

# The Survey

## Spring Edition: 2023

Reporting Wildcat News Since 1922

# THE HIDDEN WORLD OF SORORITIES & FRATERNITIES

Written by Sienna Thurber

Edited by Madison Pacelli



*Sigma Kappa Sorority at UTC; Pinterest*

Why do many high school students anticipate graduating? Many look forward to the idea of newfound independence and having a fresh start to portray themselves. In high school, many kids know almost everyone within their graduating class and even some in the grades above or below. However, in college, students have ample opportunities to go outside of their comfort zones and explore a new campus filled with new people. Some of these opportunities include sports, community service, employment, clubs and more. One aspect of college life in particular that is popular among many students is “Greek Life”: associating yourself with a sorority or fraternity.

A commonly asked question among many seniors in high school and college freshmen is, “What exactly is a sorority or a fraternity?” They both fall under the same category of clubs that pertain to students who share common goals that have come together through brotherhood and sisterhood, making a commitment to one another for life. Sororities and Fraternities are broken down into multiple “houses” or sub groups. In the 1800s it was mostly men attending universities, so the idea of Greek life started with fraternities. According to the article “History of Fraternities and Sororities,” the author wrote, “The very first fraternity, Phi Beta Kappa, was founded in 1776, and was kept a ‘secret.’” The fraternity discussed the philosophy of women’s suffrage, abolition, and the temperance movements, which went against traditional values, thus being the reason it was kept secret. The creation of a new organization not only brought enlightened ideas to our newer generations but also brought long lasting friendships that turned into social gatherings outside of school and ultimately living together.

There are many positives and negatives of joining; one major pro is the opportunity to meet people that share

your common goals and who might be in your life for years to come. You’ll have people to go through the process of college every step of the way. There are older girls, so it’s like having an older sister or mother figure within your life even though you are away from home. Joining a sorority also helps you stay on the right path, keep up with your grades as well as having fun together and giving back to your community. For example, there are ample social activities such as parties and fundraisers. Philanthropy is a big part of what Greek Life stands for, as the members participate in volunteer events that their sorority holds. Students learn to be more empathetic and caring.

Not only are their characteristics to obtain but life skills as well. Sororities hold meetings every week known as chapters where students learn time management, problem solving, critical thinking, communication skills, decision making and more. Not only does being in a sorority help you develop these skills to prepare you for the near future of having a job, but it also builds your resume. As college students begin to emerge as adults and prepare to look for potential jobs, your brothers or sisters often help you gain connections within the workforce as social networking is also a major positive when it comes to sororities.

Although there are many favorable reasons to join a fraternity or sorority there are also some negatives that come too. One of the biggest problems associated with the program is the cost to be a part of it. These expenses include member dues, application fees, and social activities, but the main cost is housing. Being a part of Greek life means living together and having members pay rent towards these houses for their semesters at college. Another issue that people complain about is how time consuming it is. Students participate and plan dances, dinners, meetings and more all by themselves and are held to a high standard to keep up with all of their tasks. It can be difficult to balance school work, volunteering, school involvement, and extra curriculars. In addition to the cost and time commitment, another concern has to do with the safety of hazing. Hazing is the initiation of freshman pledging their freshman year into fraternities. It can be as harmless as carrying an older fraternity member’s books around campus, to completing illegal tasks, such as drug and alcohol abuse. Hazing is illegal in 44 out of the 50 states in the United States; however, students still find a way around the laws. Sororities don’t haze, but they do have rituals such as handshakes, inside jokes and songs they sing.

Despite the potential negatives, being a part of Greek life is much more than just going to parties. It’s a great way to meet long lasting friendships and leave an impact on your college community.

# Interview: Konnor Piccirillo

Written by Jacob Gibel  
Edited by Dallas Kaminski

Konnor Piccirillo is a senior at Warwick Valley High School. He is extremely talented at graphic designing and he has started creating his graphic designs for profit. I decided to interview Konnor about graphic design to learn more about what he does.

## Q: What made you start graphic design?

A: "It all started in eighth grade, I believe. I took a class taught by Mr. Ferry, the art teacher at Greenwood Lake Middle School, and it was basically like a film class. This was the first time I was exposed to Photoshop. The school gave us a year-long subscription to Photoshop, so I did not have to pay for it, and I don't remember when, but it was towards the end of eighth grade when I started messing around creating edits of my favorite sports players. My friends thought they were cool, so I kept making them."

## Q: What do you enjoy about graphic design?

A: "Graphic design is an escape from reality for me. When I start a new project, it feels like time flies by so fast that an hour can feel like 10 minutes. Graphic design also doesn't have any rules or boundaries. I can create whatever I want, and that's what I love most about it. The fact that I can add any image, text, or shape that I want is amazing. There is no other hobby or job like it."

## Q: What types of graphics do you make?

A: "I mostly make basketball graphics; I am looking to get into other sports though, such as football, baseball, and soccer. Basketball is my favorite sport, so most of my work is basketball-related for now."

## Q: How are you promoting your graphic designs?

A: "Right now I have an Instagram account, @konnorsburner, a Twitter account @WholeLottaHoopz and a Behance profile, behance.net/konnorpic. On these platforms, I post most of my work, at least the ones I like the most."

I hope that you were as fascinated as me to learn about Konnor Piccirillo and his amazing talent. He is a very gifted graphic designer working his way to get noticed for what he does. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors as he works to achieve his dream. I hope that he can inspire other students to follow their dreams and work to achieve them.



Graphics provided by Konnor Piccirillo

# KIERA'S COLLEGE LACROSSE RECRUITMENT PROCESS

I had the opportunity to sit down with Kiera Larney, a senior at WVHS this year. Last fall, as a junior, Kiera verbally committed to University of Vermont to play D1 Lacrosse. She was one of the first amongst her class to commit, and I thought it would be interesting to ask her some questions about the process and her experience.

**Q: When did you begin the recruitment process?**

A: [It began at the] end of freshman year, beginning of sophomore year, but I wasn't able to get officially recruited until September first of my junior year due to NCAA rules.

**Q: What was the best part of the recruitment process?**

A: Being able to travel to different colleges for camps and learn about a wide variety of different schools. I also got to meet different coaches which was exciting because I was able to learn about how to make connections. (Kiera is still in contact with people she met during this process).

**Q: Did you always think you were going to play lacrosse in college?**

A: Yes, it was always my dream to play college lacrosse, and I worked really hard to achieve it.

**Q: If you could give one piece of advice to younger athletes who are interested in playing college sports, what would it be and why?**

A: Don't be afraid to seek advice from people who have gone through the process before; travel coaches can be especially helpful throughout the whole process. [It is also important to attend] camps and make sure you make a good first impression on coaches. You should make sure they know who you are.

With so many D1 athletes in the senior class, it is really interesting to see and hear about some of their personal experiences. I think that hearing about how Kiera and the other athletes personally got recruited can be helpful to younger athletes who are hoping to play in college as well.



# Lacrosse Interview : Conner Finn

Written by Xavier Thompson  
Edited by Kyle Gluuckstein



*Photo provided by Connor Finn*

**Lacrosse is arguably Warwick Valley High School's best sport performance-wise, with players winning sections three years in a row and looking to make it four this 2023 season. I interviewed 4-year returning star player and senior captain, Connor Finn.**

**Q: Why do you play lacrosse?**

A: "I was encouraged to play as a little kid by my parents. It's fun and I love the sport."

**Q: What are the practices like?**

A: "They're all different; some are easy and some are hard, but for the most part, they're fun."

**Q: What's your favorite part of practice?**

A: "My favorite part of practice is just getting to spend time with my team."

**Q: How do you and the team prepare for games?**

A: "We watch film and practice when the other teams play."

**Q: How has the team performed in games?**

A: "We've had three scrimmages so far. We've won two and lost one. I think we've done well."

**Q: What are your expectations starting the season?**

A: "To win every game and win the championship."

**Q: What type of coach is Coach Kelly?**

A: "He's a great guy and an outstanding coach who loves the sport and his players."

**Q: What players have the biggest impact on the team and why?**

A: "Francess Keneally and Matt Sansone. Fran's our defensive leader who's going D1 and Matt's our offensive leader."

**After talking to Connor I can conclude that he and the team are very confident and are expecting a championship this season. I wish them the best of luck!**

# D1 Dishing

Written by Jackson Mitchell and Chase Fogg

Edited by Nick Sirico



*Ryan McLaughlin*



*Drew Borner*



*Skyler Blanton*

This year Warwick Valley High School has a tremendous pool of talent with a current 10 Division 1 signees in the 2023 senior class. This is a profound accomplishment for the student athletes as well as a testament to the excellent development of the Warwick athletic community. Statistically speaking, only 2% of high school athletes nationwide are given the opportunity to play Division 1 athletics and it takes an immense amount of talent, hard work, and sometimes a little luck (Ncsasports.com). We asked a small group of Division 1 students some questions about their recruiting process, for advice they have for other student athletes, and their predictions for their future athletic career.

Our first interviewee was Ryan McLaughlin, who will be attending Hofstra University and playing baseball in the fall. McLaughlin was a varsity standout in both baseball and football these past few years and was named #44 (captain of the football team). McLaughlin stated that he chose Hofstra because it was an excellent opportunity and because “the coaches are very welcoming and get straight to business.” Ryan had always wanted to play college baseball, although the recruiting process started off somewhat slow. “I struggled in the beginning because I didn’t put in the efforts to reach out.” McLaughlin recommended that student athletes and Division 1 hopefuls put their best foot forward by finding any means for coaches to see them and to play for programs that will help their recruiting. Ryan is currently looking forward to his upcoming senior season with varsity baseball where his goal is to win Warwick’s first ever Section 9 AA Title for baseball.

Next, we asked Wagner Football commit Drew Borner some questions about his recruiting process. Drew recently signed to Wagner University as a

kicker after talking to schools such as Stony Brook, Bryant, and St. John Fisher. Drew always knew that he wanted to play college sports, and although he started as a soccer player he eventually shifted to a football kicker because he was drawn to the game by the “pressures of being a kicker and the camaraderie of the team.” Borner stated that the recruiting process was long and suggested athletes begin early and reach out to as many schools as possible. He thanked his father and Athletic Director Greg Sirico for helping him with his college recruitment.

Finally, we interviewed Skyler Blanton who signed to play Division 1 lacrosse at East Carolina University this past November. Skyler chose ECU over other schools including UConn, Stetson, and ASU because of the warmth, the exceptional coaching, and the player environment. Blanton admitted that the recruiting process was “very stressful” but recommended that athletes visit as many schools as they can. Skyler also cited her hard work and dedication as the source of her talent. On any given day she attends school, spends hours at practice, works out, and does homework. Blanton was exposed to lacrosse by her father and developed her passion at a young age after not liking other sports like softball. According to scholarshipstats.com, about 1 in every 13 high school athletes play college sports, with Division 1 athletics at the top of the college athletics pyramid. All student athletes have a different path to commitment, but each player we interviewed agreed that starting the process as early as possible is the most successful way to find a Division 1 athletic program with a good fit. We hope that this article will help potential college athletes find their fit and continue the Warwick tradition of academic and athletic excellence.

*Photos from WVCSD website*

# Wildcats Take On Flag Football

Written by Jenna Mosier  
Edited by Brenna Belasco

Have you heard of the newest varsity sport at Warwick Valley? Girls flag football is a recent activity that schools across the nation have adopted as of 2023. You may be wondering how Warwick is taking on this recent sport. Well, the NFL team, the Jets, are sponsoring many New York teams, including ours. This means that Warwick gets new jerseys, mouthguards, equipment, and all the flags a team could need, thanks to the Jets. Warwick even got the opportunity to practice at the Jets practice facility on Sunday, March 26th. The girls were able to scrimmage and practice other teams from the area to kick off the season. This season, Warwick will be playing the Orange County teams.

Spanish teacher, Mr. Barquero, and art teacher, Mr. Manno, are the teams' head coaches. In addition, athletic director, Coach Sirico, and history teacher, Mr. O'Brien, are the team's other main coaches. This sport and its coaches welcome all girls from freshman to seniors who wish to participate in the sport. The team practices twice a week and has games approximately twice a week from April to June. The practices take place at Park Avenue

Elementary School from 5:30 pm to 7:10 pm on Mondays and Thursdays. These later practice hours accommodate girls who play other spring sports, such as varsity softball or varsity track.

I was able to ask a couple of the players about their favorite aspect of football now being offered for girls. Senior Abigail Tobin explains her love for the sport and says, "I love when the rush of nerves and excitement are at an all time high when you realize that it could all come down to whether you catch the ball or not in a game." Freshman Penelope Bieling explains, "I wanted to play flag football to try something new; it seemed really fun, and I love sports. My favorite part about playing this sport is learning the game, playing against teams in my area, and getting to go to practice with some of my closest friends." Senior Amanda Wentworth states, "I love that I get to play and compete with my friends, along with learning more about the sport." The excitement that Warwick's high school girls have for the sport is evident, and many girls are being brought together. Overall, flag football is clearly a welcoming environment where all girls have the opportunity to learn and have fun!



Photo Provided by Paige Manno



Photo from WVCSD website

# ChatGPT is Changing Education: But for Better or Worse?

In the past few months, a non-profit research company, OpenAI, has developed something remarkable. Its program, ChatGPT, is a chatbot focused on conversation and develops itself as it is used. Since its birth, it has reached the capability of being able to write poems, write lines of code, and even construct essays. Being the first of its kind, people have no idea how truly miraculous this development could be. However, the question of how ChatGPT is going to affect education is crossing people's minds.

Two opinions have been circling the education community. Positively, ChatGPT has been proven effective as a massive tool for our educators. For instance, the program can develop mathematical problems ranging from basic algebra to college-level calculus and a step-by-step processes on how to complete them. In addition, it can develop essay prompts based on books that force the writer to use specific examples and details from the book. From the student's perspective, ChatGPT can be used to explain difficult or complex concepts in ways that the student will be able to implement in their work. Thus, the positives of ChatGPT are very prevalent, but where

there are positives, there are also negatives. Staying on the topic of essay prompts, ChatGPT also can answer essay prompts. With essays as a staple to the fundamental aspect of education, they could quickly become futile in the educational process. As students climb to the higher levels of the system, the effects of ChatGPT will become more and more apparent as students are going to lack basic writing skills and understanding of certain topics. Also, ChatGPT is being used to complete homework assignments at a rampant rate among students. This, in turn, could lower test scores for students, and students may lose their drive and work ethic. Could this cause an increase high school or college dropout rates? Maybe this is an overreaction, but students' determination to understand and apply concepts in the education space could be in jeopardy.

Although the ideas mentioned on both sides may be radical, it is still important not to shrug them off. Students need to continue to understand and apply concepts they have learned and practice these skills. On the contrary, teachers and students alike should continue to use ChatGPT as it was meant to be used, as a learning tool.

Written by Brent Secord, Staff Editor



# The Deception of Deep Fakes

Written by Lucia Meehan

Edited by Shane Micallef



*AI generated deepfake showing  
"Donald Trump" getting tackled by the press*

There has always been a common fear that false statements or opinions from (someone else) will be put in our mouths, and of course, rumors spread like wildfire. Deepfakes have the power to do this on a massive scale, affecting more than just our self-esteem and confidence. The word itself seems to radiate a negative connotation; "deep" and "fake" together don't exactly exemplify the next positive turn of the century. But what really are "deepfakes"? And how would they have the ability to create such serious repercussions?

A deepfake is defined as an image of "fake events, actions, or statements to spread false information and create distrust." However, this term has lately been used for the creation of a new technology called "GAN", or generative adversarial network, in order to create realistic looking images of famous individuals (Sandboxx.us). What's so alarming is how accessible and easy this technology is to use. This means it can also easily slip into the wrong hands of someone with malicious intent.

Deepfakes are affecting the government, foreign conflicts, and national security. If you've heard of propaganda before, this is propaganda taken to another level. People have created false videos of figures such as American politicians Nancy Pelosi,

Barack Obama, Donald Trump, and Joe Biden. Likewise, Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg has been recently recreated in what was called the #FakeZuckcampaign, where he was "advertising" for a specific political party (digitalinformationworld.com). Despite not affecting anyone directly, it naturally led audiences to mistrust famous figures and the media. There has also been a video circulating of Ukrainian president Zelensky saying that his soldiers should surrender to the Russian forces (NPR.org). While slight differences in his accent and voice syncing with his movement was mentioned, this can have a tremendous effect on opinions of the war for both Russians and Ukrainians, and could have impacted the war path itself. Though the technology has some noticeable flaws, the fast paced rate of advancement could risk individual and national security.

Despite all this, deep fake technology must have been created with good intentions in mind, so I sought out what good comes from deep fakes. What I discovered was valid reasoning to feed my curiosity. Naturally, it lowers the cost of movie and video production, and according to AI News, there are many educational purposes. This includes how the Dali Museum was able to "resurrect" Salvador Dali, and how this type of technology can create realistic simulations and images for medical trainings so those in the field may gain practice that could be crucial in real-time medical situations. Furthermore, this technology provides advantages for retail, making the process of online shopping more personalized and immersive. For example, people can see themselves in certain clothing before buying it (Artificialintelligence-news.com).

So what's the takeaway? Advances in technology are undoubtedly going to affect our daily lives and nationwide issues as well. If certain restrictions are put in place, the benefits of deepfake technology may contribute to society positively. What's important is that we proceed with caution and refrain from immediately reacting to social media images because who knows what is real and what is fake.

# THE END OF TIKTOK COULD BE CLOSER THAN WE THINK

Written by Summer Adams

Edited by Jasmin Vail

Since its launch in 2016 TikTok has taken the world by storm, with users in all demographics. The app has over 1.53 billion users worldwide, making it the most used and downloaded app in both 2022 and 2021, beating both Facebook and Instagram (Demandsage.com; Cyberclick.net). TikTok is owned by ByteDance, a company founded by Zhang Yiming, making him the owner and founder of the app itself (Entrepreneur.com). In recent news, however, it has become clear that governments worldwide have begun to consider banning the app, with concerns that it puts private and sensitive data about users, such as location, contact information, birthdays, or passwords, into the hands of the Chinese government.

While TikTok has repeatedly denied these allegations, stating that “the Chinese Communist Party has neither direct nor indirect control of ByteDance or TikTok,” some members of the American government are skeptical of this and believe that “China’s broad security laws would require ByteDance

to share data with the Chinese government if asked” (Time.com). For this reason, governments are actively making decisions surrounding the banning of TikTok. On February 27th, The White House told federal agencies they had 30 days to delete the app from all government devices, which officially set the ban in place on March 29th. The United States is not the only country banning the app and as of March 2023 it has been banned on government devices by India, Canada, The European Union, Pakistan, and Afghanistan as well. Additionally, dozens of major colleges across eight different states, including the University of Texas at Austin, Auburn University, Boise State University and Florida A&M University, have taken initiative and blocked the use of the app if students are connected to the college wifi (Bestcolleges.com).

These new plans to ban TikTok have not only received both positive and negative feedback but also a variety of questions from critics. People are mainly concerned with the fact that there is evidence of

other social media platforms, such as Facebook and Youtube, also tracking and potentially sharing user data as well; however, the United States government has seemingly failed to find an issue with that (Allthingssecured.com; CNBC.com). Skeptics wonder if this is because TikTok is owned by foreign company. In fact, there is a current bill in the works called the Restrict Act, which “[authorizes] the Secretary of Commerce to review and prohibit certain transactions between persons in the United States and foreign adversaries, and for other purposes” (Congress.gov). While some may say that this suggests the government may not be targeting TikTok specifically, and that TikTok just falls into the category of being owned by a foreign adversary, this is not accurate. Congress.gov defines a foreign adversary as “any foreign government or regime” and TikTok is owned by a private company. As of press time, it is undetermined whether the bill will pass and lead to the banning of TikTok for all citizens.

# Streaming Services: In One Sitting or Over a Week?

Written by Ciara Kelly

Edited by Ariana Perez

Have you ever sat down to watch an episode or two of your favorite TV show, only to realize that it's been six hours and you finished the entire season? Well, you're not the only one, so don't feel too guilty. In fact, a poll by Verywellhealth.com in 2018 found that 60% of people who use streaming services binge watch.

But are we moving away from it? *The Last of Us* is a post-apocalyptic zombie TV show that came out mid-January of 2023, and it was an immediate smash hit with the media. Streaming on HBO, the episodes were updated weekly until the ninth, and final episode, came out in March. Why did they do this, instead of launching it all at once?

To build anticipation, of course. We've gotten so used to the "drop it all at once" model thanks to Netflix, that going back to the way things were feels good. *The Last of Us* is just one example of shows going back to weekly updates, with many of the Disney+ shows, such as *The Mandalorian*, adhering to this schedule as well. In fact, there are plenty of shows doing this across all different platforms with the objective of building, and keeping the audience engaged and excited for the following episode. While waiting for the newest episode to come out, it builds a sense of community among the viewers, and ensures that spoilers don't get around. And then, once the show is over, you can binge.

So is this schedule better? That depends. There are merits and flaws to both ways, and it really depends on the type of viewer as well as the show. People might be more willing to sit through a low-energy, low-stakes episode if the next is right there available to them. However, if the episode they waited a week to air doesn't meet their expectations, they might decide to abandon the show altogether. Also, having all the episodes right there and watching them one after the other means that you can have more complicated plots that the viewer would be able to follow. The week in between makes it easy to forget what happened in the previous episode. It also means that the

viewer gets to decide the pace they watch the show at from the very beginning. And people are busy. Tuning in every week might not be available to some. For some, bingeing is the only option when they only have a few hours at a time every week.

On the other hand, the weekly updates have their perks. Having something to look forward to every week can be really good for people, and something as simple as an hour of a show might make the difference between a monotonous week and a good one. And, if the show is good enough, the hype around the show will last for all nine weeks it's airing, rather than just the week it came out, which is good for the companies. The longer they can milk the show for, the better the chances it gets picked up for another season.



Girl binge watching <https://www.promises.com/addiction-blog/watch-out-for-binge-watching-tv/>

It just means they have to make a really good show. People will get excited to watch the newest episode, so they'll talk about it. This isn't only an excellent marketing strategy for the companies, using word of mouth to spread the show, but is also a lot of fun for the viewer. With so many people tuning in at the same time every week to watch exactly what you're watching, it makes it a lot more exciting to watch the show.

No matter which model you prefer, there are options either way. So have fun, and enjoy your media the way that works best for you.

# Page to Screen: Daisy Jones and The Six

Written and Edited by Madison DeSantis

Baby, look at us now! *Daisy Jones and The Six*, a bestselling novel written by none other than talented author Taylor Jenkins Reid that explores the rise and fall of a rock band through interviews expressing love, friendship, and addiction has turned into a hit Amazon Prime original series. It's clear the amount of effort and love going into the show that teleports viewers into a world of sex, drugs, and rock 'n roll. Inspired by a popular band during the '70s, the book has intensified expectations for historical fiction and reading. It seems that the show hasn't let these expectations down thanks to the talented actors and actresses.

The fictional band's cast has become loveable, their performances being unforgettable when it comes to the accuracy of the well-written characters. Daisy Jones, our main character, is a mysterious woman who immerses herself in the thrill of what clubs have to offer, but it's the rock 'n roll that she's there for. Played by Riley Keough, granddaughter of Elvis, this is her first major role in film, and I think we will be seeing plenty more of her. The male lead is Billy Dunne, played by British actor Sam Claflin, best known for his roles in *The Hunger Games* and *Me Before You*. His egocentric character is the frontman for the band Daisy Jones and The Six, previously named the Dunne Brothers.

The other characters were also cast beautifully. Camilla Dunne, the motherly friend of the band and wife to Billy, is played by actress Camilla Morrone. Karen Sirko, the keyboardist who takes strides to combat sexism in the music industry is played by the talented singer Suki Waterhouse, known for her song "Good Looking" which blew up this past year. Graham, Warren, and Eddie are the male members of the band. Graham Dunne holds the ambition of the band and the guitar, played by Will Harrison. Warren Rojas is fun-loving and holds two drumsticks, played by Sebastian Chacon. Finally, Eddie Roundtree is the guitarist of the band, who can be described as pessimistic.

The whole cast put so much effort and love into this series, even learning new skills to make the music aspect perfect. This fictional band managed to top the charts with their impressive and enjoyable album *Aurora*. The skills needed for this album were only achievable by the dedication of the cast. Billy Dunne (Sam Claflin), told *The Associated Press*, "I didn't play guitar and I barely had sung. I never recorded anything. It was quite an immediate shock of terror and fear and pressure." Watching the show you would have never guessed these actors and actresses had to attend a band camp, only imaginable as something straight out of "Camp Rock."

*Daisy Jones and The Six* has been trending on Billboard as one of the top emerging artists on the charts, and the band's Spotify account has 2.4 million monthly listeners. Songs like "Look at Us Now (Honeycomb)", and "Let

Me Down Easy" are hard to skip on this album, a beautiful depiction of Billy Dunne and Daisy Jones' relationship throughout the series. Despite the album being made to surround the TV show, they did a great job of making music people would pay for in order to see on stage. Though unlikely, fans like me would love for a tour that started it all to be announced. I would highly recommend reading the book and watching the songs come to life as you read the lyrics on the pages.

Those who read the book praise the show's accuracy, but leave plenty of room for criticism. Without giving away much of the book and show, here are some changes that were made. The time frame of the interviews of the band is different, going from 40 years in the book to 20 years on the TV show. It was originally planned to be 40, but the actors looked a bit too old with all the special effects make-up according to the cast who would laugh when recalling their old physical appearance. Daisy's birth name was also changed to Margaret; her changing her name in the show might have given us a bigger insight into how much she really wanted the rockstar life, going as far as naming herself Daisy Jones.

The criticism is most potent when looking at Camilla Dunne's character in the show, with fans on social media commenting that "too many strong scenes" were omitted from the screen. With those scenes taken away you don't see her as the warm, fuzzy mama of the group that she was so gracefully written as. The public is battling these claims though, stating that Camilla's character shouldn't be shackled to what she said and did in the book and that her actions in the TV show were very justifiable by her character. Viewers are also expressing how they felt mournful that "important characters" had their interactions reduced. I understand where viewers are coming from; it's hard to not want your favorite scenes in a book to come alive and be performed, but you can only translate so much from a page to your screen. These small leave-outs haven't prevented the show's success, and Taylor Jenkins Reid is in awe to see it.

*Daisy Jones and The Six* is a captivating novel transformed beautifully.



Vanity Fair

and you just might catch me wearing it. It's worth checking out the show and the album to see for yourself the hard work and devotion of those who've worked on the show. You will not be disappointed. More importantly check out the book that made this all possible. After reading it I can confidently call *Daisy Jones and the Six* a favorite novel of mine.



# *The Other Side of Paris Hilton*

Paris Hilton is most commonly known as the early 2000s “it girl”. She was raised in Beverly Hills California, and has lived a life most people only dream of. However, no amount of money or fame can compare to the years of trauma that a person has endured. Ms. Hilton makes this point very clear in her new book entitled *Paris: The Memoir*. In which she discusses her side of the story while sharing the not-so-glamorous parts of her life.

Paris has been in the spotlight for quite some time. Her father is the son of Conrad N. Hilton who founded the Hilton Hotels and her mother was a childhood actress. It was almost a given that Paris herself would end up in the public eye. Paris started to become very popular once her reality show with best friend Nicole Richie, who is singer Lionel Richie’s daughter, came out. The reality show was titled *The Simple Life* and it aired from 2003-2007. Paris and Nicole were sent to different locations to work “actual jobs.” The concept was to show how neither girl had to work for anything they had because their parents were rich. The show was a huge success and gained both of them a lot of popularity. According to an article from Buzzfeed.com titled “Paris Hilton Avoids Accountability In Her New Book,” “*The Simple Life* provided an early blueprint for reality TV poking fun at the rich and famous while allowing viewers a voyeuristic glimpse of their lives.” From there, Paris’s career took off and she started to dabble in other things. She published her first book *Confessions of an Heiress* and released her hit single “Stars Are Blind.” Her life looked pretty much perfect from an outside perspective.

On the flip side of all her fame and fortune, Paris uses her memoir as an opportunity to explain her hardships, starting with her ADHD diagnosis. Paris explains how she feels that if her ADHD was diagnosed at an earlier age her life would’ve been different. She also brings up her personal issues with her parents. Her mom was only 19 when she had her and she was still growing up herself. Paris explains how she always felt very misunderstood by both her mom and her dad. From a young age, Paris always felt like she had to fit into the cookie-cutter upper-class personality. She stated, “I had to be cute, precocious, and shy.” This is where her iconic sweet valley girl voice came into play, a voice Hilton says she used when she was nervous. She used this voice wherever she was on camera or being asked questions by the paparazzi, which is how she started to become labeled as a ditsy blonde.

She says a teacher at her middle school in Sherman Oaks, or as she calls him in her book, “Mr. Abrecrombie,” groomed her. Her parents sent her to Palm Springs to live with her grandmother after they saw her kissing this teacher in his car. While living there, Paris says she was drugged and taken advantage of on many occasions but her memory from that time is slim to none. This whole experience left her feeling completely neglected by her parents as she stated, “I didn’t know what my family wanted. Not me apparently.” Experiencing these things at such a young age can be very damaging for a person.

Paris ended up moving back to her immediate family in New York City. The Hiltons were living in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, and while living there, Paris became a “party girl.” Instead of going to school, she’d cut classes and drink alcohol, so her parents decided to send her to a boarding school called Charles E. Dederich University where they had a program for troubled kids. However, her experience at this camp was more emotionally damaging rather than helpful. According to an article from The Guardian.com titled “They Stole My Childhood,” she said, “Kids [were] underfed, underslept, subjected to a barrage of impossible rules – no looking out of the window without permission, no going to the toilet without permission, no asking to look out of the window or go to the toilet – and baroque punishments.” In her book, she explains how she was taken advantage of by male employees multiple times while being heavily medicated and sleep deprived. Though Paris escaped three times, she was always caught.

After two years, Paris finally left CEDU before her eighteenth birthday. Once she got back she dove right back into partying. She became known for her closet filled with bright-colored Juicy Couture tracksuits and her iconic catchphrase “That’s hot.” Everyone underestimated her and automatically assumed she was good for nothing. An example of this was in 2006 when the paparazzi snapped a picture of her sitting in a car with actress Lindsay Lohan and singer Britney Spears. The next day the *New York Post* released the picture with “Bimbo Summit” written across the top. No matter how hard she tried, people always saw her as the dumb, visually appealing, hot mess party girl.

Today Paris is in a much happier state of mind. One of her most amazing accomplishments this year was the birth of her son Phoenix Barron Hilton Reum. Paris and her husband Carter Reum welcomed their baby boy via surrogate on January 16, 2023. In her book, she opened up about her failed IVF experience and how she always wanted to be a mother. Thankfully she and her husband were able to find a surrogate and are now proud parents. Right now she is also working on reforming troubled teen facilities. She wants to make sure no child endures the abuse she discussed in her memoir. One of the most important points Paris wanted to get across by writing her memoir was that she is so much more than what people perceive her to be. She is more than just a model who likes to party and wear pink Juicy Couture tracksuits. Paris is actually a very smart and independent woman who is working to change the world before our eyes.

# Curtains

Written by Lena Jodry, Managing Editor  
Edited by Ciara Kelly, Staff Writer

As I watched the curtain go up, the nerves in me grew exponentially, and as each second passed, I felt as if I had forgotten everything I had rehearsed for the last three and a half months. I pulled myself together, and got into character as the curtain reached its maximum height. The music started, and suddenly, I felt as if I was home. This familiar feeling came over me, a feeling that I love, the feeling of performing in front of a live audience. This feeling translated in the rest of the performance for the two hours that followed. While I could use this emotion to describe most performances, this particular experience is about the most recent production I was in with the Warwick Center for the Performing Arts, *Curtains*.

Auditions took place in mid-December, and the show was presented on March 24th and 25th. There was around three months of preparation. Everyone, including the cast, crew, director, choreographer, music director, producer, and the costume designer, had to work very hard to put on the production.

To form the chemistry found on stage, the cast bonded together, and created lasting relationships with one another. Being a part of performances has helped me meet new people and expand my horizons. Throughout this entire process, I made many new friends from a variety of different schools. Not only does performing provide a beneficial social experience, but it also taught me about dedication. Working on productions can be demanding; at times, things don't always go smoothly. It can be extremely stressful every so often, but it taught me patience, since it all normally works out in the end.

All in all, performing is one of the most rewarding experiences. Making people smile and laugh and evoking emotions in them, is such an inspiring feeling. Going to see a show can help both the audience and the performer escape their reality for a moment in time. As a performer, becoming someone else is such a cool feeling. I hope that I can continue to be a part of the performing arts in one way or another in the future, whether it be at the Warwick Center for the Performing Arts, or wherever the future will take me.

# Wonders of the World

Written by Alex Greco

Editor by Chase Fogg

Are the wonders of the world real? What makes something a wonder is the collection of an outstanding man made creation of classical antiquity to the world. There are many things that people consider to be a wonder of the world, but of the original, beautiful seven old wonders, only one is still standing: The Great Pyramid.

We have evidence of the wonders existing and being built in 2700-2500 BC and scientists can't quite figure out how they were built. Scientists believe that the Hanging Gardens of Babylon may have been a fictitious tale. The technology to bring water 75 feet in the air would have required a great feat of engineering that just wasn't around in 600BC. If they did accomplish this, archaeologists have not found any evidence of this place where the Greek and Roman philosophers said they were located.

The next wonder is the Statue of Zeus at Olympia, which is a Greek statue of Zeus, the king of the gods. At 40 feet, it was so tall that its head nearly touched the top of the temple. According to legend, the sculptor Phidias asked Zeus for a sign of his approval after finishing the statue. Unfortunately, the temple was struck by lightning. The church was persuaded to close the temple and move the statue to Constantinople. It was thought to be destroyed in a great fire in the year 462. There seems to be an understanding that this statue actually did exist; however; some say it burned down, some say it was destroyed in war, and some say it was stolen by robbers.

The fourth wonder of the world is the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus. Many people think it is only one historic temple, but it's actually a series of them. They were located in a Greek port city in modern day Turkey and built around 550 and 350 BC. The original was torched by a Greek citizen named Herostratus, who claimed he burned the marvel so that his name would be known to history. He was put to death and the government declared it illegal to utter his name. Up until the 1800's, scientists thought that this Greek city never existed, and was just a tale of Greek mythology. It was not until the 1860's that archeologists dug up the first of the ruins of the temple's columns at the bottom of the Cay-

ster River. This proves this historic landmark's existence.

The fifth wonder is the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, located in today's Southeast Turkey. It was a tomb built by Artemisia for her husband, Mausolus, the king of Caria. She was so grief-stricken at his passing that she mixed his ashes with water and drank them. The mausoleum was completely marble and was 135 feet high. It was largely destroyed in an earthquake, but in 1846 archeologists found what they think were pieces of the column of the mausoleum.

The sixth wonder of the world is Colossus of Rhodes. It was an enormous bronze sculpture of the Sun God, Helios, built in the 3rd century BC. The city was the target of a Macedonian siege early in the fourth century BC. According to legend, the Rhodians sold the tools and equipment left behind by the Macedonians to pay for the Colossus. It was the tallest in the ancient world standing at 100 ft. Sadly, it was only up for a short six years until an earthquake destroyed it. Hundreds of years later, Arabs invaded Rhodes and sold the remains of the statue as scrap metal. Because of this, archeologists do not know much about the exact location of the statue or what it looked like, but evidence of its existence is confirmed.

The seventh and final wonder of the world is the Lighthouse of Alexandria, located on a small island called Pharos near the city of Alexandria. It was built around 270 B.C. by a Greek architect. The lighthouse helped to guide Nile River ships in and out of the city's busy harbor. Archeologists have found ancient coins on which the lighthouse was depicted, and from them deduced that the structure had three tiers; estimates of the lighthouse's height have ranged from 200 to 600 feet, but most modern scholars believe it was about 380 feet tall. Like other wonders, the lighthouse was likely destroyed by an earthquake. Sources say some of its remains have been discovered at the bottom of the Nile.

While we do know some things about each and everyone of the seven wonders and their beauty and legitimacy, parts of their history remain a mystery.



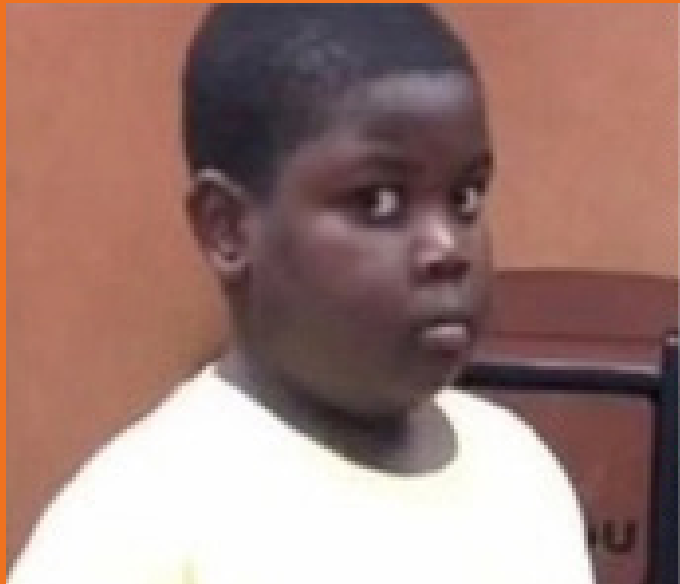
Travel Channel



Wilstar

# From Vine to the Line

Written by Harrison Neil



*Dieunerst Collin giving the side eye at Popeyes in 2013*

The internet can be a very harsh and brutal place, but sometimes some good can come out of it. Many people are familiar with the young kid who became an internet meme by giving the camera a “side-eye” while waiting for his Popeyes. What many people don’t know is that the kid from that meme is now a successful college football player that recently received a NIL (name, image, likeness) contract from Popeyes.

In 2013, 9-year-old Dieunerst Collin was holding a cup of lemonade, waiting in line for his Popeyes chicken, biscuits, and fries at the fast food restaurant in Irvington, NJ. A stranger pulled out his phone and started recording Dieunerst, and began comparing him to Lil Terrio, an internet sensation that was known for his dance moves. The young star realized the man was recording him and gave him a sideways glance. The stranger then posted the video to Vine and it immediately went viral and became a commonly used meme to express unease or bewilderment. You have probably seen the Gif hundreds of times.

A few years later when he was a senior, he became a successful high school football player as a lineman for East Orange High School. He was a first-team all-conference, all-county, and all-division

Edited by Will Gassaway



*Dieunerst at 19 winning the championship for Lake Erie College*

selection, as well as winning a state championship, all in his first year playing varsity football. He went on to get recruited to play in college and decided to play football at Lake Erie College, a Division II school in Painesville, Ohio.

In 2021, the NCAA made a rule change that now allows players to receive compensation from brand deals that use their name, image, and likeness. These NIL deals changed the landscape of college athletics. Collin took advantage of this new rule, and shortly after it was official he posted his iconic meme on Instagram and asked everyone to tag Popeyes so they could give him a deal. This gained a lot of attention and SportsCenter even shared it on their Instagram page. A few days later Popeyes sent him an Instagram DM and told him they wanted to work with him. Two days later it was officially announced that they agreed to a partnership. Collin would promote the restaurant and Popeyes would use his face on billboards and advertisements. This deal has led him to a few other partnerships as well.

At first Dieunerst Collin and his family were embarrassed and upset with the popularity of his video on social media. Now, this 5-second GIF has transformed Collin into an icon and his life was never the same.



# Who is Hasbulla Magomedov?

Written by Molly Hewitt  
Edited by Harrison Neil

If you are regularly active on Instagram, Tik Tok, or social media in general, you have probably seen the internet sensation, Hasbulla. Hasbulla is 20 years old, and he stands proudly at 3'4". His fans admire him for his confidence and tenacious spirit regardless of his shorter stature.

Hasbulla was born with a bone growth disorder known as achondroplasia, more popularly known as dwarfism, that causes a lack of growth hormone production in the body. Hasbulla weighs approximately 40 pounds due to this condition. He is otherwise known as the "Mini Khabib" because of his relationship with the Russian UFC champion fighter, Khabib Nurmagomedov.

Hasbulla initially rose to fame when he posted a recreation of Khabib's 229 lb weigh-in, and when he had a viral fight with his friend, Abdu Rozik, who also happens to have dwarfism. This eventually led to his current following of 8.6 million Instagram followers. Being that Russian is his first language, he rarely speaks English, even during meet and greets with fans. He is often alongside an English interpreter

during these events. For his education, Hasbulla attended a private Islamic school in his hometown of Makhachkala before he left due to mistreatment. In an interview on Full Send Podcast with The Nelk Boys, Hasbulla explained, "I studied four years

in Islamic School... I escaped from school after four years. No matter how long you stay there for, you can never finish school. I don't like how the teachers and students treated me."

Many people have asked the question: "Is Hasbulla just using his condition for fame?" and in my opinion, Hasbulla is embracing himself and living his life to the fullest, even if it means he receives

hate from people questioning his disabilities or respect for himself. I think to myself if he wasn't so popular, would he be as happy? Having his condition, he does things differently than other 20 year olds, and may have different opportunities as them, so maybe fame is the perfect way for Hasbulla to achieve happiness and success in his life. And without a doubt, he definitely brings joy to his fans with his goofy, yet captivating content.



*The internet sensation, Hasbulla himself, showing his toughness.*

# *The Willow Project*

Written by Kaya Lehrer, Staff Writer

Edited by Kaitlyn Kahrman, Staff Writer



*Photo: Bonnie Jo Mount/The Washington Post via Getty Images*

The Willow Project is a massive oil-drilling plan proposed by the ConocoPhillips on Alaska's North slope in the national petroleum reserve. The project will take years to complete building, and many more years for the oil that's being drilled to actually hit the market. The reason for creating this project is to rely less on foreign oil from places like Canada, Russia and Mexico. The project is also a great opportunity to create jobs. Although this is a great source of revenue for this area, which will help promote health care services and education in the area, it could also have extremely negative impacts.

After speaking with my grandma who lives in Alaska, she shared many thoughts and concerns for not only the area she lives in, but the ocean and glaciers in the surrounding area as well. I first asked, "How do you feel about the Willow Project?" She responded saying she was extremely devastated that this plan had been approved but was pleased to find out that many people felt the same way as she did. Many even went far enough to create a petition to end the plan before it even starts. Alaskan natives and city officials are concerned for the integrity of the land they live on and have created a Change.org to try and fight this massive oil-drilling plan. A group of environmental lawyers have also gotten involved in this project and have begun to negotiate other ideas to hopefully make these plans safer for not only the environment, but also for the people living there.

While the oil company is a major employer for a lot of people living in Alaska, the whaling and fishing industry is just as big. But as big as both these industries are, they do not mix well. The oil runoff from constant oil drilling causes the water to become polluted and unsafe for wildlife and locals. Fishermen in the local area have started to see a decline in the amount of fish they can get. The oil runoff makes it much harder for these fish to find food, and salmon are getting smaller and smaller.

As of right now, the Willow Project recently became greenlit by the Biden Administration despite the administration's climate change goals to create carbon pollution-free power sectors by 2035. If this plan continues on its path, it'll create detrimental environmental changes in Alaska, and the effects of this plan will most likely spread throughout the atmosphere. The Willow project would generate enough oil to release 9.2 million metric tons of carbon pollution per year, causing extreme environmental damage due to mass amounts of carbon pollution being expelled in the atmosphere (SOURCE NEEDED).

*Edited by Kailee Curtis*

# *Can Plants Make You Healthier?*

*Written by Ellie Ladoucer*

If you're looking for a simple addition to your home that improves both your physical and mental health, plants are the perfect option! Many believe houseplants are simply for show; however, they provide medical benefits such as minimizing headaches, healing dry skin, and aiding respiratory illness.

Toxic substances such as formaldehyde, benzene, and trichloroethylene can cause irritation to your eyes, nose, and throat, as well as damaging your red blood cells which can lead to anemia. However, houseplants absorb all three of these pollutants, increasing overall air quality and eliminating these symptoms. In addition, plants provide other benefits including reducing fatigue, lowering stress levels, improving focus and boosting pain tolerance. To do so, plants complete photosynthesis, reducing carbon

dioxide and increasing oxidation. This causes our energy, mood, and focus to improve. Multiple studies have also determined that workers with indoor plants in their office have shown higher performance, causing new tech offices to implement spaces resembling forests and tropical oases. Similarly to improving focus, plants also help preserve your memory. According to Texas A&M University, "Being outside in a natural environment can improve memory performance and attention span by twenty percent" ([ellison.tamu.edu](http://ellison.tamu.edu)).

Some of the best indoor plants for your health include spider plants, peace lilies, rubber plants, and elephant ear plants. These all provide the benefits stated above and can be found at local nurseries and hardware stores such as Lowe's and Home Depot.

# Inclusive Clothing

Written by Madison Pacelli

Edited by Mj Lancer

The inclusivity of clothing has been an ongoing issue for ages, but people with disabilities have not had access to clothing that is adaptable to their needs until now. Two innovative entrepreneurs, Patti Connell and Ricky Warga-Arias, created the “Adaptive Fashion Marketplace.” Their brand is inclusive for adults and children with or without disabilities, chronic conditions, as well as seniors and caregivers. Their goal is to spread understanding and acceptance of all people through their brand. Patti and Ricky donate their profits to non-profit organizations that support inclusion of illness and disabilities of all kinds. Their products include loungewear, swimwear, pants, dresses, sensory friendly clothes, mobility aids, shoes, jewelry and more. Every item is equipped with adaptable zippers, easy pull on loops and lightweight

breathable fabric that easily stretches. Patti and Ricky’s mobility aids consist of canes, service animal products, helmets, crutches gear, and feeding tube backpacks. All of these accessories and clothing have the one goal of making people with disabilities feel comfortable in their own skin. This inclusivity has been missing within the fashion industry for years and it is relieving to now have inclusive options available. With Patti and Ricky, the options are endless; they even produce children’s books that include kids with disabilities and different conditions. They help teach children about their disabilities and even teach kids who don’t have disabilities to understand and accept each other. The normalization of inclusive clothing has now opened up a new world that will continue to accept and include people with disabilities.



*All images from the Patti + Ricky website*

# PINK TAX: WHEN A NECESSITY BECOMES A PRIVILEGE

Written by Ariana Perez

Edited by Milo Shaw Smith Gendelman

Hygiene products are essential in the daily lives of every single human being. In order to have comfortability and maximum effectiveness in our routines, we must use them. Ironically, this basic necessity became a privilege for women long ago. It has now become a normality to see commodities like pads, tampons, or even just razors pointed at a higher price than products aimed at their male counterparts. This has sadly had a negative effect around the world, especially within communities of lower income; individuals who don't have the resources to get access to menstruation products find that this limits their daily activities, like going to school or work. Experts have referred to this action as the pink tax or tampon tax (Investopedia).

The “pink tax” focuses on hygiene products and services that are generally considered to be purchased and used by both men and women, but the women's products tend to be higher priced. Otherwise, the “tampon tax” centralizes only on female hygiene products like menstruation goods that are more unfairly on the expensive side. The former is not an actual extra tax, but an import tariff when paying. The latter is an actual applied government fee; those items are classified as luxury, or non-essential, so they are taxed (Global Citizen).

When discussing the pink tax, various states have passed many bills trying to regulate this type of gender discrimination from the

market, but they haven't gained much traction in the United States by any means. To illustrate this further, Amy Fontinelle, author of “What is the Pink Tax? Impact on Women, Regulation, and Laws,” says that states which have passed these type of laws to prevent product and services such as haircuts or car repairs to be altered based on gender: “In 1996, Governor Pete Wilson of California implemented the Gender Tax Repeal Act of 1995 requiring merchants to charge women and men the same price if a service took the same time, cost, and skill to provide” (Investopedia). There have been attempts for change, but slow progress has been seen in return.

Unfortunately, the existence of both these taxes have come with greater consequences surrounding the well-being and daily life of millions of women around the world, who don't have the required income to have access to the basic commodities like menstrual products. In fact, a 2018 study in Tennessee brought a lot of light to this issue when Charity Brock, a volunteer at the East Nashville YMCA's Community Action Program, noticed a good portion of female students missed class due to being unable to obtain pads or tampons. The idea of this situation only happening in third-world countries was stripped away after taking into account that it happens everywhere, including the United States: “In the U.S., the issue – referred to as period poverty – keeps 1 out of 5 girls out of school

during their monthly cycle” (*The Tennessean*). It is later on explained how this negatively impacts their educational career as students are forced to delay graduation due to absences.

It is a big shock how various federal assistance programs aren't able to aid these families in need, who often aren't able to even pay their rent in order to purchase these necessities. Aided purchase of tampons and pads are even prohibited in many of these programs, along with other sanitary items. Furthermore, Amelia Ferrell Knisely, author of “Teen Girls are Missing School Because They Don't Have Access to Feminine Hygiene Products,” conveys that though the Food and Drug Administration recognizes menstrual products as a “medical device,” other major health organizations have yet to do the same. “This prevents women from using pre-tax dollars in health savings accounts or flexible spending accounts to purchase the products” (*The Tennessean*).

It is a sad fact that today's society is still structured around making women's daily lives full of unnecessary obstacles for basic commodities. Basic daily activities like education and work for women have been limited due to inequality. Luckily, there has been progress that has come with the exposure of this topic in the media, which has made people aware of it and the injustice of it. We are hoping for a future marketed fairly for all human beings regardless of ethnicity, race, or in this case, gender.

# The Everyday Heroes of America

Written by Robbie Foschini

Edited by Jaden Velez

The United States of America is the greatest country in the world. There should be no debate over that. There are lots of things that you can attribute to America's success and prosperity. You can say how America is accepting of people of all races, religions, and backgrounds. Or you can say that America has the top economy in the world. Or maybe it's the very diverse and picture-perfect scenes of nature across the entire country. But to me what makes America so great are the everyday heroes who are overlooked daily. The police.

Every time cops clock in for their shift they don't know what their shift will hold for them. The only thing they know is that it may very well be their last time clocking in. When a man or woman decides they want to become a cop, they are putting everything at stake. Thousands of cops are injured every year. Since 2012 an average of 234 cops have been killed in the line of duty. In the same timeframe, there has been an average of over 16,000 cops injured in the line of duty as well. In 2022 over 330 cops were shot across the US with over 60 of them dying. In 2021 a record 346 officers were shot and 62 were killed. Whenever cops put on their badge, they risk their lives (*NY Post*).

Not only are they putting their physical health at risk, but they are putting their mental health at risk too. It's estimated that around 15% of all cops have some type of PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder). What a cop experiences on the job is a vastly overlooked part of policing. Cops experience tons of traumatic events on almost a daily basis. The events can range from seeing dead or heavily beaten children, horrific injuries, people dying in their arms, and bullets flying at them. Cops have to mentally prepare themselves for this in order to be able to do their jobs and keep themselves alive while trying to save others at the same time.

Failing to save someone can weigh heavily on a cop. Not being able to save someone can

sometimes give the cop the idea that the person dying is their fault and that can lead to a lot of guilt on them. That guilt and the images of the person dying can likely be attributed to giving a cop PTSD. The guilt, PTSD, and traumatizing images and flashbacks can be very hard on a cop, which may lead them down a very dark path. In 2021 over 600 cops died, with suicide being responsible for nearly 25% of those deaths. Dr. Tim Faulk, Clinical Director of the Alabama Law Enforcement Alliance for Peer Support, says, "An officer involved in a high-stress event has a 70% chance of suicide following the next incident if they do not seek any intervention," and that there's only a "3% chance" for the cops who do try and seek out help. Wearing that badge weighs heavily on many cops (*Wvty.com*).

A lot of cops in America are selfless; when they're on the job, the last thing they're thinking about is themselves and their safety. Their number one priority is to protect the people of their town, city, or state. One of the first examples that come to mind is the Tennessee Christian School shooting. Approximately 14 minutes after the cops got the call of an active shooter in the school, they killed the shooter. Five cops rushed into the school with no regard or thoughts for their own lives. Their only thoughts were saving the kids and teachers inside the school. Within two minutes of entering the school, two police officers shot and killed the active shooter after she already killed 6 people. The quick response and swift actions by the cops saved many more lives that day.

Cops sacrifice their lives and put themselves at risk for this country and the people who live here. They throw themselves in harm's way to protect people they've never met before. When something bad happens, people call the police because they know that, no matter what, police officers are heroes and America would crumble without them.

# WELCOME TO THE ERAS TOUR

Written by Kaitlyn Peconie, Staff Writer

Edited by Julianna Graff

On November 1, 2022, worldwide pop phenomenon Taylor Swift announced her next tour titled, “Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour.” It had been 5 years since she last brought fans together in stadiums, so the rush to get tickets was exhilarating. The Eras Tour kicked off opening night in Glendale, Arizona at State Farm Stadium. In honor of Swift, Glendale changed its name to “Swift City” for the entire weekend of March 17th-18th. The fans that were able to attend opening weekend got the first experience on how this artist was going to perform her discography in one night.

Fans watched as the Jumbotron presented a clock counting down to “midnight” for her performance. She hit the stage with iconic lyrics from her seventh studio album *Lover* as a tribute to finally being able to perform and interact with her beloved fans again: “It’s been a long time coming...” She continued her show playing a total of 44 songs spanning three hours and 13 minutes.

The concert began in the *Lover* era as mentioned, then flashed back to her country album *Fearless* (Taylor’s Version). Swifties were definitely happy to see her bring back the old, sparkly guitar to perform hits like “Love Story” and “You Belong With Me.” Transitioning to *Evermore*, which she released back in December of 2020, she responded to claims fans had made on social media: “...the really hilarious thing that you were on for a while was saying, ‘Taylor hates *Evermore*’...you guys were like, ‘She did not wish *Evermore* a happy birthday.’ I don’t even wish people a happy birthday on social media... I actually love that album and am so proud of it.” Her first time performances of *Evermore* included some dramatics that transitioned into *Reputation*. It came full circle as fans were screaming their hearts out to “Don’t Blame Me,” last heard during

her last tour for the album in 2018. Then came the albums *Speak Now* and *Red* (Taylor’s Version), along with two surprise songs. Keeping the tradition, Taylor decided for this tour that she would choose a varied, random song or two for every show.

Quickly transitioning into a whimsical garden, she included seven songs from the 2021 Grammy Album of the Year, *Folklore*. She proceeded into her first ever pop album from 2015, 1989, singing popular songs like “Blank Space” and “Bad Blood.” To wrap up the show, she concluded with her newest album, *Midnights*, that made her the first female artist to fill the Top 10 Billboard 100 chart in October of 2022.

One of the most exciting things about the tour is Taylor’s ability to bring so many people together. On Tik Tok, Swifties have shown their process in making outfits for the concert such as recreating some of Taylor’s iconic looks, lyric references, and even inside jokes. Not only are there bejeweled outfits, but friendship bracelets have also made a staple appearance especially for interactions between fans at the stadium. Holding onto another tradition and emphasizing lyrics from the *Midnights* album, fans have decided to trade beaded bracelets with one another. Having the ability to share these bracelets and talk to new people with the same common interest sparks friendships. Taylor’s influence encourages the fandom to have moments like these, and to “make the friendship bracelets, take the moment and taste it.”

The Eras Tour will have a total of 52 shows in the United States, ending this leg of the tour on August 9th in Los Angeles, California. Fans are still eager to hear when the international leg of the tour will be announced. I know I am super excited to dress up and sing along with thousands of other fans at Metlife Stadium soon. Are you ready for it?

Dear Reader,

All students in the journalism program have the opportunity to see their writing published throughout the year in one of our four editions. However, the magazine itself is typically produced by Journalism II students. This edition is the first one of the 2022-2023 school year to be produced entirely by Journalism I students. We hope you enjoy it!

-The JI Editors

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