

Fighting To Keep School Open Amidst A Global Pandemic

Zach Pearson
Sports Editor

This school year, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Harrison High School was able to offer a hybrid option for classes. This hybrid option gives students two paths of learning: either attend class virtually from home via Zoom, or to attend school in person every other day.

Recently, there has been a significant number of faculty and staff required to quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure. For instance, on Friday, December 18, 19 additional staff members were required to quarantine, stemming from just three positive cases with students. This resulted in a decision to move the school online for the remainder of December. The decision to move school to a fully virtual format depends on several factors: contact tracing, classroom coverage by faculty, government guidelines, and more.

Principal Kimberly Beukema has been helping with these instances of contact tracing, and she knows how to evaluate these factors perhaps better than anyone. During a recent interview, she explained all the details.

First, Ms. Beukema stated that when planning to open last fall, the Harrison Central School District (HCSD) decided to use an application (or app) called *Crisis Go*, and specifically its *Safe2Speakup* feature, as a platform to, according to the HCSD website, "...send a daily digital survey to parents and staff, which requires them to answer COVID-19 screening questions..." related to their (or their student's) personal health status, regardless of their path of learning. If the questions in the questionnaire are answered with a 'no,' the person will get a "green badge," a QR code that must be shown before entering the building.

When someone receives a yellow, orange, or red badge after completing the survey, there are certain precautions that are taken immediately. Ms. Beukema and Mrs. Lisa Arlotta (the Harrison High School nurse) receive an "escalation report." Mrs. Arlotta then makes contact with that person to get further information, and tracks relevant information such as quarantine status, test results, and symptoms. In general, not getting a green badge will result in an individual not being able to return to campus until a negative COVID-19 test result or a note from a doctor is presented. Ms. Beukema laughed at how, in some instances, parents "mis-fill out" the form (by clicking "yes" on every question, when only "yes" for remote learning only that day was needed), resulting in an accidental escalation report.

In addition to using *Safe2Speakup* as a way to screen everyone before entering a school building, it is also a very efficient way to 'contact trace,' the process of notifying all people who have had contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, and need to quarantine. This is the most important tool used to help decide to move the school fully virtual.

Different areas in the school have different quarantine regulations. For instance, all individuals in any classroom or office space for more than ten minutes with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, must quarantine. But in communal areas, such as the Student Union, HPAC, both gyms, and patios, only those who came within six feet of the positive case must



quarantine. Gathering this data proved cumbersome at first. However, with Student Government feedback, now individuals are only required to scan individual QR codes on each desk in every communal space in school via *Safe2Speakup*, giving each person's exact location and time to Administration, when not in a classroom for more than ten minutes. This information, along with classroom schedules, is used to track everyone in

"What it comes down to is whether or not we have enough faculty and staff to actually cover classes," said Principal Beukema.

the school.

When the school is notified of a positive case, according to New York State Health Department guidelines, the school must include a 48-hour window prior to an individual's positive test or becoming symptomatic for contact tracing purposes. Working together with the Health Department, the school then emails, texts, calls, and sends official quarantine letters to parents of students who need to quarantine. Ms. Beukema, however, calls all faculty members directly. For each positive student case, Ms. Beukema estimates that about 60 students and at least seven faculty members (though it has gone as high as 14) must quarantine.

"Regardless of what time of day it is, we start the process,

because if somebody has to quarantine they need to know that as soon as possible so they're not out exposing other people if potentially they've contracted it," Ms. Beukema emphasized.

The determining factor in deciding whether the school goes fully virtual is classroom coverage by faculty and whether there is enough faculty to supervise each room. For example, Ms. Beukema stated, "We would welcome students in the door even if only... 100 of them can be there."

However, Ms. Beukema stated that "What it comes down to is whether or not we have enough faculty and staff to actually cover classes."

Teachers are not only contact-traced in school, but outside of school as well, which can also affect the number of staff in school. School administration, which includes Ms. Beukema as well as Assistant Principals Mrs. Laurie Griffo and Mr. Larry Mastrotta, reassesses faculty and staff coverage almost daily and does everything it can to keep students in the building. This can include individual classes being dismissed to the small gym to Zoom into class, or having a substitute teacher supervising students. Basically, when

there aren't enough teachers in the building, that's when administrators must consider whether to move the school online.

Governor Andrew Cuomo's orders are to keep all schools open whenever possible, as long as it is safe enough and there are enough faculty and staff to do so. Harrison Central School District operates under that guidance. But Ms. Beukema reiterated that when there is not enough teacher coverage for all the classes, it is up to Ms. Beukema, Mrs. Griffo, and Mr. Mastrotta, in coordination with the Superintendent of Schools Dr. Louis Wool, to decide whether to close the school building to students. This is a team decision based on all the available information that the school can gather each day.

On December 28, Dr. Wool announced that all Harrison schools would suspend in-person instruction from January 4 through the Martin Luther King Day holiday, instead offering live virtual classes. After a lengthy analysis, Dr. Wool and the Board of Education reached this decision to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all concerned upon returning from the holiday break. This helps ensure long-term continuity of instruction and will increase in-person instructional days in the future.

Dr. Wool noted how, since the Thanksgiving break, student, faculty, and staff quarantines, school closures, and positive COVID-19 cases increased; 285 students and 102 faculty were quarantined. This stressful experience, along with expert opinions of a likely post-holiday surge in infections, made this difficult decision warranted.

Our holiday break saw no respite from positive COVID-19 cases; the administrative team spent Christmas Day contact tracing and informing families of necessary quarantines.

Dr. Wool's concern was that a return to in-person instruction too quickly would create an additional strain. A 10-day virtual learning period allows post-holiday infections to emerge prior to a return to in-person learning, minimizing instructional disruptions and infection spread in our schools. It remains imperative for all to follow CDC guidelines in order to keep us all in school for as long as possible.

In News...

Get to know your new Congressman!

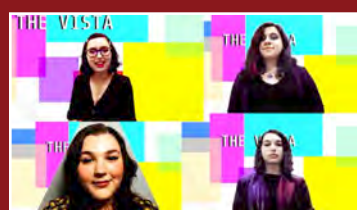
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NEWS & FEATURES

HHS Club Members Accrue Distinguished Honors

Aidan Lefkowitz and Luke Wong
Opinions Editor and Co-Managing Editor

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic hampering the ability of many extracurricular clubs to host meetings, organize events, and participate in competitions, many of Harrison High School's clubs have been able to make the most of the opportunities still presented.

Harrison's premier business club, DECA, has continued its weekly practices and was even able to secure several awards at a recent Regional competition. While all DECA members performed very well at the competition, students David Griff, Rachel Kindler, Michael Griff, Rachel Griff, Johnny Karipides, Jake Sarlo, Shweta Nadagouda, Emilie Oestreicher, and Savannah Serfilippi performed exceptionally and will be moving onto the next level of competition at States. Although the next level of competition is also likely to remain virtual, the Harrison community wishes the best for these impressive DECA members.

Another extracurricular bright spot at the

high school has been Harrison's Model Congress. At the virtual Princeton and Yale Model Congress competitions, several mock politicians received awards for their performances and preparation. At Princeton's virtual Model Congress competition, Harrison students Roya Azar, Alec Udell, David Griff, Jack Kelly, Aidan Lefkowitz, and Eve Rabin all were recognized for their exceptional performances.

The most notable accomplishments for the club were the performances by the ninth-graders, who won awards at their first competitions for their skills. Unsurprisingly, this shift to a virtual format created numerous challenges for Harrison's MoCo team. Advisor Ms. Merritt explained that, "Since the spring, Harrison Model Congress has taken an active role in engaging members in virtual debate. Veteran members reached out and held virtual workshops to ensure students were prepared to compete in this new environment. These steps have ensured

all members were able to transfer their legislative skills into the realm of Zoom."

Finally, Harrison's nationally lauded Lincoln-Douglas debate team has continued its longtime record of stellar performances and rankings throughout its season. Harrison has won 11 tournaments so far, and has secured 17 qualifying slots for the upcoming Tournament of Champions. Senior Giovanni Cutri is currently ranked the number one Lincoln-Douglas debater in the nation, and has distinguished himself through winning three consecutive national championships. Junior debater Ali Ahmad is a rising star in Lincoln-Douglas debate, having broken a club record of being the first junior in the team's history to have won two national championships. These prolific accomplishments would not have been possible without a shift in direction from coach and faculty adviser Mr. Hertzig.

Mr. Hertzig explained to *The Husky Herald*

that, "Coaching the team during the pandemic has involved several major adjustments, since we're not traveling to tournaments this year. Although we do miss the travel, we've been able to participate in a much more diverse set of tournaments than we normally do, and have also been able to work with Jennifer Melin, our phenomenal assistant coach, who lives in Texas and otherwise wouldn't have been available. We hold daily practices online and use Zoom to prepare for rounds at tournaments. It's been great to see the team adjust to the changes, and to get us to the most successful season we've ever had!"

Although members of these clubs are grateful for the opportunity to participate in club events despite such precarious circumstances, seniors are upset to not be able to go in person to the last tournaments of their high school careers.



Legislating via Zoom: Welcome to the new reality of students engaging their particular skills and energies into a virtual debate for Model Congress. Several of our club members have fared well this year, garnering honors in a new world full of online challenges.
Courtesy of Jack Kelly

Meet Your Congressman: The Mondaire Jones Interview

Jack Kelly
Co-Managing Editor

Mondaire Jones, the newly elected Congressman for New York's 17th Congressional District (which includes Harrison, NY), recently agreed to answer several questions from *The Husky Herald*.

Husky Herald (HH): Do you have plans beyond serving as Representative for New York's 17th Congressional District?

Mondaire Jones (MJ): The only plans I have are to fight hard in Washington to deliver for our communities here in Westchester and Rockland. It's truly the honor of a lifetime, and I plan to do my best to be an advocate. We have a lot of work to do to rebuild this country, and I can't wait to get started.

HH: NY-17, like the rest of the United States, still has instances of racism or queerphobia. With that being said, what do you think your candidacy, being both Black and openly gay, means for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ individuals who might not feel accepted by their communities?

MJ: To grow up Black and gay is to not see yourself anywhere. That's why representation matters -- if I had seen an openly gay, black person in the halls of Congress when I was growing up, it would have been living proof that things really do get better. I'm so happy that I can help increase representation for LGBTQ+ people of all races, and I'm grateful to the people of Westchester and Rockland for sending a powerful message to LGBTQ+ people around the world that your community will accept you regardless of who you love. I'm always inspired to hear from members of the LGBTQ+ community who are excited that I'm living and running as my authentic self, and how that's giving them the confidence to do the same.

To the LGBTQ+ people reading this who are struggling with coming out: you belong. You are loved. We will be here to support you, whenever you're ready.

HH: During your race, you received over-

whelming support from young progressives. How do you plan on continuing to give young constituents a seat at the table with the decisions you make?

MJ: You are absolutely right -- our campaign won thanks to the strong organizing power of young people. Our fellows, most of them high school and college students getting involved in pol-

itics for the very first time, made calls, sent texts, created social media content, delivered yard signs, and otherwise organized their friends and family. I'll never forget visiting the polls in the town of Greenburgh on Election Day. The line was long, and it was hot out. But one voter told me that leaving was absolutely not an option for him, because if he left without voting for me, his son would stop speaking to him.

At 33 years old, I will enter as one of the youngest Members of Congress. I know firsthand the problems facing young people today. But I know I'm not quite as young as most of the people reading this, and I'm not getting any younger. That's why I'm already working with some of my volunteers to establish a Youth Advisory Council consisting of young people from throughout our district to help advise me on policy and keep the young people of our district engaged in bettering our community.

HH: Who is your political role model, and why?

MJ: My political role model is attorney and Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. He made it his life's work to desegregate our public institutions, and succeeded. His story is one of moral clarity and persistence: he set out his ambitious goal and spent nearly 20 years strategically, deliberately chipping away, culminating in the seminal Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education*, which ruled that segregation in public schools is unconstitutional.

I owe my life to the success of Thurgood's work. Thurgood himself was denied admission to University of Maryland Law School because of the color of his skin. But thanks to Thurgood, I did not suffer the same fate. I attended Spring Valley High School, an integrated public high school where I received a quality education, and went on to Stanford University and Harvard Law School. I hope to continue his legacy of fighting for racial justice.

HH: Our readers would like to know your 'go to playlist or artist?'

MJ: Frank Ocean. His album "Channel Orange" changed my life, and helped give me the confidence to fully come out to my family and friends, but I still like "nostalgia/ultra" better.



Representing the 17th: Newly elected Representative Mondaire Jones was kind and honest in his responses; he is eager to have his constituents know him better.
Courtesy of Alex Acaro

Pandemic Affects College Admissions

Larissa Iraj
Co-Editor-in-Chief

As the November 1 early decision college application deadline came and went, many high school seniors started to question how the pandemic would affect their chances of acceptance this year. The first ripple effect of the pandemic was the cancellation of ACT and SAT exams last spring and summer. Students immediately worried about how they would compete for a top seat at a big name school without standardized test scores. In response, many colleges decided to go for a test-optional policy for fall 2021 applicants.

According to *The Boston Globe*, "Since March, roughly 60 colleges have gone test-optional for the fall 2021 admissions cycle, partly to reduce stress for high schoolers during these already anxiety-ridden times."

With the reopening of schools and safety precautions in place, some testing centers have resumed scheduling SAT and ACT tests. Harrison High School even took the extra measure of offering its students the option to sit for both the SAT and ACT exams at the high school this past October.

However, these standardized exams are only one component of the application. Students also feared that, without a standardized test

score, more weight would be placed on other factors such as extracurricular activities that have also been negatively impacted by the pandemic. The quarantine restrictions from last spring made it impossible for many students to engage in sports and extracurricular activities that would have made their applications stand out.

"It's really upsetting that I am so interested in the medical field and in volunteering because this was impacted by COVID-19," said senior Ellie Karofsky. "I was unable to volunteer at White Plains Hospital or with the EMS team, which I wish college admissions officers would know I planned to do and like to dedicate time doing."

For many athletes, the pandemic may have ruined their chances for college recruitment or even just the ability to reach milestones throughout their season and win notable awards in postseason competitions.

Senior Lia Aslanian said, "Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, I was unable to have a golf season,

which impacted my ability to play in more tournaments and have the college coaches watch me. The recruitment process was a huge challenge

"In addition...a rise of deferrals... reduced the number of spots available for the class of 2021..."

due to the fact that I was unable to talk to the coaches face to face; they sadly were unable to see my talent and skill in person."

The transition to virtual learning has also affected the overall grade point averages, possibly the most important factor in college admissions.

Although the Harrison School District worked to support students in this difficult process by allowing them to use the grades received before remote learning for the third quarter, the fourth quarter grades were based solely on virtual learning, which was a period of adjustment. Some students felt that teachers were assigning too much work and that they

could not manage the overload of assignments with all-day classroom Zoom instructions.

"Online learning this past spring was not as efficient and productive as if school was in person and a lot of the days I lacked the motivation to do work because of my working environment,"

said senior James Choi. "There were also days when the workload would be overwhelming, while other days the workload was nonexistent. I believe this was because the teachers did not communicate well about their workloads per day, leading to some extremely heavy workloads."

As a result, some students felt that they were at a competitive disadvantage compared to when they were learning in person.

Furthermore, the closure of college campuses throughout the country has made it impossible for college visits and tours, leaving students more uncertain about where they should even apply. This also raises the question of how students can

best show their "demonstrated interest" in a college if they are unable to attend events on campus.

"Not being able to visit schools made the college process much harder," said senior Haillie Baio. "This would have allowed me to see if I would feel comfortable and fit in with the school and the students there and if the school is the right fit for me. While the virtual tours online have replaced college visits, it's not ideal and visiting schools in person would have been a lot more helpful when deciding where I want to go to college."

In addition, the move to online classes and remote learning this past fall resulted in a rise of deferrals from incoming freshmen and thus has reduced the number of spots available for the class of 2021 applicants.

According to *Forbes*, a recent survey by the college review and ranking service *Niche* found that 17 percent of college students are "considering transferring or taking at least one semester off based upon how their school responded" to the current crisis.

As students now hear back from colleges and universities, the next question will be if they will even be able to attend next fall.

Businesses Are Struggling to Survive

Jaquelyn Garcia-Hernandez
Staff Writer

About nine months ago, the economy was fundamentally solid and now the economy is struggling due to COVID-19. Many businesses are going bankrupt, leaving multiple stores to shut down permanently, leaving employees without jobs and often unable to pay their bills or cover day-to-day necessities.

Sung Won Sohn, an economist at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles told *NBC News* reporters Benjy Sarlin and Stephanie Ruhle, "Many small businesses are drowning right now, they have very little financial cushion to begin with, many of them have hand-to-mouth operations, and they have no place to turn to except the government."

Their report indicated that, at that time, "The White House and Capitol Hill were no closer to terms

on a new COVID-19 relief plan." But even the relief bill that was finally approved by President Trump, seemed far too late to help save as many as 100,000 small businesses that have been forced to close while waiting for more help. Neighborhood shops around the country are in mortal danger - and even larger chains are having to scale back their operations. In recent weeks the *California Pizza Kitchen* in Scarsdale closed its doors, and *Macy's* announced it is closing its Galleria store in White Plains.

Employers are being greatly affected by COVID-19 and small businesses are the ones that need our help the most during these difficult times. If this is an issue that is not fixed soon, many of these small businesses will be gone forever. There-

fore, it is important for residents to buy from and support their local stores.

NBC News has shared the names of nearly 200 favorite businesses they've said goodbye to in recent months. According to the business listing site *Yelp*, 60 percent of stores that have closed since the pandemic began have done so for good.

"I would say there are both positive and negative effects from COVID-19 because people are scared to come outside which means less revenue, but there is also kind of a positive as it teaches us people who come to work every day how to be together during these conditions," said Naveah, an employee from the recently opened *Wegmans*. "If it weren't for COVID-19d, *Wegmans* would have been making thousands more."

"The biggest difference is having to always wear a mask and constantly sanitizing everything we touch," said server Abby Sanchez from *Jajaja Plantas Mexicana*. "It's made work more difficult."

She has to deal with are people who don't take COVID-19 seriously. They not only put her at risk, but everyone else who works there.

She constantly has to tell people to put on their masks when they're inside the restaurant and some people are very rude about it. She also has to deal with people who move dividers that sep-



No parades here: The Macy's that was a hub of the White Plains Galleria is now being closed, as per the retailer's recent announcement.
Courtesy of Akiko Matsuda/The Journal News



Permanently closed: Scarsdale's *California Pizza Kitchen*, long a family-favorite destination on Central Avenue, is now shuttered forever.
Courtesy of Jaclyn Bruntfeld

arate the tables, along with their attitude when they are told not to do that.

"Work is more difficult because we limit how many people are working, which makes coverage of the additional outside seating difficult," she said. "So in addition to sanitizing everything, we have more tables to take care of and that can get stressful on busy nights."

The only real positive is that she gets to leave work earlier because restaurants have to be closed by 10 p.m. due to COVID-19 restrictions.

"I've definitely saved a lot more money!" she said. "I'm more careful about my spending because I know if I ever want to move out and this was to happen again, I would need a lot of money saved up so that I could stay afloat."

"It's been more work," says Carla Chi-Sanchez, cashier at *Valuable*

Drugs. "People are calling more over the phone and sometimes people come in at the same time, which can be more stressful. One positive is that people keep their distance. Our pharmacy would be making more revenue because at Christmas time and around the holidays we have more sales. Now, with the coronavirus, people are scared to come in, resulting in less business. Unfortunately, we do not have a lot of business now."

Politics must be the last thing brought up in trying to solve this problem. It only makes it harder for everyone to agree on a COVID-19 relief plan. Finally, the overall economy will continue to be affected negatively if COVID-19 is not dealt with through people taking the necessary precautions to prevent the virus from spreading further, regardless of political affiliation.

Some Fear Getting the New Vaccine

Luke Wong
Co-Managing Editor

(with additional quotes provided by Izzy Iannacchino and Larissa Iraj)

It seems that 2021 already has presented its share of challenges.

Even though over 370,000 Americans have died due to COVID-19 according to *Fox News*, the news surrounding the creation of a vaccine against the COVID-19 pandemic has been nothing short of miraculous. At no point in history has a global pandemic that has infected millions had a vaccine been developed, tested, and authorized for full distribution within that same calendar year, according to *The Daily Wire*. According to *The New York Times'* "Coronavirus Vaccine Tracker", there are 11 leading vaccines globally, with Moderna's and Pfizer-BioNTech's vaccines receiving emergency use authorization in the United States.

However, despite the positive developments regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, the new battle is to get Americans to willingly take the vaccine. According to *Gallup*, as of December 8, 2020, 63% of Americans said that they would be willing to take an FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine. Although this is an improvement from *Gallup's* earlier polling rate of 34% in July 2020, this is far from ideal.

In order to attempt to alleviate

the American public's doubts about the incoming vaccine, numerous public figures have received a vaccine publicly. On December 18, 2020, Vice President Mike Pence and his wife Karen alongside Surgeon General Jerome Adams received their first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, according to *CBS News*. Additionally, former presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton

have all come forward stating their willingness to take a COVID-19 vaccine publicly to instill public confidence in the U.S. government's vaccine efforts, according to *USA Today*.

Despite attempts to reassure the American public of its safety, COVID-19 vaccine doubts have been coming from different people in all walks of life.

"I can understand why people

would be concerned about putting vaccinations into their bodies that they may be unfamiliar with or not have that much information about, but I do think that vaccines are crucial to the general welfare of the people," said senior James Choi. "Gaining protection from viruses allows society to be generally better off and keep society running efficiently."

Junior Ben Galluzzo said, "I would wait for others to take the vac-

cine first to make sure there are no side effects."

"I guess I would take the vaccine just so I wouldn't get my family sick," said junior Ava Mogavero.

The doubts surrounding the COVID-19 vaccine have also come from people who are the forefront of those receiving it; healthcare and essential workers.

According to *The Daily Wire*, "A recent survey by the *Kaiser Family Foundation* found that nearly a third (29%) of frontline health care workers probably or definitely would refuse vaccination."

The New York Post reported that Ohio Governor Mike DeWine said, "About 60 percent of the nursing home workers in Ohio have so far chosen not to get vaccinated."

Distrust of the COVID-19 vaccine was summed up by Sheena Bumpas, a certified nursing assistant who told *The New York Times* that "I don't want to be a guinea pig."

These fears, combined with the already pre-existing issues surrounding the distribution of a vaccine to the entire American population, will continue to make the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine more difficult.



Some still remain hesitant. Despite trials that ensure the safety of the two currently approved COVID-19 vaccines (from Moderna and Pfizer), many still express hesitation about receiving the vaccination and its follow-up booster dose.
Courtesy of Adobe Stock

The Mental Health Dilemma

Lucy Neureuther, Jaquelyn Garcia-Hernandez, and Yahaira Martinez
Staff Writers

This past year has been rough for everyone, but studies show that in the mental health area, teens were hit the hardest. Many parents, teachers, and advisors have noticed a decline in the motivation to do work and also a general decrease in happiness from their young adults.

"Research shows that adolescents depend on their friendships to maintain a sense of self-worth and to manage anxiety and depression," according to a report in *The New York Times*.

In a pandemic-stricken world, friendships are challenged. Over time, people become more depressed and anxious.

The John-Hopkins NewsLetter writer Amarita Balram said that, "in addition to adverse health impacts from altered sleep cycles, increased digital use can affect a student's physical and mental health."

Jennifer Katzenstein, director of psychology and neuropsychology at the Hopkins All Children's Hospital, has observed the impact of remote learning on children of all ages. She sees increased screen time usage linked to increases in depression, anxiety, and attention problems, as well as sleep disruptions.

"Learning from a computer can be difficult," said sophomore Rebecca Segovia. "I get distracted really easily and sometimes just space out. It can be difficult when I have a question to ask since there's not a teacher next to me and at times my eyes can start hurting from the computer screen. It's just such a big difference from last year."

Freshman student Zahra Toujer balances learning three languages, ballet class every day, and schoolwork too. Zahra explains her time in quarantine as "a chance to be more comfortable at home."

Back in March, she felt like she could work at her own pace and liked

having the option to work on her own time. This school year though, she felt very differently. The on and off switch from in person/zoom days to days alone at home was confusing. She started to feel "unmotivated and unsuccessful." She was used to structured learning.

"On my asynchronous days, work was difficult to get done and took me way longer than I expected," she said.

In November, she attempted to get herself back in the groove of schoolwork and focusing on ballet by separating herself from friends and outside connections to friends like through her phone. That attempt proved unsuccessful.

Zahra "didn't have time to feel happy and supported by her friends." Zahra also felt like she had a responsibility as a teen in America to speak up during the *Black Lives Matter* movement. She recognized that she had a voice and decided to use it for good. But somehow things still took a turn for the worse.

She ended up learning that she has to "set time-out to be happy for myself and do the things that make me happy because otherwise, I'll live a miserable life."

"Going fully virtual has affected the way I learn because I haven't gotten the full school learning experience," said sophomore Sabina Cosmo. "But I feel that I can focus a little bit more because I have my workspace to learn and work. Some barriers that I faced included not understanding some things in school 100%, because it's hard to grasp all of that information. She also had a tough time with the way COVID-19 affected her activities such as playing sports (field hockey).

"It was hard to breathe with wearing masks and also trying to be cautious at the same time," she said.

Freshman Katie McCann jug-



gles being a competitive swimmer, having three pets and two sisters, and attending school in a pandemic. At the beginning of the school year, Katie realized that she would be separated from most of her friends during (she was a Husky, they were all Pride).

Although this saddened her initially, she was happy even to be able to go to school in-person. Things quickly took a turn for the worst, though.

She felt a "wave of sadness" during the middle of September, as she realized her new norm was to be separated from the friends she loved the most and who usually supported her through hard times. She found it more difficult to reach out to people because she used to do so when she and her friends did schoolwork together.

With different work at different times, she never got to see her friends anymore and soon lost all motivation to do school work. Even her outside activities, like swimming, didn't feel the same because there were "no personal interactions and that's really the fun in it," says Katie. In the end, she stated that her "mental health plummeted and with that,

her grades as well."

"When the school goes fully virtual, I actually like it way better," said senior Mackenzie Ladore. "I like it when everyone is online because then the teacher can speak to everyone. When I was fully virtual at home, the teachers would spend all their attention on the students in the classroom, rather than on the students on *Zoom*."

"I think that my motivation has definitely improved while being at home, but when I am at home I feel very bored when I finish all my school work," she continued. "At school at least I am able to socially interact with people (keeping six feet apart, of course)."

COVID-19 has also infected her senior year.

"I am not able to do things that I have been looking forward to doing ever since I was a freshman," she said. "For example, I cannot sit at the senior bench anymore because we don't have that. It got taken away. The senior patio - they allow everyone to sit there now, it's not just seniors. Who knows if we're going to have a prom or even graduation?"

She and her friends are missing the "senior perks."

"I understand we're in a pandemic but they could at least make us feel like seniors somehow," she said. "Everything is different. We don't get senior privileges anymore."

According to an article about teens' struggles with mental health, author Robert Preidt noted that, "Nearly 20 percent of the teens said they'd received counseling for mental health problems in the past year, and that rate didn't change significantly over the study period."

This school year has brought many struggles, and the school is very aware of it. Check up on someone, a friend or acquaintance - see how they're doing, physically and mentally. Harrison High School offers teens who are struggling mentally completely free and confidential access to expert care and therapy. At Harrison High School, you are encouraged to reach out to others for assistance in getting through these tough, challenging times. Don't be afraid to ask for help because right now, everyone needs it.

Here is a listing of the names and emails of the school's professional counseling services:

Dr. Abbott
AbbottA@harrisoncsd.org

Dr. Francis
FrancisM@harrisoncsd.org

Dr. Ribner
RibnerA@harrisoncsd.org

Dr. Singer
SingerL@harrisoncsd.org

Mrs. McCarthy
McCarthyD@harrisoncsd.org

Final *Jeopardy!* for Notable Host Alex Trebek

Luke Wong and Kate Rube
Co-Managing Editor and News Editor

Iconic *Jeopardy!* host Alex Trebek died on November 8, 2020. In an official statement released via *Twitter*, the gameshow explained "*Jeopardy!* is saddened to share that Alex Trebek passed away peacefully at home early this morning, surrounded by family and friends. Thank you, Alex."

The tragic death of Trebek comes after a long battle with pancreatic cancer that Trebek announced in March 2019, according to *USA Today*. Despite Trebek's condition, he pressed on as the face of *Jeopardy!*, choosing to complete chemotherapy following his diagnosis, but not choosing to retire, *The Daily Wire* reported.

Despite retaining his wit and snarky hosting style, Trebek still was very vocal about his struggles with his diagnosis. During one particular taping, Trebek openly confessed to having "...massive attacks of great depression that made me wonder if it was really worth fighting," according to *The Daily Wire*.

Even with all of these issues Trebek continued to tape *Jeopardy!*,

with his final taping of the show taking place on October 29. *Jeopardy!* announced that Trebek's taped episodes would still air as per the host's wishes. His final show aired on Friday, January 8.

People from all walks of life paid tribute to Trebek.

Mr. Glauber said, "Alex Trebek has been the epitome of class in hosting the show. He was smart, witty, opinionated, and Canadian. He shall be missed."

Former *Jeopardy!* contestant James Holzhauer wrote on *Twitter* in a heartfelt eulogy on November 8 that Trebek "...was so much more than a host. He was an impartial arbiter of truth and facts in a world that needs exactly that. He was someone you could count on to entertain you every weekday, even when his health barely allowed it..."

Trebek's heritage as a Canadian-American was recognized by senior Canadian officials. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau honored Trebek on *Twitter* on November 8, calling him "...an icon..."

Trebek's impact can be seen in

unexpected contexts as well. In an article by *NBC News*, many international immigrants described how Trebek helped them to learn English.

Moroccan immigrant Asmae Toumi explained to *NBC News* that "...watching American TV shows was a big part of learning the language..." and that "...TV shows like '*Jeopardy!*' helped her navigate pronunciation, expressions, and nuance."

Jeopardy! winner Burt Thakur discussed the similar impact that Trebek and *Jeopardy!* played in his life. Thakur explained after his victory on the trivia game show to Trebek that "I learned English because of you...My grandfather who raised me ... I used to sit on his lap and watch you every day."

According to *CNN*, although Trebek eventually hosted more than 8,200 episodes over 37 seasons of the show, his career started with journalism. He ended up finding a job at *CBC TV, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*, where he occupied the role of a newcaster/fill-in reporter, according to *Biography*.

On a path to fame, he left his

home country of Canada to give Hollywood a shot. While he ended up hosting a handful of shows, his charismatic presence was most revered for the remainder of his career as a proud host of *Jeopardy!*

Later in his life, in 2017, he suffered from a subdural hematoma as a result of a bad fall, but had a quick recovery following a successful emergency surgery. However, he took a turn for the worse again two years later as he was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer.

"Now, normally, the prognosis for this is not very encouraging," said Trebek, "but I'm going to fight this, and I'm going to keep working." He fought hard, and with optimism, but lost the fight November 8, as he passed away peacefully in his home, surrounded by family and friends.

Before his passing, he pub-



Thank you, Alex. Many will try to replace him, but he was one of a kind.
Courtesy of Sony Pictures Television

lished his memoir 'The Answer Is...: Reflections on My Life' - a recollection of important events from which he drew astute conclusions. This was published just four months before his death.

Although Alex Trebek may have died, it is abundantly clear that his legacy will live on for generations to come.

Barrett Appointment Worries Some

Erica Jacobson
Staff Writer

On September 18, 2020, Supreme Court Justice and fighter for women's and LGBTQ+ rights, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, passed away. While a large portion of the country grieved, the President and the Senate moved quickly to replace her. Ginsberg had been a major part of the Supreme Court because she helped balance political ideologies with the other justices. As of October 26, 2020, Amy Coney Barrett has taken Ginsberg's seat in the court. Her nomination by President Donald Trump was a cause for concern to some. For one thing, Ruth Bader Ginsberg's dying wish was for her seat to remain empty until the new President was elected. The second reason was that Barrett had a sometimes sexist and homophobic record. Based on some aspects of her voting record, Justice Barrett's appointment worried some factions.

According to an article from *The Guardian's* Alexandra Villarreal, "Barrett has voted three times on abortion-related cases in the seventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and has looked kindly on restrictions twice..." Women's right advocates fear that restrictions on abortions will limit women's abilities to choose what their own body goes through. As for her opinions on same-sex marriage, Barrett was associated with the board of Trinity Schools Incorporated, which has a history of rejecting students with married parents of the same sex. In the article Amy Coney Barrett used the term 'sexual preference' to refer to LGBTQ+ people, which is offensive because it implies choice. Barrett claims she never discriminated against them, according to *Business Insider's* Eliza Reiman. "From 2015 to 2017, Barrett served on the board of trustees

of Trinity Schools Incorporated, a group of Indiana private schools that in 2014 adopted a policy of barring children with unmarried parents from attending the school," *The New York Times* reported. Former Trinity staffers told *The New York Times* that because same-sex marriage was banned in Indiana at the time, this was clearly designed to bar the children of same-sex couples." Since her placement within the Supreme Court, there has been an outpouring of concerns and fears from women's rights and LGBTQ+ advocates on social media. On *TikTok*, a new trend has arisen after Barrett's confirmation hearings, wherein law students have started trashing their textbooks. "Law students are finding Amy Coney Barrett's SCOTUS hearing testimony incredible, particularly after she claimed she couldn't ap-



Meet our newest Supreme Court Justice. Amy Coney Barrett was rushed through her hearings and confirmed rapidly by a Republican Senate majority. She replaces what had been Ruth Bader Ginsberg's seat on the court. Courtesy of Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

ply the law to a hypothetical set of facts," a major aspect of law school exams and the bar," according to Martha Watts of *Newsweek*.

Justice Amy Coney Barret was confirmed by a vote of 52-48 from the U.S. Senate.

How To Make A Resolution You'll Keep in 2021

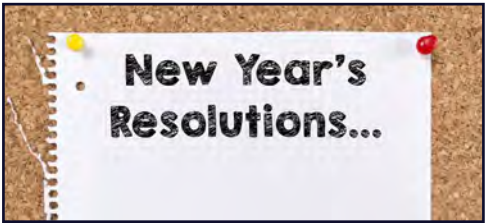
Caroline Tanico
Staff Writer

Now that another year has come and gone, the time to honor the transition of making a New Year's Resolution has come again. And after such a bad year, (good riddance, 2020) the promise to yourself that this year will be better is an important one. It just leaves us with one question: how do we make a resolution that we'll actually keep? It's no secret that for as long as people have been making resolutions for the new year, they've also been failing to uphold those promises. It happens to all of us. After midnight strikes and celebrations come to a close, we make a resolution to become friendlier, or eat less junk food, or get outside more etc. We keep to that resolution for a week or two, maybe a month. However, it's rare that anyone actually sticks to their resolution for the entire year.

Here are some dos and don'ts regarding resolutions so you'll be able to achieve anything you want to this year:

#1. Don't set impossible expectations for yourself

We all think the same thing when we make our resolutions. New year, anything can happen, right? Well yes, but also no. Setting the bar impossibly high for yourself is a guaranteed way to forget about that resolution after just a week. When you create a standard that is so difficult to achieve, for example, becoming fluent in a new language after just a year, it makes it much harder to envision yourself achieving that goal and you're more likely to give up on something when you convince yourself there was no way you could ever achieve it. Instead, think smaller. Start



with something more realistic. So, instead of becoming fluent in a new language in a year, think about maybe mastering just the alphabet if it's different from that of your first language or learn some basic phrases. Jules Tanico, a Harrison resident, says "When I made my resolution, I included the word try. Putting in the effort to try something new is a lot less scary than forcing yourself to master it."

#2. Don't be vague

This is so important if you want to keep your resolution for the New

Year. When it comes to making a resolution, you need to be specific. A vague resolution such as "I want to eat better" will get you nowhere because there is no real goal there. "Better" is completely relative so you won't be able to see yourself making progress and you'll be less likely to continue. Instead, try to put a quantity in your resolution. If you want to eat better say something like, "I will eat one vegetable per meal every day." This provides you with a metaphorical box to check off whenever you eat your vegetables so you can see yourself sticking to your resolution

#3. Don't get discouraged if you can't keep your resolution

Yes, these are steps for keep-

ing your resolution, so this seems counterproductive. But it's important to know that, as with everything else in life, there are going to be setbacks. Junior Camaryn Lee said, "I would always give up on my resolutions because I'd mess up one day after a week and then forget all about it." It's important to keep in mind that skipping your workout once or not reading a chapter from that book you said you'd finish does not mean you've failed. If you haven't met the requirements you've set for yourself for one day, it's not the end of the world. The most important thing is that you keep trying. So that's all! New Year's Resolutions will always be difficult to keep but continue to make them because if there's anything we all need after 2020, it's proof that things can always get better.

Weasels, Ferrets, Minks, and COVID

Jonathan Choi
Staff Writer

One of the many ways scientists are trying to find solutions to the ongoing pandemic is through animal testing. Just like humans, some kinds of animals are vulnerable to COVID-19. Some examples include a portion of the Mustilidae family: animals like ferrets, minks, and weasels. Despite the biological differences between humans and Mustilidae, their common vice of being to contract and suffer from COVID-19 allows scientists to try out possible solutions and vaccines on these animals. However, based on what scientists have discovered, this has had mixed results. An article by Donaldl G. McNeil Jr. in *The New York Times* explains the discoveries that scientists at Columbia University had made through

testing of nasal spray on ferrets. The article goes into how scientists were able to develop a nasal spray for ferrets that protected them from COVID-19. Ferrets with this nasal spray could be in close-proximity to other infected ferrets, with minimal risk of infection. The spray works by attaching itself to the lungs and interior of the nose. The spray then prevents the virus from attaching to the body's cells, which prevents the virus from replicating and infecting the body for 24 hours. So, why ferrets? Ferrets and other Mustilidae are actually similar to humans in the sense that they can contract viruses and illnesses through breathing through their noses. This important similarity is what makes tests on ferrets possibly via-

ble for humans. "If it works this well in humans," pediatrician and biologist Dr. Anne Moscona says, "You could sleep in a bed with someone infected or be with your infected kids and still be safe." Not all Mustilidae bring good news when it comes to coronavirus, however. A Danish vaccine specialist warns about a possible COVID-19 mutation that was found at a mink farm in Denmark, as reported by *The Guardian's* Sophie Kevany and Tom Carstensen. The problem with a mutation is that even if a COVID-19 vaccine is developed, the vaccine will be ineffective against this new mutation. Scientists are worried that if the mutation gets out into the wildlife, it will become widespread to the point

where a second pandemic could occur even after (or if) the current pandemic ends. Professor Allan Randrup Thomsen, a virologist at the University of Copenhagen, said, "This variant can develop further, so that it becomes completely resistant, and then a vaccine does not matter. Therefore, we need to take [the mutation] out of the equation." The mentioned seriousness of the new mutation led to the cull of over 15 million minks; due to the fear that this new mutation could spread to humans and jeopardize vaccine efforts. In conclusion, Mustilidae pose both a threat and a helping hand to humans in the age of COVID. Though the nasal spray may not be a permanent solution, it brings us one step closer to returning to a

world where COVID-19 isn't feared every day. However, the same group of animals carrying a mutated variant of the virus brings another possible issue that could hinder vaccine efforts and prolong the pandemic.



Friend or foe? The weasel is able to contract the coronavirus. Courtesy of Keven Law



opinions & editorials

Will Virtual Learning Mean The End of Snow Days?

Staff Editorial

Snow days may soon become only memories of the past. The shift to remote learning during this pandemic means that, in some instances, schools can remain open even in the midst of a snow storm. Instead of sleeping in, sledding, and snowball fights, students will be expected to log into their *Zoom* and attend classes.

Harrison feels that COVID-19 has caused students many disruptions in learning. To minimize further disruptions, the district has adopted a new snow day policy. Whenever Dr. Wool can reasonably anticipate a major snow event before it begins, a virtual learning day will be announced in advance, and students will follow their usual cohort schedule.

But will there still be snow days? If severe weather causes widespread power outages, the Superintendent may declare an actual snow day, in which case no virtual instruction will occur.

Similarly, many school administrators across the nation are taking away snow days so that they can make up for lost learning during the pandemic. Some districts also argue that they would rather keep school in session during a school day rather than have to make up that missed day during a vacation or at the end of the year.

Erik Bascome, reporter for *Slive.com*, explained that the NYC Department of Education announced in early September that “With the ongoing coronavirus pandemic delaying the return to school for New York City students, and state education guidelines requiring the city to hold at least 180 instructional days in a given school year, all students will be required to participate in remote learning on days that would have been deemed snow days in years past.”

Even though remote learning has been newly developed as a result of the pandemic, should snow days be replaced with virtual learning?

There are concerns that not all students have access to devices at home or may have trouble with wifi. And what about the old nostalgia of a snow day? Students will miss staying up late waiting for school cancellations and the actual fun of a snow day.

At least one Superintendent agreed. Bondy Shay Gibson, the Superintendent of Jefferson County Schools in West Virginia, issued a directive to her community that wound up going viral. Despite the option of remote instruction in late December, she shut down schools for an actual snow day.

“It has been a year of seemingly endless loss and the stress of trying to make up for that loss,” Gibson wrote in her note. “For just a moment, we can all let go of the worry of making up for the many things we missed by making sure this is one thing our kids won’t lose this year.” She urged her community to “enjoy a day of sledding and hot chocolate and cozy fires, to go build a snowman.”

In a display of much needed humanity during a time when students and teachers have all been far too stressed, she displayed heartfelt empathy by showing that there might be a different sort of teachable moment in merely enjoying ourselves during an unexpected winter weather event.

Harrison will still reserve the right to keep snow days for this upcoming winter, should weather conditions make *Zooming* uncertain, but sometimes nature provides us with a break to be treasured, a respite from the difficult challenges we face daily during this time of prolonged screen time, a chance to shut off the computers and phones and just enjoy the day.

The Husky Herald

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Mission Statement

Our mission is to be the voice of all of Harrison High School by professionally representing and informing our school with an accurate and entertaining newspaper. Our newspaper strives to uphold the tenets of journalistic integrity.

Editorial Policy

The Husky Herald is published by the journalism classes at Harrison High School, along with volunteers who attend the weekly meetings. Editorial content of *The Husky Herald* is determined by the editorial staff and reflects the opinions of the editors and staff, not necessarily that of the Harrison High School faculty and administration. The staff of *The Husky Herald* encourages students to get involved and have their opinions heard. If you have any questions, comments, or would like to respond to an article, please write to us. Letters containing the writer’s name (and that are appropriately stated) will be printed. We reserve the right to edit such responses for grammar usage, clarity, punctuation, and length.

The Supreme Court: History Repeats Itself

Madison Schiro
Co Editor-in-Chief

In 1991, legendary civil rights activist, accomplished lawyer, and first African-American Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, retired.

His replacement: Clarence Thomas, a hardcore conservative whose confirmation hearings were bitterly fought between Republicans and Democrats mainly as a result of sexual assault allegations brought forward by attorney Anita Hill.

This sounds quite reminiscent of the also-recent Supreme Court confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh, who was also accused of sexual assault by Dr. Christine Blasey Ford.

But the comparison of Clarence Thomas to Thurgood Marshall is more relevant to the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett, who was officially confirmed around eight days before the U.S. Presidential election.

Amy Coney Barrett replaced Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg after her unexpected death.

Barrett is a conservative appointed by President Trump, and has previously called abortion “always immoral,” upheld gun rights, and took away protections for former felons, according to an opinion written by Lara Bazelon at *The New York Times*.

From the moment President Trump announced his nomination, the stark contrast between Barrett and her predecessor was clear.

Justice Ginsburg spent her life advocating for women’s rights.

In 1971, she partnered with the American Civil Liberties Union to draft briefs in two federal cases as part of a seminar on gender discrimination.

The next year she became founding counsel of the ACLU’s Women’s Rights Project, and she became the first tenured female faculty member at Columbia Law School.

Throughout the ‘70s, she argued before the Supreme Court six

times, winning five cases.

Appointed by President Jimmy Carter in 1980 to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in Washington, D.C. and nominated to the Supreme Court in 1993 by President Bill Clinton, Ginsburg was a pioneer for women in her field.

Justice Barrett boasts an impressive career as well, earning her B.A. in English literature, magna cum laude, from Rhodes College, and her J.D., summa cum laude, from Notre Dame, earning the Hoynes Prize, the Law School’s highest honor, as the number one student in her class, and served as executive editor of the Notre Dame Law Review, according to the official website of the University of Notre Dame.

She clerked for Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia and as an associate at Miller, Cassidy, Larroca & Lewin in Washington, D.C., litigated constitutional, criminal, and commercial cases in both trial and appellate courts.

She has been teaching at the Law School of Notre Dame since 2002, and was a member of their faculty when nominated by President Trump.

A look at the qualifications of Thurgood Marshall and Clarence Thomas illustrates their long, impressive careers in law and as members of the highest court in the United States (Thomas, is in fact, the longest-serving member of the court).

Similarly to Justice Ginsburg, Justice Marshall spent his time before the court successfully arguing cases before them, most notably *Brown v. Board of Education*.

In 1981, Thomas joined the Reagan administration, first as Assistant Secretary of Education for the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education, and then, from 1982 to 1990, as chairman of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

President George H. W. Bush nominated Thomas to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and in 1991,

confirmed to the Court, a famous champion of women’s rights, get replaced by another hard-line conservative with a record opposite in almost every way? Barrett, incidentally, was also confirmed by a vote of 52 to 48.

These tight confirmations are probably not so much a reflection of the nominees themselves, but of the changing landscape of American politics, which appears to get more partisan by the day.

It’s incredibly difficult to imagine Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg today getting a vote of 96 to 3, but that’s exactly what happened during her confirmation in 1993.

The shifting divide between conservatism and liberalism has brought up new questions about how the Supreme Court should work.

Barrett’s confirmation, so close to the U.S. Presidential Election, angered many, and ignited conversations about potential changes to the system of the court.

“It’s frustrating to think about how Republicans pushed a nomination through right before an election when they prevented Obama from appointing a justice to the court given that it was an election year. I think it’s extremely hypocritical,” senior Leilah El-Azizi said.

One idea that has been discussed by politicians and citizens alike is limiting the term a justice can serve, which is currently a lifelong one.

Senior Katie Cole said, “The Supreme Court currently holds an enormous amount of power, and I don’t think it should be limited to nine people serving for life.”

Similar feelings across the country have generated the biggest,

most controversial proposal is what is known as “court packing.”

Court packing is adding more judges to a court than there are now, something that can be done on the federal level simply by passing a law, as the Constitution says nothing about how many justices there must be on the Supreme Court, according to Amber Phillips at *The Washington Post*.

The court actually started out with six justices, expanded to seven and has gone as high as 10.

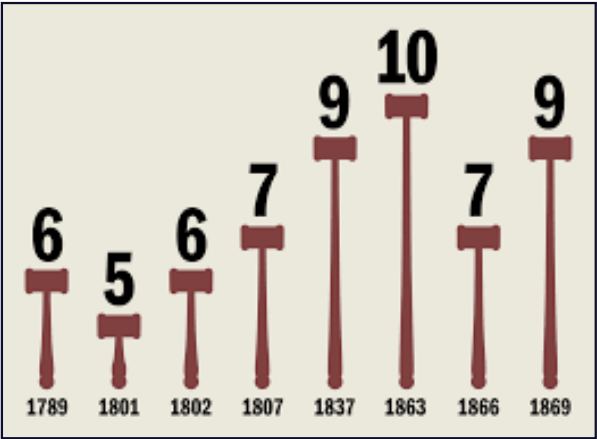
Congress set the Supreme Court to be nine justices in 1869, but if a President and Congress agree, they could change the law to expand or shrink the court.

Phillips also explains how during the Civil War era, the court shrank and expanded “like an accordion,” with Congress expanding the court to 10 justices to give President Abraham Lincoln an extra appointment, reducing the court to seven justices to prevent President Andrew Johnson from making any appointments, and then expanding it to nine in 1869 to give President Ulysses S. Grant vacancies.

Court packing was unsuccessfully attempted by FDR, and the court has stayed at nine justices since.

And although President-Elect Joe Biden hasn’t expressed a favorable view (or really any view) on the notion, a majority in both the House and Senate could help push these ideas forward, should potential legislative challenges make their way to a conservative Supreme Court.

It’s difficult to make concrete predictions about the future of the Supreme Court given the general vagueness and silence that Democrats have offered about the topic, but it appears the recent nominations made by President Trump have certainly brought the court, and its system, into the spotlight, with potential consequences.



Court Packing comes with a history. Here are the varied numbers of justices that have been on the Supreme Court historically.

Courtesy of Supreme Court Historical Association

nominated Thomas to the Supreme Court.

The controversy, then, is not (nor should not) be over qualifications, experience, or education.

These four justices have shown an extensive comprehension of the law and the U.S. Constitution.

But how does the first African-American on the Supreme Court, a pioneer of the Civil Rights Movement, get replaced by a hard-line conservative whose confirmation was dragged out and hotly debated over sexual assault allegations, resulting in one of the narrowest margins of approval - 52 to 48?

And how does the first Jewish woman and second woman ever

The Growing Selfish Immunity to Compassion

Aidan Lefkowitz
Opinions Editor

With each new day, our nation passes another COVID-19 benchmark, each one darker and more unthinkable than the last. The news anchors’ voices mesh together, blurring out the tragic statistics as if gloating: “...200,000 new COVID-19 cases...”

“...3600 people died today from COVID-19...”

“Our hospitals are being overrun with COVID-19 patients and an uptick after the holidays could break our system entirely.”

As the child of a first responder during the current pandemic, the hardest thing for me is to hear that people don’t want to be vaccinated. They voice their fears through talk about non-existent long term side effects of the Pfizer vaccine, the very vaccine which has been proven safe through extensive studies by the corporation itself and through trial studies and review by the Food and Drug Administration.

Do the anti-vaxxers ever consider people like my father who have

developed long-term side effects from being in the front lines of the COVID-19 wards - watching people die with no loved ones by their side? Fearing that he could contract the virus, my father still risked his life. Many of his colleagues have posed the reality of the risk of developing PTSD, and my father runs that same risk daily. However, does he regret a minute of it? Nope, not for a second, and in truth he would do it again given the opportunity because that is who he is and what he does. I am proud to say that he is so compassionate that he would give up his



life if it meant saving another.

Unfortunately, these days the character trait of compassion is rare. Americans bored with their mandated quarantines can’t even manage to stop holding non-socially distant house gatherings, so how can we

expect them to take a vaccine to stop the spread to our most vulnerable? This seems to be an especially prevalent issue among the country’s youth. Many have shown little to no regard for the consequences of their sloppy disregard of the CDC’s social distancing protocols. They are young; they appear healthy. This illusion affords them the cavalier attitude to view the virus as no direct threat to themselves. This is what upsets

me - this growing selfish immunity to compassion, this blatant disregard of proven science.

What about my father’s life and my family? Should his colleagues’ children grow up without a parent

because of your nearsighted decision that a conspiracy theory was more valid than that of esteemed epidemiologist Dr. Anthony Fauci?

Ignoring scientific recommendations only prolongs the pandemic and worsens an already tragic situation. We are all being affected negatively, but we cannot give up. There is value and an end-goal in our unified adherence to maintaining social distancing, in washing our hands regularly, wearing masks, and yes, getting vaccinated too.

If you have time to consider the long-term side effects of the approved COVID-19 vaccines, then you have time enough also to consider the lives of front line workers and their families. Think about what an end to the pandemic means: a return to the non-pandemic life we once knew and perhaps took for granted. Think about life without a mask. Think about a world where grandparents can leave their homes.

Most importantly, think about someone else for once.

Post-election Takeaways: Advice for the Democrats

Jack Kelly

Co-Managing Editor

Following the 2020 Presidential Election on November 3 and Georgia Senatorial Run-off on January 5, most Democrats assert there is a lot to celebrate. Democrats got what they wanted: the White House, the Senate, and a national rejection of Trump. Joe Biden clinched the presidency with an Electoral College victory of 306 to 232, matching the 'landslide' numbers of the 2016 election results. Biden also won the popular vote by an historic seven million votes. While President Trump and his supporters have filed numerous suits to challenge Trump's defeats, they have been dismissed, as there has been no evidence of any widespread tampering or malfeasance. In challenges that involved recounts, Biden won again. Additionally, Georgia Democrats Reverend Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff both won with margins outside of Georgia's recount threshold. With that being said, Democratic leadership still showed it has a lot of salient lessons yet to learn. These lessons can be summed up in four crucial points that Democratic strategists should heed as they start planning for the 2022 midterm elections.

Earn the Latino Vote

Probably the most jarring wake-up call for Democrats is how Latino voters crushed Biden's hope of winning Florida and the pipe-dream of a blue Texas in 2020. Democratic leaders messed up their appeals to Latinos in a veritable plethora of ways. For starters, while this might seem trivial, the term 'Latinx' has got to go. As someone who is all for gender neutral and LGBTQ+ friendly language, it pains me to say this, but the evidence is clear: only 3% of Latinos use 'Latinx.' Targeted messaging by Democrats that use 'Latinx' likely comes across as out-of-touch, patronizing, and anglicizing the Spanish language. Regardless of how insignificant this might appear, campaigns are founded on rhetoric and diction. The word choice of "Latinx" is not effective and has to be lost by the Democratic party, not because gender neutral words aren't honorable, but because it poses a barrier to connect with real Latinos.

Probably the greatest downfall of Democrats with Latinos was their lack of meaningful engagement with Latinos, a key constituency of the Democratic party. Latinos were given minimal representation in the 2020 Demo-

cratic National Convention— Representative Ocasio-Cortez was used as a token representative. The most conspicuous example of Biden pandering to Latinos was with his playing of Despacito. This was something that was quite embarrassing and didn't have the effect Biden likely hoped for; if Biden was set on playing a Hispanic song, at the very least he could have commissioned his own song akin to the "Por Trump" song. Democratic leaders were also oblivious to how insidious the Republican efforts to link Democrats to socialism in Venezuela and Cuba would be. Republicans poured funds into convincing Cuban-Americans and Venezuelan-Americans to believe that Joe Biden stood for socialism, something he doesn't, and this messaging was effective.

Time for a Leadership Change

The 2020 and 2021 results in Georgia are remarkable and have shown us what results great leadership can achieve. Stacey Abrams' commitment to flipping Georgia through working against the pervasive voter suppression in the state is a testament to how Abrams is a strong leader: even after she lost her own race, she persisted. The DNC would be immensely lucky to have Abrams be the next Chair. Abrams possesses a unique ability to appeal to the wide breadth of the Democratic party: from conservative suburbanites to low propensity urban voters of color, Abrams created a varying coalition to help secure Biden a win. Abrams was able to pull off this feat again by helping Democrats win both Senate-runoff races. Abrams is one of the many integral organizers who has been working to flip Georgia for a long time, along with people like LaTosha Brown, and it is finally paying off. It is very likely Stacey Abrams runs for Governor in 2022 along with Senator-elect Raphael Warnock who will also be on the ballot. Democrats will gain a lot in the state of Georgia the more people like Stacey Abrams lead Democratic efforts.

Not all Democratic leaders are as strong as Abrams. One person the Democratic party has to start thinking about moving past is Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Pelosi undoubtedly has accomplished a lot in her time as Speaker and she is arguably one of the most consequential Speakers in decades. Still, when Nancy Pelosi likely retires in 2022, Democrats need to think about choosing a Speaker who addresses some of Speaker Pelosi's shortcomings. Pelosi has historically alienated progressives and upset the more left part of the Democratic party— this is illustrated in her feuds with the 'Squad' and Speaker Pelosi endorsing Joe Kennedy III over Senator Ed Markey. At the same time, Pelosi is often cast as an out-of-touch liberal— rhetoric that hurts swing district Democrats.

Republicans point to her staggering net worth north of \$110 million and things like Nancy Pelosi getting her hair done in a way that violates pandemic rules to paint Pelosi as being disconnected from real working people. The party of 'working people' being run by someone who is not seen as being a champion for working people and average Americans makes it hard for the Democratic party to surmount a compelling case to voters that Pelosi understands the plight of working people. Pro-labor Democrats like Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) do well in swing states and Democrats need labor voters to turn out for them to be successful— Pelosi potentially hinders this. Swing district Democrats like Representatives Elissa Slotkin, Abigail Spanberger, Mikie Sherrill, Conor Lamb, and Jared Golden all either not voting for Pelosi or voting for someone else during the Speaker race shows how even vulnerable Democrats rec-



Speaker not speaking to much of her own party? Many of the younger progressive Democrats would like to see Nancy Pelosi step aside for younger leadership.

Courtesy of M.Scott Mahaskie/Politico

ognize the way Pelosi is viewed by moderates.

Many great choices like Representative Hakeem Jeffries, Representative Adam Schiff, and Representative Katie Porter do a fine job of appealing to both parts of the wide Democratic party. Katie Porter, notably the most recent Representative of the three, is even in a Republican PVI district and is still viewed as a progressive champion. While it is unlikely that she will become Speaker down the line, people should pay attention, as she has a strong political career ahead of her.

Stop with Slogans and Labels — Focus on Policy!

Another major downfall for Democrats is their tendency to label their policies. Self-branding as socialists alienates the overwhelming majority of American voters. Using terms like "Defund the police," also makes the Democratic party struggle to connect with key voters.

Personally, I am in favor of re-examining policing budgets so that they are funding communities — not inflating policing budgets. I also overwhelmingly support funding social programs and progressive economic stances. Yet I have also lived through the political nightmare that came as a result of "defunding the police." Max Rose's political evisceration can be directly attributed to being erroneously associated with "defunding the police"— even though policing is a municipal issue. Using terms like "socialist" or "defunding" is scary for voters. Even very progressive members of Congress, like Mondaire Jones or Katie Porter, would risk losing their seat if they embraced the rhetoric of "socialist" or "defunding." The policies can stay the same, but the packaging in which they are marketed needs to change. Democratic leaders should try "Reimagining law enforcement" and "Fighting for working people." Elizabeth Warren did a fantastic job of putting forth plans and ideas during the primary, not just slogans. The Democratic party should learn from Senator Warren in this regard.

These Next Two Years are Everything

Arguably the most salient takeaway from the 2020 election for Democratic leaders should be what is at stake come 2022. With red state gerrymandering likely making the 2022 map even more difficult, the Democrats have a huge task ahead of them. This election cycle showed that even with a successful Democratic Presidential ticket, Republicans can still

make major gains in the House and defend crucial Senate seats.

When planning for the 2022 midterms, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee need to remember a few things. Firstly, Anti-Trumpism works. This can even be shown on the local level. State Senator Pete Harckham's ability to link Former Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino with Donald Trump allowed for Senator Harckham to easily win re-election, something that was not necessarily anticipated by Democratic strategists. For many conservatives, Trump has gone too far and has destroyed the GOP that they used to love. By branding all Republicans as blind Trump followers, Democratic leaders stand a better chance at winning key swing districts. This strategy is not a perfect panacea though, since there are key pockets of the country that love Trump. When applied effectively and strategically, the results of anti-Trump messaging can be tremendously advantageous to Democrats. It is possible he is on the ballot again in 2024, but even if he is not, tying the GOP to being a Trump party is still effective messaging.

Moreover, the Democratic party needs to learn to cherish key constituencies. Final voting data from 2020 shows that Biden would not have become President without young voters, BIPOC voters, and LGBTQ+ voters. Additionally, Biden would have lost Arizona without Navajo voters. In order for Democrats to continue benefiting from these key constituencies, they need to address the policy goals of all these demographics. For young voters, Democratic electeds need to deliver on climate change and youth representation; the appointment of Deb Haaland as Secretary of the Interior and speculation that Biden will create a White House Office of Children and Youth is encouraging for young people. BIPOC voters are eager to see police reform and closing racial wealth disparities — getting legislation like the Justice in Policing act passed would help Biden fulfill this campaign ambition. For LGBTQ+ people the Equality Act is paramount, something Biden swore to sign into law, and for indigenous voters, more land autonomy is ideal and Deb Haaland's appointment makes that very likely.

Democratic leaders are undeniably thrilled that America's executive leader will be Joe Biden for the next four years and that all of Congress will be blue at least until 2022. Even so, recognizing their flaws in this past election cycle will be the necessary first step toward defending their new-found gains.



Rising Star. Representative Katie Porter is a new progressive to watch, undoubtedly headed for a larger role within the party.

Courtesy of Katie Porter

Why You Should Go Vegan in 2021

Kate Rube
News Editor

Veganism is a surprisingly polarizing topic, and yet it is there among my many new year's resolutions for 2021. Veganism has become an internet sensation over the past decade, and not always in a positive way. Vegans are often made into memes that trade on the stereotypical beliefs of their supposed weakness or that scrutinize their lifestyle choices. While this diet is amazing for animal rights issues, fewer realize its environmental impact. Since the diet consists of cutting out all animal products (like meat, dairy, and eggs), the diet is very kind to the environment and leaves a lower carbon footprint.

Plant-based foods also tend to require less water usage in production. As the *Environmental Working Group* reports, "High-protein foods, such as beans and tofu, require much less water than meat. A *California Water Education Foundation* study found that one gallon of tofu requires 219 gallons of water per pound, compared to 477 gallons for eggs, 896 gallons for cheese and 2,463 gallons for beef."

Why does the amount of water used even matter?

As it turns out, a very significant amount of electricity must be used to pump in the water used for these purposes. Also, using large amounts of water is not sustainable in the long term, as it can lead to future water scarcity.

Water usage is not the only concern that the meat, dairy, and general animal product industry brings to the table. Another dangerous environmental consequence is the greenhouse gases emitted by cows and other animals. Cows produce huge amounts of methane gas, which is a large contributor to global warming. While a small, ethically handled farm with a couple of cows doesn't pose a major threat, the majority of meat on the market is made

from massive cattle farms that treat the animals inhumanely, even feeding them cheap food that their bodies are not meant to digest, which leads to even more methane production. For this reason, an easy first step in trying to become more eco-conscious is to restrict the amount of red meat purchased and consumed.

Perhaps you're wondering, "Why should I care?"

While we love to believe that our actions do not have consequences, in reality they do. Although larger scale changes need to be made and environmentally conscious policies adopted to protect us, it would be foolish to believe that we as individuals are incapable of change and agency.

In 2006, *CBS News* predicted that there will be fishless oceans by 2048 as a result of overfishing. To make matters worse, the quantity of fish caught for consumers has increased by about 50 million tons according to the *World Food and Agriculture Organization*.

By refusing to support this large, powerful, animal industry, we might be able to enact future change. A rule of business is that, in order to stop supply, there must be a drop in demand. If millions of people stopped consuming animal products- or even reduced consumption- it could spark momentous, revolutionary change that could seriously help the environment.

While past generations could attempt to deny climate change, the living proof of our reality says otherwise. If we could really see how our actions are influencing the future, many more people would be vegan. It's hard to change our lives when we don't see tangible evidence that the environment is in crisis.

Conveniently, however, the Covid pandemic is among the many visible warning signs of environmental maltreatment. Environmental-

ism has gone from hobby to an existential issue with alarming speed. Now is a time for decisive action, even if it means a little bit of sacrifice. Not only will it impact our grandchildren and our children, but it will impact us as well.

In all honesty though, nobody is perfect, and neither are their circumstances. Sometimes, the fault of a flawed and corrupt system means that animal products can be cheaper and easier to obtain than yummy vegan or vegetarian foods. Sometimes our health issues are what limit our abilities to try out new diets and lifestyles. Nobody is perfect, and slip-ups are human. While some extremely passionate people have turned it into a way of shaming others as being less-than and immoral, most vegans are just trying to do the best they can

to make a difference in their own lives. After six months of vegetarianism, this reporter is making the leap to going vegan. . Years ago, I could not even fathom a life without meat and dairy, and I told others they were crazy for insinuating that anyone should. After educating myself on the hidden truths and outward lies of the industry, it seems an open mind, a questioning spirit, and a little bit of empathy are the most crucial attributes that you could possess.

So, if you go into 2021 with no other goals, please try out veganism. Short of that, try cutting out red meat, or even having it just one day a week...or once a month...or once a year

Or at least stop laughing at people trying to save a sinking ship by building a sustainable future.



Save the animals, save the planet. By going vegan, you help the environment, and you help yourself in the process. Even a small step towards going vegan helps. *Courtesy of Adobe Stock*

Time to End Puppy Mills Throughout the Nation

Aidan Lefkowitz
Opinions Editor

The year 2020 has possibly been the worst year ever for many Harrison High School students. A wretched and broken political system put party loyalties over the interests of the people, which always results in America losing. Further, a global pandemic has claimed over 370,000 lives nationally, with more

adding to the tally daily. Small business closures throughout the state and skyrocketing unemployment are affecting so many of us.

However, there is one place our community, our state, our country, and our world can always turn to for unconditional support. Sometimes the solution to all of life's problems is

as simple as a wagging tail.

Dogs are possibly the most versatile domesticated animal in the world. Not only have they developed from mere family pets into dedicated support aides for those with pre-existing conditions (anxiety, blindness, diabetes, suicide), those living alone, and those just looking for a friend.

Yet, we act as leeches to the species. For far too long, puppy mills have been allowed to profit off of the unconscionable practice of constant breeding of females for puppies to sell in pet stores. According to information from *PETA*, dogs in puppy mills throughout the United States sleep on barbed wires and breed as many as four times a year with no time to recover between litters. There is little to no federal regulation concerning the treatment of these animals and when they are no longer profitable to the puppy mills they are frequently murdered.

Is this really how we pay back "man's best friend"?

Although puppy mills are largely concentrated in the midwestern states, particularly Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Indiana, they are scattered throughout the country. The stores that sell these poor puppies can be found everywhere. There even used to be one in Harrison on Halstead Avenue. Thankfully, that business has since shut down. However, pet stores don't necessarily have to support such animal abuse practices.

California has recently instituted a law mandating that puppy stores only sell puppies that come from shelters. In hindsight, this is revolutionary as it sends a message to the 10,000 puppy mill breeders

in the United States - your abuse is coming to an end. The question remains a matter of time now. How much longer until effective statewide or nationwide change is made?

Dog lovers can only pray for a bill to cross the Senate floor tomorrow that explicitly outlaws puppy mill breeding while also taking sweeping reform action against all other animal rights abuses. Then President Obama passed legislation in 2010 to outlaw sharing footage of someone intentionally abusing an animal and the Trump Administration followed that up in 2019 by passing the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture Act that federally punishes those who purposefully commit the acts of animal abuse. This may be one of the only things that liberals and conservatives agree on - that the government must take legislative action to fight animal abuse.

However, legislation to outlaw puppy mills or restrict the sale of such dogs would likely encounter Republican pushback for interfering with business. For now, individuals must take a stand and avoid purchasing puppies from such stores. Research the source when shopping for a new pet and remember that adoption is the more ethical and cost-effective option.



Can you spell adorable? The Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin is looking for people to adopt puppies recently transferred from the Humane Society of Greater Birmingham, Alabama. Help a puppy like this to find a "forever home" and avoid pet stores that do business with horrible puppy mills. It is time to put an end to such puppy mills on a national basis. *Courtesy of Pixabay*

Arts & Entertainment

Futuristic Antigone Goes Virtual

Caroline Tanico
Staff Writer

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, events such as sports, concerts, and plays have been cancelled or postponed. However, for the drama students here at Harrison High School, there was another option for the fall play.

As live performances are no longer allowed due to obvious safety concerns, a new method of performing was introduced to the actors of Harrison High: filmed performances of a play. The unorthodox idea was introduced at the end of last year and it was even how the spring play, *You Can't Take It With You*, was performed.

This year, the show is titled *Antigone 3021*, a futuristic reimagining of the ancient Greek classic drama *Antigone* by our own Mrs. Nina Mansfield (Haberli).

In this futuristic version, Antigone still is confronted with a moral dilemma: will she break the law to do what she believes is right? *Antigone: 3021* takes this ancient tale, and sets it in a future in which characters communicate via virtual calls, and the Greek Chorus is transformed

into a talk-show.

So, how did it work? Well, when the show was announced, the usual process of auditioning took place of reviewing parts and auditioning, however this year, auditions were filmed and sent in.

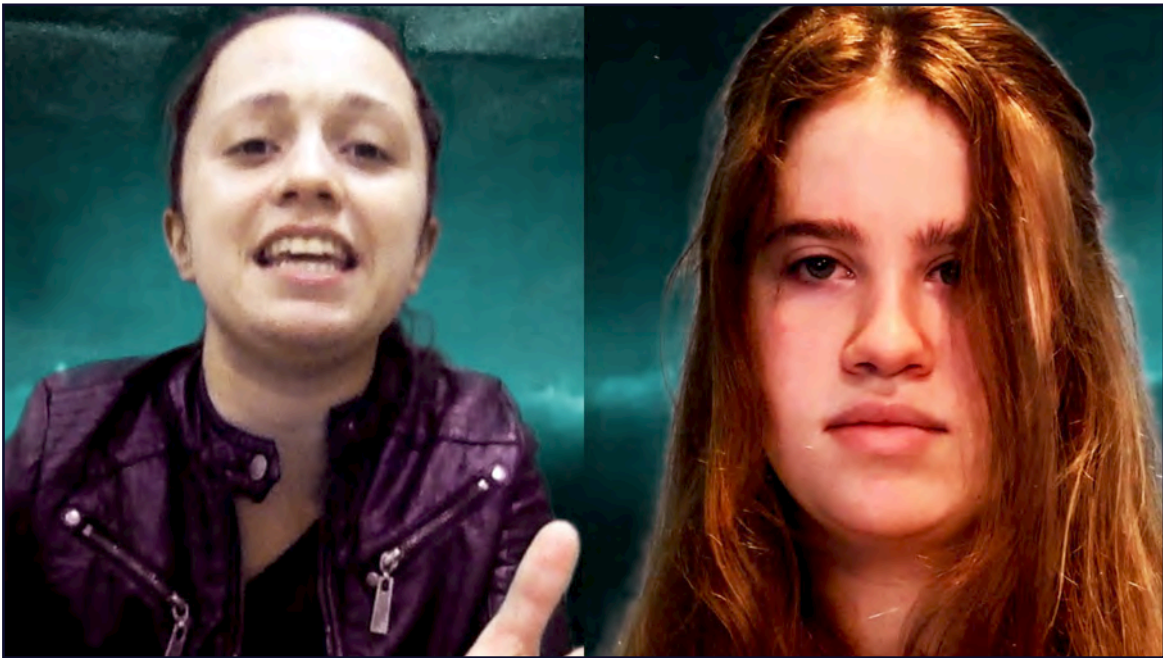
Sophomore Simona Forgione said, "We all submitted a video of two separate monologues. We were able to choose from a variety."

From there, the students were cast into roles like usual and given scripts to rehearse from.

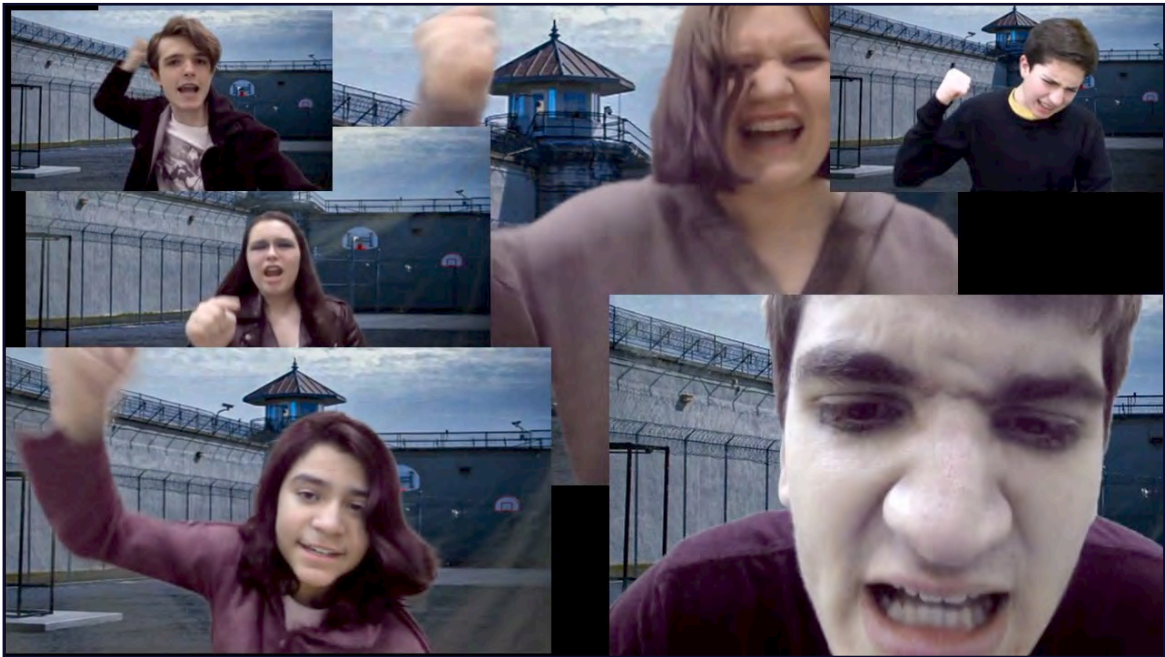
After given a few weeks to prepare all of their lines, students were filmed acting out their parts in front of a green screen for the director and Harrison High School's theatre teacher, Mrs. Haberli, to edit together.

Involving the school's stage crew this year originally proved to be a challenge.

In a typical performance at this school, stage crew is divided into three groups- lighting, sound, and props and sets, known as deck- to help with a good portion of the show as a whole. However, given the re-



The future is now. *Antigone 3021* featured Mia Altamuro as Antigone and Ceara Kretzmer as her sister Ismene. Courtesy of Mrs. Haberli



Plenty of action. The cast of *Antigone 3021* had a series of intense moments.

Courtesy of Mrs. Haberli

mote nature of *Antigone 3021*, the students of tech originally worried that they wouldn't have much to do

with this year's show. Nevertheless, the tech department still had plenty to do.

Students in stage crew were given the job of finding back-grounds for every scene and creating different sounds to enhance the performance.

As previously mentioned, actors were filmed saying their lines in front of a green screen. Later, as the footage was being edited, the images chosen for backgrounds were added, kind of like a virtual backdrop or set piece.

Junior Shannon Kenny, a member of the stage crew, said, "I was happy to have something to do this year. I knew we'd probably get to do something, I just didn't know what."

Kenny quickly adjusted to her new duties for the virtual play.

"It was a little weird," she said. "I've never done anything like this before for a show, but coming up with ideas for backgrounds was a lot of fun."

This virtual production was

written and directed by Harrison High School theatre teacher Nina Haberli, who writes plays as Nina Mansfield.

HHS junior Larry Vazquez served as assistant director. The cast included Mia Altamuro, Ceara Kretzmer, Cameron Mclean, Elizabeth Caragliano, Lorena Ramirez, Simona Forgione, Galle Blaustein, Angel Aguilar, Lana Waights, Alexis Gulla, Joanna Howson, Angelina Siconolfi, Chris Collazo, Albieris Castano Mercado, Gia Vecchione, Barbara Borrell Porras, Eleanor Millard, Ulysses Bravo Brown, Sebastian Rueda Lobato, Emily Caragliano, Ulysses Bravo Brown, Hailey Helmer, and Philip Schultz.

The crew included: Shannon Kenny, John Carpino, Faith Ildefonso, Scarlett Kerridge, Leilah El-Azizi, James Mclean, Caroline Tanico, Alondra Nolasco Rojas, and Brandon Escobar.

While tickets were free, audience members were asked to contribute donations which then went to *Swim Across America*, an organization that funds Cancer Research.

HEY HUSKIES!

What was your 2020 silver lining?

Compiled by Samantha Marano



"Getting my new puppy Sage in May."
Emilie Oestricher,
Freshman



"When the New York Jets finally won a football game."
Max Zuchorski,
Sophomore



"Celebrating my birthday with friends in the summer since my sweet 16 was postponed."
Lili Rossi,
Junior



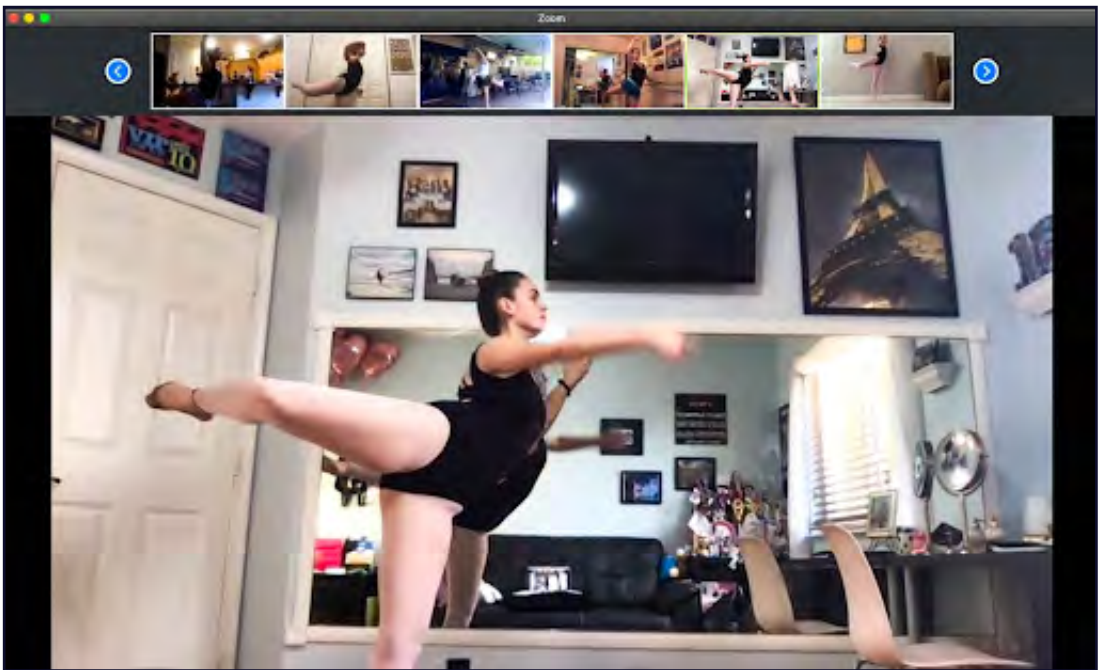
"How people found positives in all the negative, working on self-improvement."
Manny Ciminello,
Senior

Dance Class - Adjusting to a New Reality

Reagan Kelly
Assistant Arts Editor

There are many different kinds of dance. They range from dances of cultural significance to modern trends you see on social media. One thing each genre of dance has in common with one another is how much space all dancers need for tricks, turns, leaps, and other big movements. Dance is one of the few physically demanding activities that is almost always practiced and performed inside. With the global pandemic and the world in shutdown, dance studios were one of the first to close, as the indoor setting poses health concerns without proper ventilation. With all this in mind, it was very difficult if not nearly impossible to emulate the in-studio experience the at-home virtual zoom classes dancer took part in, starting in March of 2020.

From a student's point of view, it was not a comparable experience, and it was almost like putting training on hold for six months. Sarah Antal, owner of City Center Dance, and ballet and contemporary teacher, described the difficulties of figuring out how to teach students the art of dance through a computer. She explained the biggest challenge for her was differentiating when to demon-



Making any space into a dance space. Dancers in 2021 have to do their best in front of the Zoom camera. It is not ideal, but for now, it is necessary.

Courtesy of Reagan Kelly

strate and when to verbally correct her students. In class, it was easy for her to do both, but while demonstrating on Zoom she was unable to see bad habits students were developing

when she needed to most. Sara later added how she went about accommodating dancers' new at-home schedules by shortening classes and grouping kids based on age. She felt

each age group needed a different Zoom teaching experience as they would process information differently.

Another teacher from HHS,

Ms. Vanherwynen (Ms.V), discussed how hard it was to change your typical relaxed, home environment into a work and dance space. For many dancers, the lack of space and professionalism challenged them and their dedication to their craft, forcing them to connect more with the emotion in each movement, as the technical aspects of dance weren't viable.

Overall, the switch from in-studio practice to online changed the learning experience drastically for dancers all over the world. Dance on Zoom takes a huge toll on the dancer's technique and therefore it is every dance teachers' worst nightmare.

Because of this, most dance studios have implemented many new rules and regulations to cope with the pandemic. Things like individual boxes six or more feet away from each other to dance in, air filters, and an intense cleaning regime.

All this is done to prevent coronavirus from spreading in the studio, which would force them to shut down. While Zoom is not ideal, it at least provides dancers with a version of their normal everyday lives pre-COVID-19 and continues to make them think about their training.

When Harry Styles Wore A Dress: A Questionable Controversy

Isabella Chiamida
Staff Writer

English singer Harry Styles recently made history by being the very first male to be on the cover of *Vogue*. Most people praised him, many didn't really care, but of course, there were the masses of angry individuals on *Twitter* who didn't like the photos at all. In fact, it sparked a heated social media debate about the changing perceptions of masculinity. Some may ask what the reason for this is. Why, it's simple: Harry Edward Styles wore a dress.

One may have thought we were past this since it is the twenty-first century, but it appears that internalized misogyny and fragile masculinity still manage to carve their ways into daily life. While no one is directly affected by Harry Styles' starring on the cover of *Vogue* except himself, there have been many outcries about it being a direct attack on masculinity.

Conservative author Candance Owens, for example, tweeted that, "There is no society that can survive without strong men. The East knows this. In the west, the steady feminization of our men at the same time that Marxism is being taught to our children is not a coincidence. It is an outright attack. Bring back manly men."

Owens makes the bold assumption that the clothing a man wears determines whether he is strong or not. Whether a man wears a skirt or camouflage cargo pants does not determine his strength nor his manliness.

Of course, there are others who disagree with Owens' sentiments and praise Styles' choice of clothing in which to appear. The news website *9News* asked people to tag them in tweets about their opinions on this topic, and a woman named Samantha Burns did this in her tweet, which stated: "Why does society insist on gendering clothes or anything for that matter? Wear what makes you comfortable, happy, and allows you to both feel like yourself and express yourself."

The news anchors discussed the tweets they'd read a few moments later, and the overall conclusion was that they personally had seen the photos and thought, "OK. Cool. He did that." This is also what many say people should be thinking when they saw the pictures, and that it should be something that is normalized and not taken as offensive. The men and women that made



Wearing a dress on the cover of Vogue. Harry Styles doesn't care what you think. He wears whatever he wants to wear, and according to his mom, he has always been this way.

Courtesy of Tyler Mitchell/Vogue

Styles' dress-wearing into a big deal and called it an attack on masculinity are exactly the problem and are the exact reason why we are in the twenty-first century and this kind of negativity is still being projected onto both men who are even slightly feminine and on femininity in itself.

Harry Styles' mother Anne Twist had an interview on the UK talk show *Lorraine* and said simply that she was proud of her son, and this is who he is, and who he always has been. She supports him completely.

In response, the show's host Lorraine Kelly said, "Do you know what I love about him? He doesn't think about clothes. You know, why should you think clothes are for girls or clothes are for boys? Wear whatever you like."

Twist agreed.

Even Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez spoke out on Styles' choice of clothing in which to represent himself, calling it "wonderful" and saying that the "masculine and feminine elements are balanced beautifully." She also said, "Some people are mad at it because some folks are very sensitive to examining and exploring gender roles in society. Perhaps for some people, it provokes some anger or insecurity around masculinity/femininity/etc. If it does, then maybe that's part of the point. Sit with that reaction and think about it, examine it, explore it, engage it, and grow with it."

She was right; that was exactly the point. Styles wanted to make a statement, and he did.

Human beings have long been known to fear that which they do not know. That can be seen plainly with the angry reactions to Styles' statement. All the time, people are trying to put genders on things that simply should not/ do not need to have genders. They force a certain role in decidedly masculine and feminine things, instead of simply accepting its fluidity.

Perhaps not so far into the near future, humankind can learn to accept that clothing does not have a gender, and strictly enforcing the idea that it does is more harmful than helpful.

The Queen's Gambit, Reviewed

Caroline Tanico

Staff Writer

"I think *The Queen's Gambit* is the best show to come out of this year," said junior Shannon Kenny. "I thought it was so, so good."

Released on October 23, 2020, *The Queen's Gambit* certainly made an impression on *Netflix* viewers everywhere. The show, released as a seven episode mini-series, follows the life of Elizabeth "Beth" Harmon, a young orphaned chess player in the Cold War era and her connection to the game of chess.

Written by Scott Frank and Allan Scott and based upon a novel of the same name written by Walter Tevis in 1983, *The Queen's Gambit* begins in medias res with Beth Harmon (Anya Taylor-Joy) passed out drunk in a Paris hotel room in 1967. After hastily sobering up and being mobbed by the press on her way to the lobby, Beth makes her way to a chess match where her opponent has been waiting.

The story then quickly cuts to over a decade later, where 9-year-old Beth moves into an orphanage after miraculously surviving the car accident that killed her mother. Upon moving in, Beth, along with the other girls at the orphanage, is given tranquilizers daily by the staff to "even [her] disposition." Beth quickly grows addicted to the tranquilizers, something that will follow her through her entire life as portrayed in the show.

But tranquilizers aren't the only thing Beth grows addicted to in the orphanage. One day after being sent to the basement to complete her chores, Beth makes the acquaintance of Mr. Shaibel (Bill Camp), the orphanage janitor, who plays chess by himself in the basement. Beth quickly grows fascinated by the game and demands that Shaibel teach her how to play.

It quickly becomes evident that Beth is a natural, even a prodigy, at chess. In addition to her natural talent, the tranquilizers Beth is given allow her to easily envision a chess board on the ceiling of her bedroom, where she replays games and strategizes moves.

The show continues on. Eventually, Beth is adopted by Alma Wheatly (Marielle Heller) and her husband and Beth is further able to explore her infatuation with chess.

She begins joining chess tournaments, gaining a name for herself after defeating a locally famous chess player, Harry Belitk (Harry Melling), and goes on to join greater tournaments, travelling the world and becoming a more skilled chess player. She meets chess champion Benny Watts (Thomas Brodie-Sangster) and becomes his rival while aiming to one day play (and, in typical Beth fashion, defeat) the world champion Vasily Borgov (Marcin Dorociński).

Her chess opponents aren't Beth's only problem, however. Though the use of tranquilizers on children was outlawed while Beth was still living in the orphanage, she still remained addicted to the drug and believed that it gave her an advantage at chess. Her addiction followed her into adulthood, where she experiments with other substance abuse and becomes heavily addicted to alcohol.

The story is as much about Beth's inward struggles with substance abuse as it is Beth's outward struggle to become the world chess champion.

The show was received incredibly well by audiences for everything from its writing to its costume design to its acting performances. It received a score of 8.7/10 on *IMDb* and 99 percent on *Rotten Tomatoes*.

Its raw portrayal of addiction struck a chord with audiences and themes of coming of age, achievement, and family make it a story worth getting emotionally invested in, while still having the wit, charm and style that make it enjoyable to watch.

Whether you're a chess champion or you've never touched a board in your life, the story of Beth Harmon is one that you're guaranteed to love with every move of a chess piece.



Checkmate. Anya Taylor-Joy plays chess phenom Beth Harmon in the incredibly popular mini-series *The Queen's Gambit*. Courtesy of Netflix

Fans Excited For Gossip Girl Reboot on HBO

Samantha Marano

Arts Editor

"Hey there Upper East Siders - *Gossip Girl* here, your one and only source into the scandalous lives of Manhattan's elite."

The original iconic hit television series based in the Big Apple, *Gossip Girl*, is now up for a reboot. The show was based in New York City and explained the dream of several private school teenagers.

This drama with fans going back all the way to the start of 2007 now has people going crazy for the new show. *Gossip Girl* was loved by thousands of Americans for its iconic moments, the aesthetically pleasing

look of NYC, its savvy fashion style and the inside look it offered into the teenage world.

According to *Insider*, the original producers and cast members shared information on social media about a *Gossip Girl* reboot, which left fans ultra-excited.

The one detail that had fans most surprised was the announcement of the show enlisting a whole new cast to play the iconic hit roles from the show.

The new cast already has started filming the reboot, even through the current global pandemic. The

producers of the *Gossip Girl* reboot shared a look inside the cast shooting at the Met Gala staircase steps.

The team hasn't shared any other details about the reboot, leaving hopeful fans on edge. The major question everyone is wondering is whether the reboot will be up to the original show's high standards.

The main characters of the original cast included Blake Lively as Serena van der Woodsen, Leighton Meester as Blair Waldorf, Penn Badgley as Dan Humphrey, Chase Crawford as Nate Archibald and Ed Westwick as Chuck Bass. All five ce-



Once upon a time on the Upper East Side. Serena van der Woodsen hangs out with Blair Waldorf back in the heyday of the original *Gossip Girl*. Courtesy of The CW Network



Can this new cast capture the magic? Producers at *HBO* are hoping they can. Pictured here (left to right) are new *Gossip Girl* cast members Tavi Gavinson, Thomas Doherty, Adam Charles-Berat, and Zion Moreno.

Courtesy of Getty Images

lebrities played a major role throughout the show.

The only original *Gossip Girl* cast member returning to the show is Kristen Bell who was never on screen, besides stepping in as a cameo character. Bell played the *Gossip Girl* voiceover narrative throughout the entire series' episodes.

"I love *Gossip Girl*, it's one of my favorite TV series," said senior Lais Siqueira. "My favorite thing about the show was the drama that happened. It's funny to watch how things play out sometimes because the "drama" would be dramatic and not necessary. I'm excited to watch the reboot and see if they change anything about how the show plays out."

She wonders how the new cast will work together, because the original cast had such a great chemistry and the characters were played perfectly.

The show that originally aired on *The CW* television network will now get a run on *HBO* when released.

The hit show started off as a book series created by Cecily von Ziegesar. The new reboot is what thousands of people are waiting for, hoping that it will inspire as much love as the original show and cast.

"And who am I? That's one secret I'll never tell! You know you love me. Xoxo, *Gossip Girl*"

The Crown, Season 4

Laura Kelly

Staff Writer

In mid-November, *Netflix* released the fourth season of their hit show, *The Crown*.

Since then, it has made the *Netflix* Top Ten List, due to the excitement surrounding this new season.

According to the network, *The Crown* is based on an award-winning play ("*The Audience*") by showrunner Peter Morgan. This lavish, *Netflix*-original drama chronicles the life of Queen Elizabeth II from the 1940s to modern times. The series begins with an inside look at the early reign of the Queen, who ascended the throne at age 25 after the death of her father, King George VI. As the decades pass, personal intrigues, romances, and political rivalries are revealed that played a big role in events that shaped the later years of the twentieth century.

This popular series (4.7 out of 5 stars) has allowed people to be educated on the Royal Family and what really happens behind the closed doors of Buckingham Palace.

While the show is based off of historical events, there are two sides of the show: the real historical side that has facts to back it up and the dramatic side which is a bunch of events that the director could only assume happened.

It has been made clear that the show is not entirely reliable. It has been rumored that members of the Royal Family have even watched parts of the previous seasons.

An article from *InStyle*'s Christopher Luu said, "Insiders note that Elizabeth enjoyed the show's first season, but took issue with the second."

"The Queen realizes that many who watch *The Crown* take it as an accurate portrayal of the Royal Family and she cannot change that," a senior royal courtier told *Express*. "But I can convey that she was upset by the way Prince Philip is depicted as being a father insensitive to his son's wellbeing. She was particularly annoyed at a scene in which Philip has no sympathy

for a plainly upset Charles while he is flying him home from Scotland. That simply did not happen."

Other family members have also commented on the show with many different opinions, but the most recent season has



The People's Princess. Emma Corrin as Princess Diana in the much discussed Season 4 of *The Crown*.
Courtesy of Des Willie/Netflix

them silent.

The Crown, Season 4 is the reason many people watch the show. It deals with the relationship between Princess Diana and Prince Charles and the struggles Diana faced during her time as Princess Of Wales. At the time, it seemed like a fairytale but as time went on, it was revealed to be the polar opposite.

The topic of Diana and Charles is very sensitive in the Royal Family due to the divorce of Charles and Diana, the affair that Charles had with Camilla Parker Bowles while Diana was still his wife, Diana's bulimia, and the most devastating topic, her death by a car accident rumored to be caused by a paparazzi chase in 1997.

The way Diana was treated and the way that she died has

been a controversial topic for many years. Diana had tapes recorded that were used in a documentary and in a book about how she was truly treated. She described her wedding day as the worst day of her life. It is believed that these tapes were used to help form *The Crown*, Season 4.

The network describes the season like this: "At the beginning of the new season, Charles honors the now-grand royal tradition of falling in love with someone he can't marry (the already wed Camilla Parker Bowles) and instead proposes to Diana, a teenager whom he barely knows. Predictably, their marriage is miserable, and Charles continues to see Camilla behind Diana's back. But unlike the couples who came before, Charles and Diana don't just fester in their unhappiness. Their relationship turns explosive, and the Royal Family finally begins to face the consequences of their draconian rules about love, divorce and duty."

People argue over whether this is fact or fiction. Many people hold true anger and resentment towards the Prince Of Wales due to the way he treated Diana, who was the people's princess. Others do not believe this and they continue to bash the show.

The main conflict was the affair that Prince Charles had with Camilla Parker Bowles. In 1996, Charles admitted to the affair, stating that his and Diana's marriage had already crumbled at the time. *The Crown* portrays this devastating romance as a love triangle that can be much more easily interpreted to the people of today.

An article by Eliana Dockterman and Suyin Haynes in *Time* Magazine, said, "The fiction isn't far from reality. Charles and Diana's fights leaked into the tabloids and presaged their eventual divorce. Charles and Camilla's affair also exploded into the headlines, years before they would finally marry."

This Is Paris - And She's A Survivor

Reagan Kelly

Assistant Art Editor

The Hilton Family is far from ordinary with \$2.5 billion to their name as of 2011, according to *Forbes*. They built this fortune on their well-known hotel chain - *Hilton Hotels*. Conrad Hilton, founder of *Hilton Hotels*, is Paris Hilton's great grandfather.

With this kind of attention on her family, Paris was born into the spotlight. While this is true, it wasn't until she became the poster child for spoiled, rich, party-goers that she distinguished herself from the rest of the Hiltons.

When Paris was just a teenager, she and her sisters moved to New York City along with their parents. As she describes in her documentary, *This Is Paris* which was released this past September, there was a "socialite scene" that she immediately became part of when she moved to New York.

Being born into a family with such high social status, Paris describes her parents as "rug sweepers." She recalls them as people who never wanted to act like anything was wrong and who wanted to project that image onto their children.

That being said, Paris' sister, Nikki Hilton went on to discuss in the documentary, the intense set of restrictions, curfews, rules and expectations her parents set for her and Paris to appease the public and uphold their family reputation.

Anyone with a media outlet or subscription to a magazine would know that Paris did not comply with these restrictions. She was often spotted late at night on her way to clubs and bars.

Nikki Hilton describes long nights where her mom would be on



Another side of Paris. Her new documentary tells of the anguish she endured at the behest of parents so controlling that they even orchestrated a fake abduction. Viewers will find new respect for the savvy socialite.
Courtesy of Clara Hender/YouTube

the phone with night clubs, threatening them to find her daughter. What the media did not capture and no one knew until very recently, was how her parents dealt with this behavior. In the documentary, Paris states, "I felt like I was sent away to be hidden."

The first place her parents shipped her off to was an outdoor wilderness program for kids "needing a change in attitude and direction." She discussed the intense labor she and the other kids were forced to do all day long in the middle of nowhere. Paris and another girl decided to run away into the forest, through cornfields, and into the mountains. She describes getting caught by the men watching over them and getting severely beaten in

front of the other kids to set a precedent.

Her parents sent her off to many other "emotional growth schools," all of which she ran away from. The last school she was sent to is known as "the worst of the worst," with no way out.

At Provo Canyon School in Utah, Paris was taken in the middle of the night with no prior knowledge or context, by two large men. They came into her room and grabbed her, emulating an abduction, all of which was orchestrated by her parents.

Paris states in her documentary that she believes the workers there "got off on torturing children." Kids, there were prescribed pills with no context and forced to take them. She recalled it making kids feel tired and

numb like they were "there," but not consciously there. Most kids in the school were put onto suicide watch.

Paris found out a way to avoid taking the pills and was immediately put into solitary confinement.

Paris claims, "Kids were made to take off their clothes and enter solitary confinement for 20 hours."

She was released out of Provo when she turned 18 and rightfully so, considers herself a survivor.

In the documentary, Hilton often mentions an intense nightmare she has every night about being taken away and locked up somewhere. She has found herself in many abusive relationships, due to the abuse she experienced very early on. Evidently, the trauma she faced took a huge toll on her mental health.

Paris Hilton is idolized by millions of adults and kids all over the world. She has over 13 million followers on *Instagram* alone. She is known as the original influencer and is a household name. For the longest time people stereotyped her as a spoiled, dumb, pretty blonde girl, but what this documentary uncovered is that she was hiding behind a character that she created to hide her anguish.

From opening up about her trauma, she can improve the lives of so many other trauma victims. Paris is known for setting trends and being idolized by everyone who looks at her. By making it okay to be vulnerable and okay to be struggling with something deep and personal, many people, including the impressionable teens that look up to her, will be able to normalize trauma.

This documentary makes society as a whole more comfortable discussing uncomfortable topics, which can lead to children and adults opening up about their stories and getting any support or help they need.

Freshman Vanessa Silva said, "I think it's really important to see people who kids idolize being vulnerable and sharing difficult experiences, so they are more comfortable opening up themselves."

In less than a month, Paris Hilton's documentary *This Is Paris* has already gotten 16 million views.

The world now knows a whole other side of Paris Hilton that they were never shown before. People have gone from idolizing and trying to emulate a shallow pretty woman they thought they knew, to now looking up to and hopefully following the lead of a strong, brave role model.

The Show Cannot Go On!

Isabella Chiaramida

Staff Writer

The year 2020 was unprecedented and unpredictable for everyone, and for businesses like Broadway theaters and other theater show producers and actors, it has been no different.

By the time Broadway begins to open up again in mid-2021, the theaters will have been closed for 444 days, the longest shutdown in all of Broadway history.

Although the March 12, 2020 shutdown marks the first time Broadway has shut down due to public health concerns, it is not the first time they've struggled with a full shutdown. The last time it went dark was from September 11, 2001, to September 13, 2001, due to lack of public transportation, but it was not a government-issued order for the theaters to close. The coronavirus shutdown, though, is much more uncertain than any previous shutdown, due to the lack of when it might safely end.

In a *CBS News* report, two actors spoke about their feelings and struggles during the shutdown.

Performer NaTonia Monét, who was supposed to play the role of Alline in *"Tina: A Tina Turner Musical"* this season—which should have been the most important, exciting time of her life—said that while she is kept busy by *Zoom* master classes and acting as an acting coach for children, she is still hurt.

"I worked so hard for this, like my other fellow artists, and it was snatched away," she said. "I feel like we artists were cast out by our administration."

Many performers feel as though they are requesting assistance from a government that has left them behind. Originally, the shutdown was thought to be a sudden, short, temporary precaution to protect the public, but nearly nine months after the doors shut, the "short" break is feeling more and more painful for workers.

Ashley En-fu Matthews, a performer in the *"Rock of Ages"* revival at the New World Stage says that this isn't solely about Broadway.

"Broadway isn't a place, it isn't

the only end-all-be-all of theater," Matthews said. "Broadway is a street on which most theaters aren't even physically located. This is about an entire countrywide industry that has been left in the dust and is facing catastrophic loss for over a year. Broadway, Off-Broadway, national tours, regional theaters, actors, dancers,

live theater brings in, it puts them in a place of fear and uncertainty, much like every other person affected by the pandemic.

The shutdown hasn't only affected Broadway workers, though. It affects audiences too.

Phoebe Streeter, a Harrison High School 2020 graduate, who was supposed to see the production *"Hadestown"* during what became the major shutdown, says that it was obviously very upsetting for the show to be canceled. She says her tickets are on hold, and they've been given cheaper tickets and better seats.

Most people who had tickets before the shutdown have been able to keep their tickets open for later use when Broadway finally opens again.

Streeter said she would be willing to pay a more expensive price for tickets to other shows after the pandemic is eased up, as long as they weren't exorbitant.

Most likely, when Broadway opens back up, tickets will be significantly more costly than they already were to make up for the lost income of workers, similar to other struggling businesses that have opened back up since the original lockdown ended.

Junior Madison Erbeling was supposed to see the epic dance production *"Riverdance"* for the two-day special, but the tickets have since been refunded and the show permanently canceled. Erbeling was less inclined to spend more on future tickets, but she believes most people will be willing to spend more to see shows they've been desperate to see.

After such a long, unprecedented shutdown of live theater, it is uncertain if Broadway will ever return to the way it was nine months ago, but when it does, one can almost be sure that the open doors will be flooded with excited audiences, eager to see the much-loved shows and happy to support the now-struggling performers.



Courtesy of Charles Sykes/AP

singers, musicians, wardrobe, hair, crew, stage management, front and back of house theater staff all around the county have no end in sight and no support from their government."

To others, the shutdown of live performances may seem like a rather trivial matter, but to workers who depend on the massive revenue that

Elliot Page Comes Out As Trans

Erica Jacobson

Staff Writer

On December 1, 2020, Elliot Page posted a photo to his social media accounts that caused him to be the most talked about celebrity for several days. Page is known for his role as Vanya Hargreeves from *Netflix's* hit show *The Umbrella Academy* and has starred in movies like *Inception*, *Juno*, and *X-Men: Days of Future Past*.



Elliot Page.

Courtesy of Caitlin Cronenberg/Variety

The post was composed of four paragraphs typed in a simple black font on a white background, simple-looking, but with a huge impact.

Elliot got straight to the point, writing, "Hi friends, I want to share with you that I am trans, my pronouns are he/they and my name is Elliot." He then went on to say how thankful he was to be where he is in life and how much the trans community has helped him.

He wrote about how scared he is for himself and the rest of the trans community by going through statistics on how many trans people of color have been murdered and the percentage of how many trans adults

have committed suicide.

He criticized political leaders for failing to help the trans community, writing to them "...you have blood on your hands. You unleash a fury of vile and demeaning rage that lands on the shoulders of the trans community..."

Elliot's last paragraph talked about how he has fully accepted himself and will strive to make the world a better place for trans people who are dealing with hate and abuse.

One of the biggest surprises after Page's coming out post, was how quickly many news and informational websites reported on it and edited in his pronouns on their articles.

Indie Wire writes, "IMDb... swiftly changed all of Page's credits

and pronouns, as did *Wikipedia* and *Netflix*. Outlets used Page's correct pronouns when reporting the news, and most headlines avoided using his former name."

As for Elliot's role as Vanya Hargreeves in *The Umbrella Academy*, many people have questioned what this will mean for the future of the character. Others have become painfully aware that the people asking these questions clearly have never seen the show or weren't paying close enough attention.

The Umbrella Academy has more than one main character in the LGBTQ+ community, including Elliot Page's character, Vanya, who has had romantic relationships with both a man and woman in the show, and Robert Sheehan's character, Klaus,

whose character is pansexual and goes by he/they pronouns. Not to mention, the show is based on the comic books, of the same name, written by Gerard Way, lead singer of the band *My Chemical Romance*, who also uses he/they pronouns.

To answer the questions though, *We Got This Covered* reports that, "Season 3 will reflect Page's own life and that Vanya will come out as trans over the new episodes."

Overall, Elliot Page coming out as transgender is truly a major moment for those within the trans community and the LGBTQ+ community as a whole. His goal to make the world a better place for these communities has already begun and will continue for years to come.

Weddings Still Possible During Current Pandemic

Jonathan Choi

Staff Writer

As the epidemic continues to keep large groups of people from gathering, many couples have found themselves left only with each other, and hands full of cancelled plans.

With large restrictions in place to halt the spread of the virus, how can these penned-up pairs still celebrate their marriage?

There are in fact, many ways to still celebrate with family and friends without risking their health. An example of this is the wedding of Eden and Jay Choi, who were able to share this experience with the people they cared about without anyone getting sick.

The couple had their wedding outside, with only a handful of direct family and the bridesmaids and

groomsmen physically attending. They set up a livestream via *YouTube*, and sent a link to their distant family and relations. Everyone was socially distanced and wearing masks, with the exception of the bride, the groom, and the marriage officiant (who was part of the bride's family).

With only about 25 people, the couple were able to celebrate their union and have a great time as well.

"To think that we 'settled' for this," said groom Jay Choi. "In truth, I think we would've taken this over a normal old wedding anyway."

Hope, combined with strict social distancing, masks, and an overall careful approach, resulted in a wonderful experience for everyone

attending.

"It was extremely worrying," the mother of the bride, Elaina Choi explains. "But one day became one week, became two weeks, became a month, and everyone who came to the wedding was COVID free!"

Jay and Eden aren't the only creative couple finding alternatives to big weddings. *Fox News* reports on newlyweds Melanie and Tyler Tapajna, who, in light of the rising pandemic, participated in a small ceremony with close friends and family, but were unable to hold a large celebration. They had purchased a wedding food truck to cater the attendees, but now all the food was doomed to go to waste.

That was until the couple de-

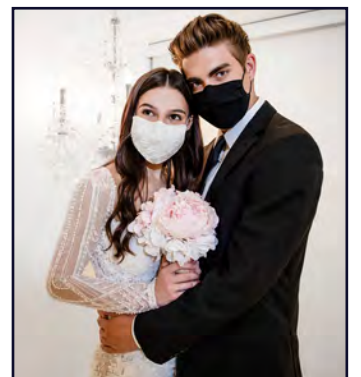
cided to donate the truck to the City Mission of Cleveland, a crisis center made to serve the homeless. After exchanging vows, they headed over to the mission, and proceeded to serve over 140 people with their donation.

"Because we had to cancel everything, we decided to donate the food and see the smiles on everyone's face," said Melanie, the bride. "We know there are smiles underneath those masks and hopefully everyone enjoys it."

These stories and many others are messages of hope and joy, even through the necessary inconvenience of masks and social distancing.

As many couples find them-

selves discouraged over broken plans, may these examples inspire them to look forward, and find new (and safe) ways to honor their love for each other.



Courtesy of Winnie Couture

Star Wars' *The Mandalorian's* Second Season Doesn't Disappoint

Luke Wong

Co-News Editor

[Editor's Note: This article contains many spoilers for *Star Wars' The Mandalorian's* second season.]

The second season of *Disney's The Mandalorian* has come to a close. Providing numerous nods tips of the cap to other titles in the *Star Wars* universe, *Disney* did not disappoint fans this season, despite much of the original show's second season being considered filler by much of the fanbase.

The Mandalorian's second season followed Din Djarin and his companion The Child, better known as Baby Yoda, as they search for a Jedi to train The Child.

The season first opens up with Mando and the Child searching for another Mandalorian to help locate a Jedi. This brings the duo to Tatooine, where they encounter "The Marshall," a random citizen of an abandoned mining town who has taken up Boba Fett's iconic Mandalorian armor. Through an episode of what many considered to be mere filler, the Mandalorian is able to gain back Fett's armor, while also dropping the breadcrumb that Boba Fett somehow survived his time in the Sarlac pit that he famously fell into in *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi*.

The Mandalorian then entered two episodes which followed a mini-arc where Mando, the Child and "Frog Lady" tried to bring "Frog Lady" to her husband. Although these two episodes were great ways to explore the post-Empire era of *Star Wars*, many fans consider these two episodes unnecessary.

Nevertheless, homages to pre-established parts of the *Star Wars* universe began to take place. While on his quest to bring The Child back to the Jedi, he encounters fan-favorite Bo-Katan Kryze. Kryze, an original Mandalorian who became a fan favorite through her extensive appearances during the animated series *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*, decides to point Mando in the direction of a Jedi in exchange for helping to seize an Imperial Freighter. Mando and Kryze and her crew succeed in taking control of the ship, and Mando told to meet Ahsoka Tano.

The series then followed Mando and The Child as they traveled to meet Ahsoka Tano in order to the train The Child. This is when Rosario Dawson's rumors of playing Ahsoka Tano were officially confirmed. Fans were slightly disappointed due to the absence of Ashley Eckstein's iconic voice for Ahsoka Tano, but actress Rosario Dawson received nothing short of a hero's welcome for her portrayal of Tano.

Dawson's only episode appearing as Ahsoka Tano followed Mando and Tano as they attempted to take back an oppressed town from a ruthless tyrant known as The Magistrate played by Diana Lee Inosanto, who has primarily been a stunt-woman since the 1980s.

Fans get an opportunity in this episode to learn more about The Child. Although many have called him Baby Yoda, it is revealed that his actual name is Grogu, and that he was trained

at the Jedi Temple prior to the rise of the Imperial Empire. Although not directly explained, it is heavily implied that Grogu survived Order 66 and the murder of the Younglings by Anakin Skywalker.

In addition to this information, true fans were given breadcrumbs of an Ahsoka Tano spinoff when Tano refers to Admiral Thrawn during her big battle with the Magistrate. Although Thrawn has had limited appearances in *Star Wars: Rebels*, much of the casual fanbase is unaware of the Chiss military mastermind; many fans are hopeful that he will make his live-action debut in the upcoming Ahsoka series. The episode concludes with an arguably unsatisfactory conclusion; Tano refuses to train Grogu due to his deep connection with Mando, but suggests that Mando take Grogu to an ancient Jedi site where he can reach out through the Force to another Jedi.

The next episode follows Mando and Grogu as they go to the ancient Jedi site. When Mando places Grogu on top of the seeing stone, a Force field surrounds him, and Mando is unable to remove him. The reappearance of Boba Fett alongside former Season 1 supporting character Fennic Shand is really the highlight of this episode.

Fett and Mando exchange words regarding Fett's Mandalorian armor, but fight together when Imperial forces come to take Grogu. Although Fett is able to gain back his Mandalorian armor, and the crew are able to fend off the Imperial forces, Moff Gideon's teased Dark Troopers are finally revealed on-screen as they swoop in and take Grogu just as the Force field protecting him collapses.

The final two episodes set-up and execute Mando's attempt to take Grogu back from Moff Gideon. In an episode that many perceived as filler with fan service sprinkled in, Mando, alongside Bill Burr's Mayfeld, Gina Carano's Cara Dune, Carl Weathers' Greef Karga, and the aforementioned Boba Fett and Fennic Shand, the crew go to an Imperial base in order to find the location of Moff Gideon's ship. Even though many fans considered this episode to be relatively unnecessary, fans do get to see Mando take off his helmet for the first time this season.

Following this episode, the crew minus Mayfeld storm Gideon's ship as an attempt to retake Grogu. The crew tries to plan around Gideon's legion of Dark Troopers, but one almost



overcomes Mando.

Mando is quickly able to jettison the remainder of them to space, temporarily keeping them at bay. Fans are then treated to a relatively one-sided duel of Gideon vs. Mando, with Mando fighting Gideon's Darksaber with his pure beskar spear he received from The Magistrate. Mando is able to overcome Gideon and make his way to the bridge, where he is able to regroup with the crew. However, the Dark Troopers are able to make their way back to the ship and begin attempting to breach the doors to the ship's bridge.

When it looks like Mando and his friends are about to die, a *deus ex machina* moment happens; an anonymous X-Wing enters Gideon's ship and fans are treated to a robbed Jedi slicing through Dark Troopers like butter. This Jedi is revealed to be a heavily CGI-ed Luke Skywalker, with Mark Hamill reprising his iconic role, with the help of *Disney's Industrial Light and Magic* division and body double Max Lloyd Jones, according to *Decider*. Although many fans felt that Skywalker's recreation fell well into the uncanny valley, many were incredibly pleased to see Skywalker make an appearance.

The *Mandalorian's* future seems to be relatively well set-up. When Mando bests Gideon in their duel over Grogu, fans are quickly reminded that the Darksaber must be won in ritual combat. bo-Katan Kryze, who has been searching for the Darksaber, realizes this as well. Although no conflict between the two occurred during the season finale, the show appears to be set-up for a future involving just that. Lastly, in the post-credit scene of Season 2's finale, Boba Fett and Fennic Shand are shown killing everybody in Jabba's Palace back on Tatooine. The rather ruthless scene concludes with a title card that reads "*The Book of Boba Fett* | Coming December 2021."

The Mandalorian's sophomore season was relatively well received among *Star Wars* fans.

Junior Brandon Escobar said, "This season definitely proved *Disney* is capable of handling the *Star Wars* series. While this season was amazing, it also required prior knowledge of certain characters, events, and locations that really helped build the world more, and for long time fans it was really a treat."

The Mandalorian received a 94 percent Critic rating on *Rotten Tomatoes*, and an 89 percent Audience rating. Even with some fans taking issue with certain parts of the season, it was generally well-received.

Fan speculation regarding the future of the series has grown since the conclusion of the series. The veiled implication of Grogu's leaving with Luke Skywalker is that he will train with Luke Skywalker and his new generation of Jedi has led many fans to conclude that Grogu will die at the hands of the Knights of Ren and Kylo Ren, as explained during *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, and *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*.

Many fans were understandably greatly upset by this revelation, and hope that Dave Filoni and Jon Favreau have other plans for the third season of *The Mandalorian*.

Reviewer Zaki Hasan at *The San Francisco Chronicle* wrote, "It's no small feat to create a character who is well-rounded and sympathetic, while mostly hidden behind an expressionless mask. But all the credit goes to Pascal for imbuing the man, also known as Din Djarin, with layers of ever-present depth."

Although Season 2 of *The Mandalorian* was filled a fair amount of filler early on in its season, the frequent tips of the cap to beloved and pre-established characters and events within the *Star Wars* universe made it more than bearable for fans.



Mando and The Child. Here is another scene during the search for another Mandalorian. The photo above features the blue-faced character Mythrol. Photos courtesy of *Disney*

90-Second Interviews



“90 Second Interviews” is a feature where-in we sit down with two staff members and see how many questions they can answer in 90 seconds. This issue we turn to two of our historic social studies teachers, Mr. Mark Trebatch and Ms. Natasha Merritt.

Interviews coordinated by Jack Kelly and Kate Rube.

Mr. Trebatch



What is your favorite history course to teach? IB HOA
Who is your favorite U.S. President? George Washington
What would you be doing if you were not a teacher? Law or finance.
What three things would you bring to a deserted island? Fishing net, knife, and matches.
If Harrison High School were to have a hunger games, what teacher would win? MAK, 100 percent!
Starbucks or Dunkin’? Starbucks.
What is your favorite history fun fact? Martin Van Buren is the only American President who didn’t learn English as his first language (He knew Dutch before he knew English)
Favorite SCOTUS case? Loving v. Virginia.
If you were POTUS, what teachers at Harrison High School would be your VP, Secretary of State, and Attorney General? VP - Mr. Zanot, Secretary of State - Ms. Milne, Attorney General - Mr. Hertzig
Most iconic teacher duo: Kaplan and Hertzig or Milne and Mak? Kaplan and Hertzig
Favorite amendment? 14th because it established incorporation.
Favorite teaching online application? Zoom or EdPuzzle.
Where did you go to high school? Great Neck South.
Tell us something about your family. I’ve been happily married for two years and just had a baby girl!
Special skill or hobby? Traveling.
Favorite history text? The Declaration of Independence.
Favorite logical fallacy? Sunk cost fallacy.
Favorite song (or perhaps what would be your theme song)? Moonlight Sonata or *Drive* by Incubus
Notable catch-phrase? These pretzels are making me thirsty.
Favorite meal? Steak and grilled vegetables.
Favorite holiday? Thanksgiving.
Favorite foreign leader? Of the 20th century: Deng Xiaoping. Now: Lee Hsien Loong.
Your favorite TV show? The Wire, Ferrari, and A Shrug.
Favorite car? Ferrari.
Favorite emoji? Shrug.

Ms. Merritt



What is your favorite history course to teach? Global 9
Who is your favorite U.S. President? FDR, because he’s from my home town and my grandfather was the newspaper boy for the Roosevelts.
What would you be doing if you were not a teacher? Travelling the world and writing about history and culture.
What three things would you bring to a deserted island? Chapstick (you’ve gotta keep your lips hydrated), a Swiss army knife, and a hand radio to call for help. Or canvas for shelter, water, and food (and of course chapstick).
If Harrison High School were to have a hunger games, what teacher would win? Mak has the survival skills to be able to survive and set traps and damage others.
Starbucks or Dunkin’? Starbucks because it has a better selection and Dunkin’ is never consistent.
What is your favorite history fun fact? The Suffragitsu was a jitsu master that went around destroying the police at protests to protect other women.
Favorite SCOTUS case? Brown v. Board of Education- it overturns Plessy and leads to a long desegregation process and is a catalyst for additional changes during the Civil Rights Movement.
If you were POTUS, what teachers at Harrison High School would be your VP, Secretary of State, and Attorney General? Attorney General - Hertzig, he would have a good grasp of law and debate and protocol. Sec retary of State - Milne, she’s very diplomatic, but could be firm. VP- Clarke, firm mom energy so she will get the Senate to accomplish things.
Most iconic teacher duo: Kaplan and Hertzig or Milne and Mak? Milne and Mak.
Favorite amendment? The 19th, 100 years baby
Favorite teaching online application? None of it, but I like having my own website.
Where did you go to high school? Three high schools: Sun Valley High in NC, Webatuck High in NY, and Reinbeck High in NY.
Tell us something about your family. My husband Justin and my daughter Arya like to be outside as much as possible.
Special skill or hobby? Acrylic paint pours because it’s a process and it’s relaxing.
Favorite history text? Fantasy and Sci Fi because it’s a break from the world and historical books are really boring. But *Lies My High School Teacher Told Me* is good.
Favorite logical fallacy? Ad Hominem, when you attack the other person personally instead of addressing the argument.
Favorite song (or perhaps what would be your theme song)? *Stairway to Heaven*. It’s a great song and every time I hear it, I really feel it.
Notable catch-phrase? *sarcasm* “Seriously?” or “You’re killin’ me smalls!”
Favorite meal? Mac and cheese or pizza.
Favorite holiday? Christmas, I like the decorations and snow.
Favorite foreign leader? Queen Elizabeth the first (the second, whatever, but the first...)
Your favorite TV show? *Game of Thrones*, not the series finish, but the first few seasons.
Favorite car? 1967 Chevy Impala, or ’64 Ford Mustang, but that’s just me.
Favorite emoji? I’m an older millennial, so I will use them because that’s what people use now, but I don’t really like them.

SPORTS

Girls' Tennis: A Season of Changes

Larissa Iraj

Co-Editor-in-Chief

The Harrison Girls' Varsity Tennis Team was more than eager to get back on the courts after waiting over a month for their season to finally begin. With uncertainty about how the COVID-19 pandemic would affect the start of the new school year, the summer preseason and tryouts were postponed to September 29 by the New York State Athletic Association.

When finally cleared to start playing, the players had to quickly adjust to not only social distancing guidelines and wearing masks at all times, but also playing in colder weather, under the lights, and having no fans at away games.

There were even changes to the rules of the game including match play. The girls now play one eight game pro set instead of two six game sets, which cuts down the match time. When playing other teams, the players were even assigned specific ball numbers so that they would not mix their balls with the other team.

Although this season was far from normal, the players, especially the seniors, were excited to at the very least have some sort of season.

"Despite all the changes due to coronavirus, I am still thankful to be playing and to be with my team for the final season," said senior Jillian Schwartz. "Although some things have been different, I am happy that we can still play and have matches against other schools. It reminds me that some aspects of my life are still normal and not everything has been bad because of changes due to the

coronavirus."

Coach Quan Huynh returned as the head varsity coach for his sixth season and had high hopes for this team, despite the shortened season.

The team was led by senior captains Rachel Griff, Larissa Iraj, and Hannah Lubowitz. Surprisingly, the pandemic did not keep players away. A record number of over 50 players attended tryouts for the JV and varsity teams this year. With 18 spots on varsity and 15 returning players, this year's tryouts were undoubtedly the most competitive of any in the past.

The talent looked promising as many of these players had been on the team for several years now and were ready to step up their game.

"I believe that every aspect of my tennis game has improved over my four years on the team; I have really improved in learning what it means to be a part of a team," said senior captain Rachel Griff. "Throughout these years, I have played both singles and doubles, and when I am not playing I am always cheering my teammates on. This taught me that no matter where you are in the lineup, every point and match matters."

After only a week of practice, the Huskies were ready for their first match away at Byram Hills. For the past three years, the Byram Bobcats have always been one of the toughest opponents for Harrison. This time around was no different. Sophomore Hannah Rose fought a hard match in first singles against one of the

best ranked players in Westchester, but it ended in a tough loss of 8-1. Rachel Griff played second singles and walked off the court with a 8-4 win. The doubles teams of Hannah Lubowitz and eighth grader, Barbara Jo Coppola, and Larissa Iraj and senior Jillian Schwartz had 8-3 and 8-6 victories respectively. Harrison now had three wins, and one loss. The first doubles and second doubles teams both lost in tight matches of 8-3 and 8-4 and tied the score 3-3 with Byram. The match depended on the third singles court. Harrison had been up at the start of the match 2-0 but with a couple of hard hits

from Byram, the scoreboard turned in favor of Byram. Each game went to a deuce and was well played by Alexia Lansberg, but Byram took the win. Harrison lost 4-3.

Freshman Alexia Lansberg explained that to prepare for tough matches like these she has to "think about what my game plan is going to be based on what skill was working for me the best that day such as my serve or forehand. I also try to recall previous matches that have had good outcomes to help me get in a positive mindset."

The team was quick to move on and play Edgemont at home two days later. This was another close

call for Harrison as they only picked up wins in first singles, second singles, second doubles, third doubles, and fourth doubles.

This was a big victory for Harrison since it was senior night and the team was hoping to end the night on a good note. All around, the seniors were happy that they got in their special celebration and played a great match.

However, Harrison did not fare as well at the next home match against Rye Neck. The Harrison Huskies once again lost after a team tie of 3-3. The last match was the first singles team and this set would settle the overall score. As the Huskies and Panthers were tied 7-7, the match went into a super tie-breaker of 10 points. The fans cheered as the Huskies took the first three points, but then the Panthers gained momentum to finish 10-4.

Harrison ended the season with a big win of 5-2 against Eastchester. Between the shift to all remote learning due to a positive COVID-19 case at Harrison High School and then a week of rain, the Huskies' short season came to a quick end.

Junior Avery Heilbrunn stated, "I really enjoyed how even though both the weather and COVID-19 took a major toll on the season, we still managed to make the best of it by having fun at practice and playing matches against different schools, where we had a lot of successful wins."



Masked but happy to have been playing. The Girls' Varsity Tennis Team poses for a different, shorter season. Pictured here are (back row, left to right) Aerin Greif, Rachel Griff, Avery Heilbrunn, Jillian Kaplan, Ally Leighton, Yuiko Suzuki, Ines Xhayet, Alexia Lansberg, Sydney Leibowitz, Hannah Rose, (front row, left to right) Mollie Potkin, Jillian Schwartz, Alexis Cameron, Adriana Gripo, Hannah Lubowitz, Barbara Coppola, and Lauren Roth.

Courtesy of Coach Quan Huynh

Sports Editorial

On The NBA's Support of BLM

Kate Rube

News Editor

In recent months, the National Basketball Association (NBA) has been facing backlash and criticism due to their transparent support of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement. After including the phrase on their courts and into commercials, introductions, and games, certain fans are protesting the NBA, claiming that politics should not be involved in sports. For the almost 75 percent of the NBA players that are Black, however, the issue is not so easily ignored.

Vocal opposition to the movement claims that politics should be left off of the court and that it is "just a game."

Fox News reported that Representative Chip Roy from Texas was among the many people to speak out against the changes. When referring to the 43 police officers who have been killed in the line of duty, he asked, "Are their names on the back of any jerseys?"

This was in response to the names of Breonna Taylor and

George Floyd that have been written on the backs of NBA players in tribute, and the names of other innocent lives taken by police brutality.

Representative Roy claimed that sports are meaningless, but the players have shown that what they are doing is much bigger than just athletics. With such an expansive and diverse platform, the players are committed to advocacy and awareness.

In August, the players made headlines when the Milwaukee Bucks, and consequently all other teams, refused to continue the play-offs in response to the attempted murder of Jacob Blake. The players have shown time and time again that their first commitment is to their community, and second is to basketball. The athletes' persistent pressure and the constant communication between the players union and the organization has influenced the NBA to have arenas serve as polling places for the upcoming presidential election, donate about \$300 million

to BLM-related charity causes (according to *NBC* and *The Associated Press*), and one of the most controversial decisions, to have the phrase 'Black Lives Matter' displayed on the court. That decision is planned to be walked back this upcoming season.

"Some say that athletes should just 'shut up and play,' but we don't see it that way," explained Dan Rube, Executive Vice President and Deputy General Counsel at the NBA. "Many NBA players choose to use their platforms as high-profile athletes to bring about positive change. The NBA is very proud of that and supports it."

While many people appreciate the organization's dedication to advocacy, viewership is noticeably decreasing. Some 5.3 million fans watched the fourth playoff finals game (Miami Heat vs. L.A. Lakers), a surprising two million fewer views than the first game of the series, as reported by Ramos for *Deadline*. Whether this is majorly correlated to the organization's political stance is

unsure, since by game four, the Lakers had pulled ahead by a promising 3-1 game lead. It is likely that most viewers simply lost hope in the competitiveness of the series; however, statistics still show that the number



Courtesy of Kevin C. Cox/Getty Images

of season ticket holders is decreasing, with people very outspoken about their indignation with the NBA.

This, however, is not a problem limited to basketball. Typing "sports viewership" into Google immediately suggests "sports viewership down" as the most frequently searched phrase. The NFL's viewership is down 10 percent from last year, according to Ourand of the *Sports*

Business Journal). The first three days of the U.S. open had a painful 45 percent decrease in viewership from 2019, as per Paulsen of *Sports Media Watch*.

Nobody is doing well. COVID-19 has made for some pretty difficult circumstances, and sports are competing for prime-time spots, often overlapping with other games.

While the NBA happily supports the players, Dan explained that, "At the same time, we recognize that some fans look to sports as an escape and prefer not to see social justice messaging. We respect that viewpoint too. In the end, it's a balance."

Adam Silver, commissioner of the NBA, also empathized with the opposition to the NBA's political stance, saying that he understood what they wanted.

It's something that a lot of people want these days, for one thing in this world to not be so political.

Sports Editorial

Harrison Football Pride - What If?

Wyatt Keller

Staff Writer

"Let's go, Huskies, let's go."

This phrase is something we football players look forward to every year as we step onto that field. After last year's losing season, the seniors all had the same mindset going into the offseason. We all knew that it was now or never. We make a difference now or it is never going to happen.

Then COVID-19 struck. It took many things from everyone: our social lives, our in-person schooling, and lastly, our sports. The football team was shocked when we heard that COVID-19 canceled lacrosse, baseball, and all summer workouts. Summer workouts were the biggest hit to all of us because those 6 a.m. workouts every day were some of

the best memories we shared. At that point, no one was thinking that our season would be taken from us.

That idea was soon put to the test. It was midsummer and we as a team still hadn't picked up a football. Even with hope in the back of our minds, we wondered, "What if?"

That still remains the toughest "what if" ever for our current senior class. What if a goal we have been striving for since pee-wee football in third and fourth grade would be cut short in our senior year? That one dream we all had was getting put on hold when New York Governor Andrew

Cuomo released a statement clearing all non-contact sports able to play, but 36 football players had their dream put on hold till September 29.

As a team, we were excited to be promised a season, that there was something to look forward to. That was until later when the Superintendents of New York schools de-

cided to push back football till 2021. Still, the team remained excited. We now would have five months to get ourselves in ridiculous shape and "football ready" for a season that hopefully, we'll remember forever.

"We as a family want this one dream so bad and want to give something back to this town and the fans who support and encourage us every single year," said starting quarterback Troy Straus. "I am just glad we have a shot to get on that field again and play for something greater than ourselves."

Starting running

back Casey Judelson said, "We have had this dream since playing Pop Warner on the Silver Lake field. We all wanted to beat Rye and win something for the town of Harrison, and right now there is no future talk because as seniors it is time to make it all count."

In spite of adverse circumstances, the Harrison football team is eager and raring to go.

Harrison football is a major tradition with legacies and friendships that have been around forever. Every year boys step on that field and come away as men. We are Harrison football and given the chance, you will see 36 men on that field sooner or later, playing for that H in the middle of the field.



Time To Expand The College Football Playoffs

Max Zuchorski

Staff Writer

Are you a fan of any team that has ever been undeservingly left out of the college football playoffs? If so, then you know the frustration it may cause certain fans to go through. The current rule is that the top four teams in the country will play in a tournament style playoff in order to find out who is the best.

This system was put into place in 2014 after many fans were upset by the former system of just choosing a champion without any type of championship game. But the new system has its flaws in that smaller market teams that go undefeated will not have the big name clout to get in. Even big name teams with only two losses don't get in. It makes the game of football less forgiving, and allows more students to want to opt out of final bowl games if they don't make the playoffs.

However, according to *Bleacher Report*, there is discussion opening up about an expansion to the playoffs. By expanding the playoffs there can be many positive results such as less player opt-outs, more viewers, and a better variety of national champions.



Courtesy of College Football Playoff

By the way the system currently works at least one of the power five conferences gets left out of the College Football Playoffs (CFP) every year. This downgrades the level of viewership from that left out conference, which shows how not only how the limited team action in the playoffs loses money that way but also in limiting the fan bases watching the CFP.

According to *NBC Los Angeles*,

an average of 95,000 people go to the Rose Bowl to attend the game. The Rose Bowl is just one of the many bowls rotated into the CFP. More teams means more games, means increased attendance overall, and more money in total for the NCAA. "The addition of teams would allow a lot more revenue to come in and more money to be made because of more fanbases being involved," said sophomore Jared

Summer. "It also would also give more power to the teams who are better rather than giving the committee so much power like it currently has now. Overall I think it would help college football."

Extending the CFP would also help a lot of programs start bigger and better traditions to create more variety in the elite level of competition.

According to the NCAA, since

the start of the CFP in 2014, there have only been four different winners and nine different colleges have played in its six years. Most of us know there doesn't seem to be any slowing down of Alabama or Clemson any time soon which creates even less variety.

By expanding the playoffs, more teams that are very competitive at that level get another chance at a national title, even if they had already lost a game or two that year.

"I want more teams to get into the playoffs," said sophomore Nick Reed. "I would love to see other teams have a chance to beat Alabama and mix things up. If the expansion were to come through that would mean another SEC team would most likely get in, which means they might know how to better play against Alabama. It just spices things up a bit."

If the NCAA decides to expand the playoffs, then the most likely scenario would be to make it for eight teams. This would allow just the right amount of teams, ensuring a better variety of teams and players, while keeping the CFP competitive.

Cleveland Indians No More

Jared Summer

Staff Writer

The Cleveland Indians plan to drop the nickname that they have used for more than a century, shedding its Native American history because it is seen as racist.

After many years of protests from Native American groups and activists, the Cleveland Indians have decided to change their team name.

They will not be the first team to change its name, though. The Washington Redskins of the National Football League recently changed their name to the Washington Football Team due to the same sort of backlash the Indians received.

Cleveland has not announced what their new nickname will become but it is said that they are looking to modernize their name. The team also announced, "the new

name will be non-Native American based."

"One option is to keep the name for an additional year before transitioning to a new identity; another is to go the route of the National Football League's Washington franchise, which dropped its Redskins nickname in July," said R.J. Anderson of *CBS Sports*. "The club has since been known as the Washington Football Team. Cleveland would, presumably, be called the Cleveland Baseball Team until a new nickname could be settled upon."

"The Cleveland Indians changing their name is the correct thing to do because it is offensive to the Native American people, but it is a shame because Cleveland loses a part of its long wonderful history,"

said sophomore Luke Burden.

The Indians are not the only team in a difficult spot right now as many teams have Native American backgrounds like the Kansas City



Courtesy of Stabbone Macgraw

Chiefs, the Chicago Blackhawks, and the Atlanta Braves. Many high schools and colleges have abandoned Native American names and mascots, but efforts toward changing the names at all sporting levels have increased recently.

Cleveland changing their name isn't the first step they've taken in trying to get rid of their Native American background. In 2018, Cleveland removed their logo of Chief Wahoo from their hats and made their new logo a block C.

Sophomore Mathew Sherman believes that Cleveland is heading in the right direction by trying to get rid of a very controversial background.

"People are protesting ev-

ery day that it is offensive to Native American culture and for Cleveland to first change their logo, and then now announce that they are going to change their name, that takes a lot of respect to accept that their name is no longer appropriate today," he said.

"It was time to move forward with the name change," Cleveland's manager Terry Francona said after hearing the club's announcement.

Although Cleveland does not have a name picked out yet, according to *ESPN's* Jeff Passan, possible names for Cleveland are the Naps, the Spiders, or the Rocks.

Whatever Cleveland decides to choose as its new name, it is likely to require new uniforms and logos around the league and throughout its stadium.

Life Beyond Being a Husky: Four Senior Athletes Commit

Kate Rube
News Editor

Even in the midst of a global pandemic that has put a hold on many sports seasons, several of our exceptional student athletes still have managed to commit to playing their sports in college next year and beyond.

We are proud to feature four of our senior athletes who have made this commitment, and are happy to give them this chance to express their reflections, hopes, and dreams.

Remember: Once a Husky, always a Husky!

Maddy Pirrello (MP)
University of Florida
Soccer



Husky Herald (HH): How long have you been playing your sport?

MP: "I've been playing soccer for as long as I can remember. I started playing when I was around five years old and haven't stopped since!"

HH: What do you love most about your sport?

MP: "What I love most about my sport are the many amazing life lessons I've learned that I can apply to life outside of soccer. For example, I've learned life skills like teamwork, perseverance, and compassion that help me become a better person on and off the field. I'm very grateful I could learn these life lessons while also doing something I love!"

HH: Who has contributed to your success?

MP: "My parents have been by my side through all the good and bad to help me push through whatever was thrown at me. I definitely can't say everything has been perfect but they've been able to give me the wisdom and knowledge I need to get through tough situations to ultimately lead me to success."

HH: Are you excited?

MP: "I couldn't be more excited to play Division One soccer at the University of Florida. Ever since I was a little girl I always said I wanted to play at a school in Florida and I am so lucky to have received an offer from such an amazing school athletically, but also academi-

cally. Gooooo gators!!!!"

Parker Gibbons (PG)
Kenyon College
Baseball

HH:How long have you been playing your sport?

PG: "I have been playing baseball ever since I was three, but was able to start playing organized baseball for Harrison at age five. I played in the Harrison Little League program until I was 13, which is the age you start to play on the "big field" which is the same dimensions as high school and college. I have played on various teams since I was 13, with the Harrison Babe Ruth program, the Westchester Academy based out of Port Chester, and Crush Baseball in Tuckahoe."

HH: What do you love most about your sport?

PG: "I love that when I play baseball, I can truly be in the present moment and eliminate any worries or distractions on my mind. To me baseball represents something I can truly be myself in each time I step on the field. I also love the relationships I have been able to build over time through playing baseball, which have had such a positive impact on my life. It has introduced me to many coaches and teammates that have helped me get to where I am today as a baseball player and more importantly as a person."

HH: Who has contributed to your success?

PG: "I would say that my parents have contributed the most because they have put their money, time, and effort into helping me continue playing baseball and pursuing my goal of playing baseball in college and beyond. Without them, I would not have been able to play the amount of games that I have or have the lessons and resources that have been integral in my becoming a better player. My teammates and coaches have also greatly contributed to my success because they have provided me with the assistance and knowledge that helps me apply myself and work on my weaknesses."

HH:What are you looking forward to most?

PG:"I am looking forward to meeting my new teammates and friends at college. I am really excited to build new relationships that help me become a better baseball player and person. In addition, I am looking forward to being surrounded by others who are skilled baseball players because of the knowledge and tips that I can learn from them to become a better player myself. Working with the coaches I was recruited by is something I am greatly looking forward to because they have been extremely helpful in teaching me about the culture of the school."

HH:What will you miss about being a Husky?

PG: "I will miss being able to play alongside teammates that I have been friends with my whole life. I have so many fond memories of my time playing baseball for the high school. I will also miss being able to represent the town that I live in and have family and friends come to the games and support me. Lastly, I will also miss the coaches that I have had at Harrison because they have

been so impactful in helping me become a better baseball player physically and mentally."

HH: Are you excited?

PG: "I'm really excited to continue playing baseball for a college that I have wanted to attend for a long time. I am looking forward to meeting my new teammates. I am beyond grateful for the opportunity to continue my baseball career in college and am thrilled to begin the next chapter of my life."

Peter Fischer (PF)
Harvard University
Track and Field

HH:How long have you been playing your sport?

PF: "I've been running track since freshman year. At first I joined to stay in shape but I began to really love it sophomore year, and have been very involved since then."

HH: What do you love most about your sport?

PF:"I love the personal battles this sport brings. Of course when you race you want to win, but a lot of the time you're really racing against yourself. Also, relays are the best because it turns track into a team sport. Running knowing your teammates are counting on you is more motivating than running for my own personal time could ever be."

HH: Who has contributed to your success?

PF: "Coach Zanot has put in endless hours training me. During the summer we trained many times a week, despite none of it being part of the school season. Additionally he has helped me mentally because he understands the stresses that track can bring and has helped me perform successfully under pressure. He also connected me with the Harvard coaches to allow for this opportunity. Additionally, my family has been so supportive of my success. My mom specifically has been such a contributor to my success. She goes to every meet and cares so much about my happiness with the sport."

HH: What are you looking forward to most?

PF: "I want to have a strong finish to my career as a Husky. I have a lot of times I am looking to improve this season to make a long lasting mark in Westchester's records. I'm also really looking forward to meeting the Harvard track team, especially being that I haven't gotten to meet my coaches in person due to regulations this year regarding the pandemic. I can't wait to get a better feel of the facilities and team."

HH: What will you miss about being a Husky?

PF: "We have so much spirit at this school, and I will miss the love my teammates, friends, and I all share for this school and the track team. I'll always remember things like winning in a relay race and having my teammates waiting at the finish, or being defended by cheering as you run past your team. We are always complimented by other coaches for being the loudest at meets and we always do a great job of cheering for all athletes as they run."



HH: Are you excited?

PF: "I am super excited to be a part of the Harvard Track & Field team. Years ago I never would have imagined this and it is now a dream come true. There will be a lot of change and uncertainties but I am excited to face them."

Connor Griff (CG)
Hamilton College
Tennis

HH: How long have you been playing your sport?

CG: "At age 10, I started playing tennis once a week. I did not start playing competitively until I was 12. In total, I have been playing for seven years."

HH: What do you love most about your sport?

CG: "The relationships I have built is what I like the most about tennis."

HH: Who has contributed to your success?

CG "A lot of people have contributed to my success. My family and friends are what has contributed to my success along with all of the amazing coaches I have worked with along the way."

HH: What are you looking forward to most?

CG: "I am looking forward to building new relationships. Also, the team environment is something I am really excited about."

HH: What will you miss about being a Husky?

CG: "I will miss the friendships I have built while being a husky. I will also miss the team dynamic."

HH:Are you excited?

CG: "I am really excited for the next chapter of my tennis and academic career. I cannot wait to connect with others and enjoy my time at Hamilton."

