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### COVID-19 Vaccines

By Nicole Belyy '23

Over a year into the pandemic, the rollout of a vaccine brings hope of the end of the pandemic and the eventual return to “normal” life. Millions of people have already received either one or both shots of the vaccine. Currently, the Food and Drug Administration has authorized the use of three vaccines. Two of the vaccines, from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, require two injections, while the third vaccine from Johnson & Johnson requires a single shot. But who exactly is eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination?

**“...vaccinating all age groups, including children, will be crucial to protecting everyone from contracting the coronavirus...”**

*- Nicole Belyy '23*

Well, as of late March, New York State has allowed residents who are older than sixty, have pre-existing health conditions, or work in health care, education, public transit, and the food industry to be inoculated. Starting today, March 30, all New Yorkers age 30 or older will be able to be vaccinated, and all New Yorkers age 16 or older will be eligible on April 6, well ahead of the May 1 deadline

set by the White House. Nationwide, the minimum age to receive any vaccine is sixteen years old.

Pharmaceutical companies must test the effects of the COVID-19 vaccine on children before it is distributed for use since vaccines may produce different immune responses in children compared to adults. Therefore, infants, kids, tweens, and teenagers are currently taking part in clinical trials, demonstrating the vaccine’s effectiveness in younger people. Eventually, a vaccine will be approved for all adolescents and kids, although it may take months to test and administer it, stretching into late 2021 and early 2022. However, vaccinating all age groups, including children, will be crucial to protecting everyone from contracting the coronavirus and will lead the country and world to reach herd immunity, ultimately stopping the pandemic.

### Period Poverty

By Tess Chernauskas '22

Throughout much of the world, a stigma surrounding menstruation has had an array of negative effects on females, both physical and psychological. Contrary to what most may think, period poverty is not only an issue that affects developing countries, but also one that impacts females in our very own community. In addition,



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inadequate access to hygiene tools and a lack of education surrounding menstruation have created an environment that fosters a sense of shame and continues to support a damaging stigma.

As previously stated, the problem starts close to home. In the United States, period products are taxed as non-essential items in 35 out of 50 states. In fact, an overwhelming 64% of women reported struggling to afford period products in the past year. Adding to this, food stamps fail to cover menstrual products for those who may be homeless or living below the poverty line. This form of gender-discrimination is even more egregious due to the fact that products such as condoms and medication for male erectile dysfunction remain untaxed and are seen as “essential.”

With the tangible repercussions of period poverty also come stigmatizations. In many countries, students may even miss school due to societal stigmas or inadequate access to sanitary products. A recent study showed that the majority of girls in Uganda stay home during their cycle in order to avoid mockery. These women and girls may also be ostracized from everyday activities such as socializing. This is also seen in Nepal where women are commonly dismissed to separate huts during menstruation. Although their reasons for shunning the “impure” women have been proven false, these beliefs are so deeply

ingrained in their culture that the practice continues.

However, there are many ways we can mitigate the inequalities related to menstruation. Arguably the most effective means of doing this is through education, for much of the stigma surrounding female health is rooted in myths and misconceptions. In addition, the normalization of menstruation is paramount in creating a comfortable environment for adolescents to ask questions and become more informed. However, from a legislative standpoint, there is much more that needs to be done. A menstrual equity policy would help to facilitate access to period products in schools, eliminate taxes on such products, and ensure that food stamps cover the purchase of feminine products.

Overall, period poverty is an issue that spans much further than the accessibility of sanitation products. It is a matter that concerns both human rights and the dignity of women and girls alike.

### **Teen Mental Illness During the Pandemic**

*By Alessia Coluccio, '22*

In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has devastated the world in the past year, another type of pandemic has been affecting teens throughout quarantine. The pandemic is mental illness. Teenagers



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across the globe have been isolated from their friends and the rest of society for about 10 months now. They are trapped in their homes continually living the same endless cycle of going to school and sleeping. Every day feels the same. The pandemic has shut down many extracurricular activities limiting the number of distractions and deviations a teen can have from this continuous cycle. As a result, mental health diagnoses have skyrocketed.

According to a study conducted by the California Partners Project, teens have increased their use of social media and gaming in order to meet their social needs, distract themselves from reality, and avoid feelings of boredom, sadness, and anxiety. One student from the study said, “my use of social media is to numb my feelings, I don’t want to feel anymore.” Chatting with friends, being with family, scrolling through social media, and exercising are all activities, according to the study, that contributed to positive moods for teens throughout the pandemic. However, one of the main causes of negative moods in teens is school, both online and in person. One student from the study said, “School is somewhat lonely and very stressful.” Research shows that students often depend on their friends to maintain a sense of self-worth and relieve stress caused by school. In a study of 3,300 high school students conducted by The New York Times,

1/3 reported feeling overwhelmed academically this year because of having limited contact with their friends to help them cope with stress.

At first, online classes were happily accepted since students no longer had to get up as early or commute, but this honeymoon phase eventually faded away. Students no longer feel engaged in their classes, and as a result, are not processing what they are learning. The pandemic as a whole has caused a dramatic drop in school performance for many high school students. For example, in Maryland - according to The Washington Post- failure rates in Math and English have jumped sixfold in 2020, and in North Carolina, 46% of students in grades 3-12 are failing at least half of their classes, which is more than double the number from 2019. What many people do not realize is the connection between anxiety and depression and school performance. According to a study published by Harvard Health Publishing, depression and anxiety neurologically affect the function of the brain. Those with depression- specifically -have constant high levels of the stress hormone cortisol in their brains. Long exposure to this hormone can slow the production of new brain cells and as well as cause the shrinkage of the cells in the hippocampus, leading to memory loss, impairment in one’s ability to process information, and reduced cognitive





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flexibility. Therefore, it is scientifically proved that it is harder for those with depression to stay focused and do their school work. Additionally, a deficit of neurotransmitters in the brain, a cause of various other mental disorders such as anxiety, OCD, ADHD, mood disorders, and anger control problems, can also make it difficult for students to stay focused on their school work. There are also numerous physical reactions to stress that can make the pressure of school to many painful and unbearable. For instance, many common symptoms of intense panic attacks include sweating, chills, shaking, breathing problems, crying, chest pain, nausea, abdominal pain, headaches, and dizziness. More than 6% of all teens in the United States, according to the CDC, are on psychiatric meds to help with the physical and mental symptoms of these panic attacks.

**“To help support students’ mental health, Dominican Academy is looking into hiring a part-time school psychologist for September!”**

*- Alessia Coluccio '22*

In the United States, 17% of adolescents ages 6-17 are diagnosed with at least one mental disorder, according to the University of Michigan Health Lab. On the

bright side, more teens have begun to seek help to manage various mental illnesses. According to an online screening conducted by Mental Health of America, the number of people looking for help with anxiety and depression in 2020 is 93% higher than last year. Depression rates in the U.S. have increased by 9.7% among youth in 2020. A horrifying truth is that suicide rates and ER admissions related to mental illness have also increased. Beginning on March 16, 2020, through October 17, 2020, the number of ER admissions due to self-harm increased by 24% among children ages 5-11 and 31% among adolescents ages 12-17 according to JAMA Health Forms. Additionally, suicide is now the second leading cause of death for those between the ages of 10-24. The National Public Radio published a survey in which 25% of respondents ages 18 to 24 had serious thoughts about suicide within 30 days of filling out the survey. The National Alliance on Mental Illness’ Help Hotline, has also seen a 65% increase in distress calls from March to mid-August 2020. Horrifyingly, according to America’s Health Weekend, 11 in every 100,000 teens ages 15-19 committed suicide in the past year.

This demonstrates the severity of many teens’ mental health today. Unfortunately, 60% of youth with depression do not receive mental health treatment. The pandemic has limited peoples’ access to various mental health



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professionals such as therapists and psychologists. To help support students' mental health, Dominican Academy is looking into hiring a part-time school psychologist for September!

This article barely scratches the surface in discussing the countless mental disorders teens around the world face. More people need to be educated about mental health so that teens don't feel as alone in their psychological battle, especially during this time when we are all socially isolated.

### **Indoor Dining is Back!**

*By Tara Larson '21*

Restaurants in both New Jersey and New York are now expanding indoor dining capacity. Governor Andrew Cuomo and Governor Philip Murphy have decided together to step into this next phase. Governor Cuomo announced that the adjustment would begin on March 19, with New York City going from 35 to 50 percent for indoor dining, and the rest of New York State going from 50 to 75 percent capacity. New Jersey will expand its capacity from 35 to 50 percent. These relaxed restrictions are a part of the two states' attempts to strengthen the economy and recover from the havoc COVID-19 continues to wreak on the world around us. Acting as a voice of reassurance, Governor Murphy stated, "We believe that when all factors are weighed,

we can make this expansion without leading to undo further stress on our health care system." This is a conscious decision for Governor Cuomo as well, as both states have been closely examining the continuous decline in hospitalization and infection rates. Since indoor dining was cleared to resume on February 12, two incubation cycles have gone by without any major increase in cases. Since New Jersey last expanded dining capacity on February 5, hospitalization rates have fallen by over 1,000 and have remained steady. In addition to this promising data, both New Jersey and New York have enhanced the process of vaccination. Restaurants will be directed with strict guidance, and State officials will remain focused on the statistics of the situation.

**"With this recent transition, there is a signal of hope not just for restaurants, but for the public as well."**

*- Tara Larson '21*

For restaurant staff and owners across New York and New Jersey, there is a feeling of a possible end to the nightmare that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought. This cautious but important step is helping local businesses make their comeback. For the past year, restaurants have been open with restrictions, involving limitations on



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indoor capacity. With the financial troubles of owning a restaurant in the midst of a global pandemic, various locations have been severely struggling, while some were even painfully forced to close. With this recent transition, there is a signal of hope not just for restaurants, but for the public as well.

Even with this exciting action propelling us into a future of optimism, it is still necessary to wear a mask and act responsibly. Happy dining!

### **A Modern Crisis of Empathy**

*By Grace Marks '21*

You can be friends with whoever you want. In this country we have freedom of association; we can choose who to surround ourselves with. However, I have seen an increasingly popular narrative that seems to draw a line in the sand. It states “I will respect your opinion... as long as your opinion does not disrespect someone else’s existence.”

Fair enough, I thought at first. This sentiment (along with a few other ones more specifically related to friendship) went viral in 2020. It spread like a wildfire among proponents of Instagram politics. The basic claim is that you can’t be friends with anyone you disagree with on things considered “fundamental.”

The idea was very easy to go along with at first because at that moment in history, it had seemed to be in reference to racism. I likely thought to myself “obviously!” However, when we inject some nuance into the issue, we find that this rule can— and has— been applied to a wide range of issues. It is only when seeing it used in other contexts that I saw the dangers of this idea: an idea which ultimately encourages us to be complacent, unempathetic, and to baselessly ascribe bad intentions to people we disagree with.

To set down some premises, I believe that having differing opinions does not have to drive people apart, but instead *towards* heartfelt and thoughtful discussion with one another, even when dealing with human rights issues. Tolerance is about respecting other people’s opinions, even if you personally think that those opinions are disgusting or problematic. You hear them out and listen to them, for more than just the purposes of formulating your own counter-arguments. If everyone agreed with you, what would be the purpose of tolerance? There would be nothing to tolerate.

If your own opinions are strong and correct, they should be able to withstand the scrutiny of you listening to differing ones. The only way to know for sure that you are making the correct judgments is to re-examine your own thoughts by giving



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others a chance. If at this point (after engaged listening) you still find these opposing beliefs to be repulsive, do you have to never speak to that person again? In my opinion, not necessarily.

If you can find it in your heart to be unbothered, you can simply agree to disagree. I stand by my original statement: you can be friends with whoever you want. But why? First of all, I find it unreasonable to say that if you find out that any of your friends have differing opinions you must cut them out of your life because they are problematic, and they should be punished for daring to disagree with you. To quote *12 Angry Men*, the play D.A.'s Drama Club is putting on this year, "you have no monopoly on the truth." But more broadly, (and this is the crux of my point here) it is important for the unity of this country that we do not ascribe bad motives to each other based on no evidence. I would like my friends to have good intentions towards me and others, and I would like us to have compatibility, but for me the rest is window dressing.

You know that this person has a different opinion—be it political or otherwise—but often there is no indication that this opinion is held because of hatred. Perhaps this is their opinion because they believe it best secures the safety of their loved ones, or the prosperity of the country, or because of any number of other respectable hopes and dreams on

which you might be able to find common ground. Understanding this is a matter of separating the person from the opinion you despise. This is almost like separating the art from the artist, such as in the case of rejecting J.K. Rowling's recently revealed unsavory opinions while still appreciating the masterpiece that is Harry Potter—which is devoid of their effects. (Perhaps J.K.'s family can further separate her from her opinions, but I don't personally know her, so who knows?). It's also like how most of us still listen to Kanye West despite recent controversy. In these situations, it is so easy for us to find the good and appreciate it. We can clap at the things we love and boo at the things we hate without conflating the two. This is why it is so surprising that we can so easily dismiss entire *people* based on just one opinion.

**"It is important for the unity of this country that we do not ascribe bad motives to each other based on no evidence."**

- Grace Marks '21

There are so many things we fail to consider. If someone reacts with more emotion or malice than seems warranted, perhaps the issue in question has some sort of personal significance to them which blurs their judgment in this instance. A little



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compassion would go a long way in replacing the obnoxious self-righteousness that it must require to believe that you are entirely correct, and that the person in front of you is a person you should shun. To an outsider that response could look like fear. Fear that the ideas you are so confident in are not as rock solid as they seem, and might crumble after repeated conversation with opposition. No one should have this fear. It is fine for us to prepare to say “I told you so,” but we should *also* prepare to be wrong. In a few years time you might look back and think about how glad you are that you changed your terrible opinion. Base your friendships on other things.

To conclude, if you agreed with anything I said here (and you don’t have to, I’ll probably still be your friend), make an effort to try to understand the person behind the politics next time. Try to convince them, let them try to convince you, and if they are not treating you with the same respect, take the high road. Be the change you want to see. I am not trying to suggest that this *has* to end in friendship. I don’t find friendship with a racist—to use the original context as an example—to be enticing (what a shocker). When you separate a racist person from racist ideas, you often find a damaged person with a lot of anger or ignorance; I think you will find they do not make a great friend anyway, *even* when separated from the ideas. It is difficult to see past such

anger. On the other hand, where there are good intentions, even when these good intentions back bad ideas there is some potential for goodwill and friendship. The general disregard for this fact can be seen as one of the negative outcomes of modern “cancel culture,” but also indicative of a larger trend—one in which we “cancel” (to use an overused word) what we have not even tried to know or appreciate in the first place.

I will end this by saying that most of my favorite people in my life are people with whom I disagree on various topics that I consider fundamental—even “human rights issues.” These people may not be racist or sexist, but some do believe things that I personally think “disrespect other people’s existence.” But they respect me; they have good intentions, and when I imagine a life without them in it, it makes me incredibly sad for those who miss out on such relationships.

### **NASA Honors Mary Jackson**

*By Julia Sheehan’23*

NASA renamed one of its research centers after late scientist Mary Jackson on Friday, February 27. Jackson was a pioneer, the first Black woman to ever be an engineer at NASA. She was also one of the inspirations for the book, *Hidden Figures*. The book was published in 2016 and later



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adapted into a critically-acclaimed movie in the same year.

**“...she was promoted to engineer, thus becoming NASA’s first Black female engineer...”**

*- Julia Sheehan '23*

Mary Jackson was born in Hampton, VA on April 9, 1921. She graduated from an all-Black high school with highest honors and went on to receive her bachelor’s in mathematics and physical science at the University of Hampton. After she graduated, she taught math at another all-Black school in Maryland. She also tutored high school and college students on the side, which she continued to do throughout her life. In 1943, she returned to Hampton, and in 1951 she was recruited by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), which in 1958 was succeeded by NASA. Mary Jackson started her career working in the West Area Computing Unit at NACA’s Langley Research Center in Hampton, VA. When she started working at that unit, it was still segregated and she worked under one of her Hidden Figures counterparts, Dorothy Vaughan. In 1953, she accepted an offer to work with engineer Kazimierz Czarnecki in the Supersonic Pressure Tunnel, which was used to study forces on a model by generating winds almost twice the speed of

sound. Czarnecki encouraged her to take more classes and become an engineer for NACA. The required courses were offered by the University of Virginia as night classes taught at the all-White Hampton High School. She had to petition the city of Hampton to let her take the classes. After completing the course in 1958, she was promoted to engineer, thus becoming NASA’s first Black female engineer. The data from the Supersonic Pressure Tunnel experiments would help engineers understand air flow in order to improve United States planes.



Jackson served as an engineer in many divisions of NASA - the Full-Scale Research Division, the Subsonic-Transonic Aerodynamics Division, the Compressibility Research Division, and the High-Speed Aerodynamics Division. She ultimately wrote or co-wrote 12 papers for NACA and NASA. By 1979, Jackson had achieved the most senior position in NASA’s engineering department. However, she decided to take a





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demotion to serve as an administrator in the Equal Opportunity Specialist field. So, after some training, she returned to Langley research center. She worked to make changes and help women and other minorities receive recognition and opportunities for their work. She did this until her retirement in 1985. She passed away on February 11, 2005.

The renaming of the center serves as a lasting reminder of Jackson's pioneering. Being NASA's first Black female engineer was certainly not an easy feat, as she faced sexism and racism, even having to petition the city in order for her to receive the education she wanted. Mary Jackson's story of determination will continue to inspire many generations.

### **D.A.'s Spirit Perseveres!**

*By Francesca Geyer '24*

This year because of the pandemic, many of D.A's traditions were altered. Luckily, Spirit Week/month was not one of them. Pajama Week and Decade Week were two examples of the new and improved themes this year.

Students felt that Pajama Week was a fun and exciting change to normal hybrid days. This also gave the feeling that school was "somewhat normal." Although that was one freshman's opinion, many other

students, from all grades, are likely to have felt the same way.

**"Decade week had a very fun theme and was a nice change from our everyday routines."**

*- Francesca Geyer '24*

Dr. Serpagli loved the change from a week to a month and thinks it was a much-needed break given the circumstances. She also appreciated the chance to stay in her PJs during the cold winter. Decade Week was another one of the widely appreciated themes. It was thought to be a creative way for D.A to dress as their favorite era. Decade Week had a very fun theme and was a nice change from our everyday routines.

Overall, Spirit Month has just been one example of how D.A has effectively adapted and grown during this tough time, while still staying spirited.

### **Let's Get Cooking!: Making Malawah Pancakes with S.O.C.A.**

*By Quinn Pasmantier '22*

On February 24, 2021, the smell of fresh cooking filled the kitchen of every D.A. girl's house. For one fast-paced hour, we sliced apples, flipped crêpes, and sang along to Ms. LiPuma's cooking playlist as we worked. Though separated by miles,





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each and every one of us got to eat lunch together that day.

For Black History Month, D.A.'s Students Of Color Alliance (S.O.C.A.) paired up with Student Council to host *Let's Get Cooking!*, a school-wide event that aimed to educate students on Black History through food. After a preliminary meeting with Student Council, S.O.C.A. began compiling a Historical Recipe Book, which in its final form featured ten different traditional recipes from around the world. Eventually however, it would be up to Ms. LiPuma, the club's moderator, to select just one to be demonstrated for the school on Club Day. The recipe eventually chosen was Malawah Sweet Pancakes, a Somali dish. "I thought they would be relatively easy, or at least borderline slightly challenging for someone that wasn't necessarily comfortable or confident in the kitchen" said Ms. LiPuma. "Additionally, I thought that the Malawah Sweet Pancake had a rich history of its spices behind it as well, as it's very versatile! You can make it sweet or savory and fill it with whatever your heart desires, so it seemed like it would appeal to everyone from all walks of life."

The event started off with a short preparation of the Granny Smith apples and pancake mix -- led by Ms. LiPuma, who acted as head chef for the day. She taught us the proper way to slice the pieces and mix in the ingredients, slipping in Geometry jokes

every now and again. The Zoom chat quickly caught on, and soon was filled with a flood of compliments and further pun suggestions. "My favorite part of the whole webinar was definitely the audience participation!" commented Ms. LiPuma afterwards. "I really enjoyed getting to see everyone's reactions to how they were feeling about the experience in the chat, and listening to them interact with my wonderful panelists of S.O.C.A. and STUCO. I especially loved all of the student-suggested names for my future cooking show! I really liked LiPumakes and the Proof is in the Pudding -- you know I can't resist a Geometry pun."



As everyone stirred their batter and flipped their crêpes, the student panelists took turns sharing interesting pieces of trivia about Black History Month. Then, when the pancake was finished cooking, it was finally time to add the cinnamon-and-honey apples! In the last few minutes, Ms. LiPuma demonstrated how to properly fold the



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crêpe, and everyone showed off their final results. “I was so impressed with the photos students shared with me of their creations!” she said. “Everyone did so well for their first time making a crêpe, which is not an easy skill!”

The S.O.C.A Instagram account, @dastudentsofcolor, later posted videos and pictures taken during the event -- as well as the recipe for anyone who couldn't attend! Needless to say, everything looked delicious. It was truly an unforgettable experience for everyone involved. “I hope that all students who participated in the event got to try something new, learn something new about Black History, and eat something tasty by the end” said Ms. LiPuma. “I hope that this inspires students to try different cuisines from different cultures and dive deeper into the history behind those dishes and cultures.”

If you would like to try your hand at making these delicious Malawah Pancakes, here is the link to the recipe: [Malawah Sweet Somali Pancakes](#).

### **The Ricci Young Scholars Program**

*By MaryAnn Uduebo '22 and  
Ana Winston '22*

As we entered junior year during a pandemic, we were resigned to a year without meeting new people or having any events to look forward to. However, to our surprise, our junior year Mandarin class had

the luck of being able to participate in the 2020-21 Ricci Young Scholars Program. Originally a program to send Regis Mandarin students abroad to China to connect them with students from Nanjing Foreign Language School, it was changed due to the pandemic to include eight D.A. juniors. During the start of the program, we were allowed to choose from three groups: Culture, Social Media and Technology, and Politics.

MaryAnn: I was a part of the Culture group, which eventually got split into two due to the amount of students interested in pursuing the topic. My group consisted of three D.A. students, two Regis students and four Nanjing Foreign Language School students. Our sub-group chose to explore significant destinations in both cities and discuss their meanings. We talked about destinations like Central Park, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Broadway in New York and 玄武湖 (Xuanwu Lake Park), Confucius Temple, and the Nanjing Museum in 江苏 (Jiangsu). We researched the origins of these locations and how their presence impacts the cities. After a couple weeks of looking at different places, we decided to focus on the aspects of our city that play a vital role in our daily lives. We focused our presentation on a “Day in the Life” theme that looked at the differences in our subway systems, schools and recreation. Communicating and working with the



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students in China on a project that was able to connect so many of the similarities in our routines was a great educational experience for me that I won't soon forget.

Ana: I was a part of the Social Media and Technology group. I signed up for that specific topic because the group needed a student from D.A. I was a little skeptical at first, originally having planned to talk about culture, but this switch turned out to be a great start to my experience in the program. My group was made up of two students from Nanjing Foreign Language School and two students from Regis High School, as well as our two moderators: Ms. Wei and our very own Mandarin teacher, Ms. Chen. Throughout the course of our meetings, we all got to know each other and started to research attitudes towards social media in our respective countries. Because I was the only American student in the group who was able to download and create an account on WeChat, a Chinese messaging app, I managed communication between my group members and arranged meetings outside of our scheduled seminars. The increased workload was difficult at times, but very gratifying once we started seeing our final product. Our presentation topic was narrowed down to the perception of privacy on social media in both of our countries, both from a legal and social perspective. As well as having learned a lot during the course of the first semester, I'm also proud

to say that I've met a lot of great people worldwide, that I hope to stay in contact with for a long time.

The coming semester of the Ricci Program brings new students and new focuses. It has recently been announced that this year, our presentations will be focused around climate change, through the lenses of the three different groups we had last semester. The opportunities this program has opened for us have been wonderful, and we're so excited to see what's to come.

### **About Time: The 2020 Met Gala**

*By Ava Filocamo '23*

Fashion is a form of self-expression, style, and design. It can be broken into its form and material. Viewed through another lens, it is also a historical and sociological tool. Fashion will tell a thrilling story about a particular period of time. Considering a fabric-covered button, the length of a hem or placement of a pleat brings an instant wave of knowledge of life decades ago. Even here at D.A., as exhibited during Decades Week, fashion is used directly to identify a particular historical era. This undeniable tie between fashion and history is what makes last year's Met Gala theme so innovative: exploring the juxtaposition of time trends across fashion. Think Flintstones meet The Jetsons.



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Each year on the first Monday of May (with the exception of 2020), the Metropolitan Museum of Art hosts one of the most anticipated events in the fashion world--The Met Gala. The event is a fundraiser for the Costume Institute and is its largest source of funding. Just in 2019 alone, the Gala brought in more than \$15 million. It helps to support the Institute's curatorial department for exhibitions and publications.

The Met Gala is the Superbowl of fashion. A-list celebrity and world-class designers are invited to this event and paired together to create extraordinary outfits. Before the ideas begin swirling in the heads of designers, there is a decision to be made regarding the theme for the year. The theme is not just restricted to that first Monday in May but goes on to become the main exhibit for the MET's Costume Institute over the following year.

In the fall of 2019, it was announced that the theme for the 2020 Met Gala would be "About Time: Fashion and Duration."

The man who brainstorms and decides these themes is Andrew Bolton, one of the most famous fashion curators in the world. As he decides the theme, Anna Wintour, the Editor-in-Chief of Vogue, ultimately brings his theme and ideas to life. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, designers were unable to relate to the theme via creatively-dressed celebrities on the famous red carpet. There was, however, an incredibly thought-out experience for visitors to experience at the MET. This exhibition portrays over 150 years of fashion, showing how fashion has built a bridge between the past and present, and eventually the future. The French philosopher Henri Bergson believed that time exists as a continuous flow, and the relationship between the past and the present is one of coexistence, rather than succession. The MET theme illustrates how the persistence of time spent, coupled with the present, can be explored through fashion in a tactile way. Fashion dating back to the toga and top hat influences the design of clothing today, and present-day designers are able to look back on fashion and reinvent.

To illustrate the concept of duration—of the past co-existing with the present—two garments from different time periods are paired to show a relationship. The costumes are connected through shape, motif, material, pattern, technique, or decoration. For example, a 1938 Elsa



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Schiaparelli velvet evening jacket with reflective mirrors symbolizing Versailles was paired with a 1978 Yves Saint Laurent ensemble embroidered with a broken mirror motif. A 1943 tailored women's suit in the menswear style by Pleydell and Smith Bertha was displayed with a vintage men's tuxedo jacket from 2000 by Martin Margiela. The jacket was styled as a dress. This pairing showed the sustainable use of upcycled fabric illustrating that past, present, and future can be joined to express duration across the narrative of time.

Fashion is both timeless and time-specific, bound and freed simultaneously by the existence of the past and future. The 2020 MET Gala expertly assembled visual cues that show what is past, is present.

### WandaVision Review

By Kate Izzo '22

Wanda Maximoff and Vision are two of the most overlooked characters in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, but their touching love story made the series WandaVision a global sensation.

WandaVision is a limited series available on Disney+ that centers around Wanda Maximoff, the witch introduced as a Hydra agent in *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, and The Vision, a robot built from Tony

Stark's artificial intelligence in *Avengers: Age of Ultron*.



**"WandaVision had a beautiful view on grief and love..."**

- Kate Izzo '22

The series begins in black and white with a classic 1950s style sitcom episode that gets more and more bizarre as the episode continues. The next several episodes travel through the decades of classic sitcoms, drawing on *Bewitched* from the 1960s, *The Brady Bunch* from the 1970s, *Full House* from the 1980s, *Malcolm in the Middle* from the 1990s, and *Modern Family* from the 2000s. As the show progresses, there are several episodes that show how the outside world, especially the U.S. government, is reacting to Wanda's fantasy that she made "real" by encompassing an entire town to play parts in her show.

This show is one of the first pieces of Marvel media that explores what life is like after Thanos. After 5 years of being "dead"





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because of Thanos's snap that obliterated half of the universe's population in *Avengers: Infinity War*, Wanda realized that the people who loved her the most were all gone, her parents, her brother, and now, the love of her life. So, she created a spell on the town where she and Vision wanted to settle down so she could at least live a semblance of a life with him. This was a security concern for the government because there were innocent people trapped in her spell, so they brought in the best and brightest of the agency S.W.O.R.D. Monica Rambeau (introduced in *Captain Marvel*), Jimmy Woo (introduced in *Ant-Man*), and Darcy Lewis (introduced in *Thor*) investigated the "Hex," as they called Wanda's spell, and tried to protect her from Agent Hayward's proposed missile strikes.

WandaVision had a beautiful view on grief and love, perfectly encompassed in my favorite Vision quote from episode 8, "Perhaps grief is just love persevering." Marvel's exploration of Wanda's grief and emotions was refreshing because Marvel's past female characters, like Black Widow, had very little dimension and barely showed emotion. This show is so poignant to this moment because in real life, this past year has been one of grief, loss, trying to find a way to move on, and accepting a completely new way of life. WandaVision encapsulates the despair that so many of us coped with by escaping into our favorite shows and movies

during quarantine. I think WandaVision is Marvel's best work yet and I am so excited to see how they follow it up in *Doctor Strange: Multiverse of Madness* and *Falcon and the Winter Soldier*.

### Time

By Damaris Lindsey '23

In 1997, two young newlyweds had opened a clothing store in LA together. Being high school sweethearts, they were excited for what was to come in their future. Although optimistic about their business endeavors, they soon fell on hard times. "Desperate people do desperate things," says the main focus of the documentary, Fox Rich. Her husband and a cousin of her husband went to rob a bank with Fox as the getaway driver. They got caught and Rob G. Rich, Fox's husband, was sentenced to 60 years in prison without parole.



The documentary 'Time' does not try to say that what these people did was right, or make right out of a bad situation. It instead follows the life of Fox Rich,



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describing how it is taking care of a family, while the love of your life is locked away. At the time of her husband's sentence to prison, Fox Rich was pregnant with twins, and once those twins were born, she served 3 and half years. She named the twin's Freedom and Justus: Freedom, for what she hoped she and her husband would never have taken away, and Justus, which stands for the phrase 'Just Us', just her and her husband. Once out of prison, Fox Rich moved her and her family to New Orleans so they could be closer to the Louisiana State Penitentiary, where her husband resided. She began to run her car dealership and devoted her free time to the prison abolition movement.

It is important to note that this is Fox Rich's story and not her husband's. This is a story about the strength it takes to deal with the loss of a companion. Mrs. Rich had six sons whom she had to raise without their father, and a common theme with this documentary was around who these men would grow up to be, without having a father figure around. Fox Rich had videotaped much of these kids' lives so that when their father was finally free, he would not miss out on watching his boys grow up. At one point in the documentary, the twins were close to turning 18, and Mrs. Rich was worried about how her youngest sons would be turning into men before they even got to be with their father.

With the persistent effort that Mrs. Rich gave in her husband's case, at the end of the documentary, Rob Rich was finally released from prison, after serving 21-years. Rob's sentence was declared an act of overzealous prosecution, and he was granted clemency.

Women consistently deal with struggles in society and it is important to bring to light the stories of everyday women, especially during Women's History Month. Fox Rich is a strong woman who had to learn how to deal with the decisions she made in the past and live with them. She had to be persistent in her endeavors, but in the end she got what she always wanted: her husband's freedom.

**“Women consistently deal with struggles in society and it is important to bring to light the stories of everyday women...”**

*- Damaris Lindsey '23*

Incarcerated families continually face struggles. After being locked away in isolation for a long period of time, it is often difficult for people to come back to the world and be functioning members of society. One organization that D.A. works with is Hour Children. Hour Children is an organization that helps incarcerated families.





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You may recall them from Campus Ministry's Christmas with a Cause event. For ways to get involved, you can visit their website here: [Hour Children](#).

### The World's A Little Blurry

By Melanie Robichaux '23

Billie Eilish, the home-schooled California native, is no longer the hidden gem she was just a few years ago. Her debut album, *don't smile at me*, was released in 2017, and the now 19 year old's success has skyrocketed, making her a household name. Despite her colossal level of fame and fortune, Billie still lives in her childhood home/studio with her parents. AppleTV's new documentary, *The World's A Little Blurry*, gives viewers a peek into the private life of Billie Eilish.



The film follows Billie along her now five year journey through fame and shows her navigation through teen years, relationships, and an attempt at a normal life. It's a brutally honest tale of

pop-stardom that shows the good, the bad, and everything in between. Billie gives fans a behind the scenes look of concerts, festivals, and her day to day life. Not only does she struggle as a celebrity, but as a girl and a teenager, making her own decisions in a male-driven and avaricious industry. Her frustration with fame, marketing, and not being considered in decisions made for her, is another aspect of this film, which is otherwise not seen in her public presence.

Despite her confident and nonchalant attitude, this film displays the insecurities that come along with fame. "The more popular something is, the more hate it's going to get," she said while working on her album *WHEN WE ALL FALL ASLEEP, WHERE DO WE GO?* Billie's close family dynamic is a major part of this documentary. She goes on tour with her older brother/co-creator, mother, and father. Although her performances are vibrant and energetic, this film shows the exhaustion and pain that follows. After strenuous performing, Billie developed shin splints, sprained her ankle, and threw her neck out, in addition to her Tourette's syndrome.

Another significant moment in both Billie's life and this documentary, was the Grammys. Winning 5 of the 6 Grammys she was nominated for in 2019, Billie Eilish became the youngest recipient of the foremost awards- record of the year, song of the year, and album of the year. Despite the



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dark and sometimes polarizing affect her music has on its listeners, Billie Eilish creates not just for herself, but also for her fans, who she knows are struggling with similar issues. “You guys need to be ok, because you’re the reason that I’m ok,” Eilish says during a concert clip in the film, displaying a mutualistic relationship between Billie and her fans.

This documentary avoids the story telling method of film, and truly documents the mundane and candid moments in such a beloved figure’s life. Overall, this film exemplifies how a big dream and a whole lot of talent and hard work can make one of the world’s biggest superstars.

### A Highlight Of February 2021’s NYFW

By Victoria Smajlaj ‘24



2020 changed the way of life in so many ways, even in the fashion industry. February's New York Fashion Week (NYFW) is typically filled with crowded shows, and VIP tickets with expensive and reserved seating. Due to all the events in 2020, whether it's activism, or the

pandemic, fashion changed in so many ways. The NYFW shows were virtual and free this past February giving everyone a free “front row ticket.” Having virtual fashion “shows” was a challenge for many designers. The shows took place during D.A.’s February break, being from February 14-18 2021. New York Fashion Week is a runway event used to showcase many NYC fashion designer’s unique artwork. Some designers decided to make videos of models posing, interviews, and tutorials, rather than a runway this year.

Maison Kitsune, a brand NYFW quotes as a “Paris meets Tokyo” brand, featured a stream video of their runway show. Many oversized polo shirts and dresses with interesting stripe and pastel colors and patterns were featured in their collection. Other polo shirts and dresses had vogue sleeve designs. Maison Kitsune’s 2021 collection was the perfect combination of classy and streetwear. Jason Wu’s makeup artists offered ‘90s inspired makeup tutorials and an incredible runway show. Jason Wu’s stream video was creative featuring tulle dresses and shirts with unique shoulder designs. A color pattern I often saw was a mix of magenta and black. A pattern of floral appeared often, and it was presented in a diversity of colors and dress forms. Tadashi Shoji had a very creative collection. The collection was inspired by the culture of the Mongolian Empire. Beautiful fancy



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dressess appeared in darker colors, and a darker shade of red. Floral lace appeared repetitively in different patterns. The models had messy hair and heavy dark eyeliner. Silver face jewelry made a beautiful appearance, right around the mask area. My favorite look was a black tuxedo set with a floral lace back and neckline on the blazer top. The look featured a chain ring to accessorize the outfit, making it look classy, yet edgy. Prabal Grunge's show was a stream video which was a "love letter to NYC." At the beginning of the video, a model quoted, "New York- I love you because you're crazy" and after that a pretty intense collection followed! The models were showing off hip-hop dance skills. The collection featured a hot pink blazer set, with flared pants as bottoms. A design of a bird in 3D was added to the blazer to accessorize the look. RVNG couture featured many beautiful dresses with so many unique designs, with tulle, floral and fancy sleeves. ChoCheng's program video showpieces all-black clothes with a pop of color. Adeam's show was unique, filled with chic styles and pastel colors. The designs were inspired by the designer's (Hanako Maeda) county, Japan. The collection was specifically inspired by Washoku, traditional Japanese nature colors. It was incredible to see a New York company embrace New York's diversity in culture by showing how Japanese culture is shown through fashion.

Veronica Beard's show featured conifer sweaters in colors of green and brown. Bronx and Banco had a beautiful show featuring bold looks, with such unique silver accessories! Most of the looks were classic NY all black looks, but the accessories made the show a statement of NYFW 2021! BMW even had a programmed runway show! Many designers decided to step up and make clothing out of recycled items!

An important thing I noticed in many fashion shows is the diversity of the models. Unlike past years, models had different body types and cultures. Many of the shows' models came from different races and ethnicities. This is a positive thing for inclusion in both the fashion world and the modeling industry.

A pattern of trends appeared for the Fall 2021 collections. Trench coats appeared on many runway shows. Many classy shirt styles appeared such as puffy sleeves, fancy necklines, and necktie silk crepe shirts. Many dresses and shirts featured mesh and tulle materials along with silk, creating a fancy and decorative look. Excitingly, jumpsuits and split dresses seem to be making a comeback on the shows. Many blazer sets appeared. Blazer dresses and the style of a blazer with matching flare pants appeared many times, giving a serious look on the runway. Gogo boots and knee high styled boots made several appearances. Oversized jeans appeared by many street



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style brands, unsurprisingly. Floral patterns made several appearances on a numerous number of runway shows. Different styles of leather appeared, such as oversized leather pants, corset tops, dresses, jaden boots, and gloves. Accessories that appeared often were long earrings, and chain rings.

### Meet the Editor

By Grace Marks '21

Hello! My name is Grace Marks and I am the Acting Editor-in-Chief for this edition of *Student Prints*. Here are some irrelevant facts about me: my favorite color is red, my personality type is INFP-T, for anyone into horoscope I am an Aries, and my favorite ice cream flavor is pistachio.



I first joined *Student Prints* in Freshman year, and my first article was about the renovations that D.A. had recently undergone. At the time, we had a much different D.A.; only the first phase of renovations had been finished at that point

and I still had plenty to write about. I have really enjoyed my time in *Student Prints*, and my favorite article I wrote was one I did with Tula Tremblay about the Freddie Mercury biopic *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

Outside of *Student Prints*, my interests include drawing, reading, and playing the piano quite poorly. My other clubs at D.A. have been Shakespeare Club, Museum Club, Mock Trial, and more. I will be an English-Literature major next year, and while I regret to be leaving D.A. what feels like so soon after arriving, I am beyond excited to expand my horizons in college.

### Small Chinatown Businesses to Visit

By Quynh Nguyen '23

Since the start of the pandemic, small businesses in NYC's Chinatown have been suffering due to racism and xenophobia. Places that have been around for decades have been forced to close down. There has never been a better time to support small Asian-owned businesses. As a long-time resident, let me share with you some of my favorite places to eat.





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### ***Mei Wah Fast Food***

Located on 190 Hester Street, this hole in the wall spot is most known for their fried chicken leg over rice combo. For only \$7 you get a juicy fried chicken leg, smothered in gravy, accompanied by pickled greens and a tea egg. If you're not a huge chicken fan, they offer other meat over rice/pasta dishes.

### ***Cha Chan Tang and M Star Cafe***

With most of the items on their menus costing below \$10, these two restaurants both offer a variety of dishes similar to ones you would find in a Hong Kong cafe. I recommend getting the Hong Kong style toast and macaroni soup with Hong Kong style milk tea.

### ***Nom Wah Tea Parlor***

Located on 13 Doyers Street, Nom Wah Tea Parlor is one of the oldest restaurants in Chinatown. They offer dim-sum style dishes, like rice rolls, siu mai, steamed bean curd skin rolls, and sticky rice. With outdoor seating, it's a great place to chill.

### ***Kam Hing Bakery***

Located on 118 Baxter St, this bakery offers a variety of sponge cakes, for only \$1 each. While they do sell the original sponge cake, they also have a variety of unique flavors including butterscotch and lychee-rose.

### ***Tasty Dumpling***

Located on 42 Mulberry Street, Tasty Dumpling is a great place to go if you are looking for a cheap and yummy snack. For \$1.25 you can buy five fried dumplings. They also serve other chinese dishes like soup and scallion pancakes.

**“There has never been a better time to support small Asian-owned businesses.”**

*- Quynh Nguyen '23*

These places are located all around Chinatown and would be perfect for a day-long food crawl. If you are interested in more ways to help the community, you can check out [www.sendchinatownlove.com](http://www.sendchinatownlove.com).