to the MLB Draft the Cardinals are hoping to qualify for their third straight Regional. This year's star returners include Drew Bowser, Tommy Troy, Quinn Mathews, and most importantly Braden Montgomery, two-way standout (pitcher and outfielder) and former Freshman of the Year. Additionally, the Cardinals have a superb staff under the direction of head coach and 2022 Pac-12 Coach of the Year David Esquer. (stanforddaily.com)

Ole Miss:

The Rebels are reigning champions hoping to repeat in the 2023 season and as the #4 team in the Top 25 Rankings, they have a legitimate chance. This year sophomore returner Hunter Elliott will anchor the Mississippi rotation, with Jacob Gonzalez and Kemp Alderman providing substantial offense. At the head of the coaching staff, Baseball America's 2022 College Coach of the Year Mike Bianco hopes to lead his team to a return to Omaha. (sportsillustrated.com)

Texas A&M:

Last year the Aggies made a deep postseason run eventually losing to the Oklahoma Sooners in the semi-final round of the CWS. Going into last season, the team went unranked but after only a year under the direction of head coach Jim Scholssnagle, they managed to crack the top 5. This is also largely due to A&M's leading hitter Jack Moss who held a .380 batting average with 6 home runs as well as Austin Bost, Brett Minnich, and Ryan Targac who fill out the rest of the offense. Nathan Dettmer will lead the Aggie pitching rotation with Ryan Prager and Will Johnston also back this season meaning the team could make a solid divisional run. (sportsillustrated.com)

The Division 1 Men's College World Series showcases generational talents and world-class players. Many believe that college baseball is often more exciting than the MLB because of the entertainment provided and the rivalries and history between teams that make for an electric atmosphere in the postseason. This year is no exception and I can not wait for June to see who will come out on top.



22





PREMIER LACROSSE LEAGUE

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Historically, professional lacrosse players have been forced to work a full-time job on the side in order to provide for themselves and their families. In past years, there have been two professional leagues, the MLL (Major League Lacrosse) and NLL (National Lacrosse League). In both leagues, there has been a maximum salary of \$35,000, and minimum salary of \$10,000 per year (www.si.com). With these salaries, many players worked as lawyers or businessmen while playing lacrosse on the side. This is incredibly taxed as they have to work a 40 hour work week, all while managing a professional athletes schedule. The only way a player would be able to generate a large sum of income would be through sponsorships or partnerships with major companies; only a handful of players are given this opportunity.

Paul Rabil, the only person to earn over a million dollars strictly from lacrosse, decided it was time for change. Along with the money he made from playing, he secured massive investments and was then able to create the Premier Lacrosse League. The goal of the PLL is to be able to give players good enough salaries and grow the sport across the country. Prior to the introduction of the PLL, lacrosse games would average 3600 spectators per game, a fraction of the turnout of any other sport. This issue would make generating enough revenue to sustain the higher salaries impossible. In order to combat it, the PLL opted for a “touring team” approach as opposed to other leagues’ city-based teams. This means that teams would not be bound to a city; rather teams would travel all over the country to create exposure for the sport. This strategy has proved to be effective, as the PLL has surpassed those numbers dramatically, as well as landing media right agreements with ESPN and sales agreements with TicketMaster. The most recent season had an average of 167,000 viewers on the broadcasts, a huge jump from the 3600 in 2018. This spike in viewership is a monumental step in the right direction.

Due to the newfound popularity of the PLL, players have signed never-before-seen contracts. These new contracts have an average pay of \$107,000 (Ziprecruiter.com). This may not seem like a big increase, but the top players in the league are making up to 5 million from lacrosse now, and all players are able to live off a salary strictly from lacrosse. This means they will be more dedicated to the sport and more people may pursue a career in the sport.



The content of this paper reflects students' writing efforts and views which do not necessarily represent WVCSD or the *Survey* staff.