



“Fostering community connection, social responsibility, and civic engagement.”

CLOSING LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear Readers of *The Lakeside Leo*,

As our school year draws to a close, I write to express my profound gratitude to you – the Lakeside community – for your support of this bold experiment in student journalism. Nine months ago, we launched *The Lakeside Leo*, a student-run initiative to, as I described in our Inaugural Letter, “foster community connection, social responsibility, and civic engagement.” To fulfill this mission, we assembled a team of 52 reporters, section editors, photographers, and contributors, each of whom were passionate about journalism and committed to answering the call-to-action. To date, our team has produced seven full-length issues which comprise Volume I of *The Leo*, as well as a special

report on the 2020 election. Together, these issues encompass more than 80 pages and 170 articles from 49 individual authors (including contributors not on the regular *Leo* reporting team), or approximately 18% of the Lakeside Middle School student body. These statistics of engagement do not include the various community members who graciously agreed to be interviewed, for whose time and voices we are grateful.

This monumental undertaking would not have been possible without the ceaseless support of the Lakeside community, faculty, and administration. In particular, I would like to extend my appreciation to the faculty advisor of *The Leo*, Mrs. Susie Mortensen, as

well as Ms. Reem Abu Rahmeh.

It has been a privilege and a joy to serve as your Editor-In-Chief for the inaugural year of *The Lakeside Leo*. Establishing the framework and charting the vision for *The Leo* has been a distinct highlight of my Lakeside experience, and I thank my reporting team for this remarkable opportunity. Now, at the conclusion of my tenure, I am excited to announce that Paul Mackay, currently Managing Editor of *The Leo*, will assume the role of Editor-In-Chief for the 2021-2022 school year. Paul’s consistent contributions have helped mobilize our work this year, and I am confident that he will continue to propel *The Leo* forward in the year to come.

In closing, *The Lakeside Leo* was predicated on a daring hypothesis that a cohesive team of motivated students could come together to champion literacy and student engagement in their own community and beyond. Thanks to your support, and to the tireless efforts of *The Leo* reporting team, this enterprise has proven a resounding success. I could not be more proud, nor more grateful.

Sincerely,

Anushka Noori
Editor-In-Chief
The Lakeside Leo

170+
ARTICLES

7
ISSUES

80+
PAGES

52
REPORTERS

RACISM ISN’T OVER AND ASIAN-AMERICANS ARE THE NEW TARGETS

BY CAILEEN W.

In early February this year, a 61-year-old Filipino man had his face slashed with a box cutter while riding a New York City subway. On February 3rd, a 91-year-old was brutally shoved to the ground in Oakland Chinatown. On February 5th, a 64-year-old Vietnamese grandmother was assaulted and robbed of one thousand dollars’ worth of Lunar New Year money. And recently, a mass shooting in Atlanta resulted in the deaths of eight people, six of which were Asian women.

Hate and racism against Asian-Americans has become increasingly frequent, with over 3,800 cases of racist incidents between March 19th, 2020, and February 28th, 2021, as reported by NBC News. Racist behavior includes shunning, racial slurs, and physical harassment. Although overall hate

crimes decreased by 7% in 2020, incidents against Asian-Americans rose by 150%. Many of the hate crimes were concentrated in major cities like New York City and Los Angeles. A report from the NYPD showed the frequency of these incidents in New York City increased by a whopping 1,900%. Stereotypes that surround those of Asian descent further induce racist behavior. For example, Asian women are generalized as meek and submissive, which highlights them as “easier” victims of hate crimes.

Much of this behavior has been spurred by COVID-19, a contagious and deadly virus originating in Wuhan, China. During his presidency, Donald J. Trump repeatedly called the virus the “China virus,” blaming the worldwide pandemic on a single country. The act of using diseases to justify xenophobia

has a long history in the U.S., dating back centuries. A few examples include HIV, which was called the “4H disease,” referring to Haitians, homosexuals, heroin users, and hemophiliacs; the bubonic plague, also known as the Black Death, was thought to be spread by Jews; in the 1800s, typhoid was blamed on the Irish; and in the 1900s, the Germans were blamed for the start of the influenza pandemic.

Anti-Asian crimes tread on a blurry line. Many believe that the racist incidents have an underlying theme of Asian hate and should be recognized as hate crimes, but there is little evidence of the criminal’s true motives, resulting in the case’s dismissal. One example is the mass-shooting that recently occurred in Atlanta, Georgia, as described in the first paragraph. The shooter, 21-year-old Robert Aaron

Long, denied all claims of the murder being motivated by anti-Asian bias. After his arrest, he claimed that it was simply a way to get rid of his so-called “sexual addiction.” Although less severe, many similar cases have not been regarded as hate crimes, leading to a minimal amount of arrests compared to the sharp increase when accounting for public opinion. Additionally, many of the crimes are robberies of Asian-owned stores, which can be interpreted as a common robbery.

Although your voice may seem small, you can make a change. Spread awareness about this social issue, and make sure that your friends and family are well-educated on the subject. If you have Asian-American friends, make sure to support them as best as you can throughout this difficult time. Remember, you can make a difference.



“Cinco de Mayo is a celebration of Mexican heritage and tradition. Taking place on the fifth of May, or Cinco de Mayo in Spanish, this celebration gained more and more popularity in the U.S. around the mid-1900s. The celebration of Cinco de Mayo is to commemorate the Mexican army’s victory over France at the Battle of Puebla.”

LIFE, PAGE 3

“One of the best feelings is the brush of wind against your face as you glide down the slopes, the sight of symmetrical tracks forging through the snow... Skiing is not only something fun to do, but it helps build community, teaches kids a lifelong skill, and creates lasting memories.”

OPINION, PAGE 6

“We’ve all heard the words “Terrazzo,” “Macrame,” and “Plaster” before, but not a lot of us know how they began-- and their history is fascinating.”

ARTS, PAGE 11

TODAY’S POLITICS & THE ME TOO MOVEMENT

BY SARAH C.

Some of us may know Democratic Governor of New York, Andrew Cuomo, for his famous daily press briefings at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the last few months his reputation has turned rather infamous.

The governor’s actions sparked outrage when the method in which COVID-19 deaths at nursing homes in New York were tracked came into question. The state had only been counting the nursing home seniors that died inside of the homes, and not the deaths in hospitals or another facility. This strategy is highly unusual, and not known to be employed by any other states. Because of this, an investigation was posed against Governor Cuomo. The Health Department then released opposing data stating that the New York nursing home facility status was about 50% more than what the Governor’s office had proclaimed. While various lawmakers are calling for him to resign, Cuomo has not been forced out of office yet.

This debacle was succeeded by another shortly after. The gover-

nor, who was known for his often unkind ploys for power, has now had six women speak out against him for inappropriate verbal or physical behavior. The latest of these being Alyssa McGrath, Cuomo’s current aide, who, according to the New York Times, accused him of “ogling her body, remarking on her looks, and making suggestive comments to her and another woman in his office.” Despite the significance of this event, the Governor refuses to step down, and denies the allegations, expressing that, “A lot of people allege a lot of things for a lot of reasons.” These tactics seem to be working, because due to a recent survey, around 56% of New Yorkers still support the Governor, although around 60% seem to think that his actions were immoral.

These allegations are often seen as just another smear on politicians seemingly ever-stained legers; brushed off and forgotten, like so many other irritating and irresponsible scandals. However, I would urge the public to see the women behind the claims who may not have the privilege of forgetting. Governor Cuomo has not been the

first to refuse to step down in the face of allegations, and he will not be the last.

When Former President Donald Trump was running for office in 2016, a tape of him from 2005 surfaced. This included demeaning language toward women, and a confession to forcing himself upon women, declaring, “I moved on her like a b****.”

Despite everything that has been released against these men, Trump was still elected, and 55% of the participants in a University poll say that the governor should not resign.

Many politicians share the sentiment that Donald Trump expressed in his apology. That “this [tape] is nothing more than a distraction from the important issues we’re facing today.” In fact, even Cuomo himself denied these allegations by saying, “A lot of people allege a lot of things for a lot of reasons.” Apologies of denials in this format are not uncommon, and do not seem to be limited to an individual party. Seemingly, these scandals are as ubiquitous as the comments that precede them.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration may approve a new drug, Aduhelm (aducanumab), in early June. Aduhelm, administered via an injection, will be proposed for the treatment of Alzheimer’s, a debilitating condition affecting 6.2 million Americans.

A major and horrifying second wave of COVID-19 has overwhelmed India, affecting hundreds of millions of families. In New Delhi, morgues are receiving so many bodies that they are forced to perform mass cremations. There are currently 29.5 million cases.

On May 11th the FDA approved Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine for adolescents ages 12-15 under the emergency use guidelines.

On May 13th, the CDC announced that individuals who are fully vaccinated are no longer required to wear masks or social distance.

THE COUP D’ETAT OF THE BURMESE MILITARY

BY ELIAS R.

The small South East Asian country of Myanmar (with a population of 54 million) has a troubled history. Most recently, on February 1st, the Burmese military seized power of the country, detaining civilian leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

In Myanmar, the military, known as the Tatmadaw, has always had a big role in politics. Myanmar has only been a democracy since 2011; before then, starting from 1962, the military had total power. After gaining independence from Britain in 1948, U Nu was Prime Minister. In 1962, the military seized power in a coup not unlike this one.

The military, headed by General Min Aung Hlaing, claimed that the results of the parliamentary election of last year (in which Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s par-

ty, National League for Democracy, won 83% of the seats in Parliament) were fraudulent and demanded a recount.

The military, using the rights in the 2008 Constitution, declared a national emergency effective on February 1st, 2021 till February 1st, 2022. The military not only put Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in custody, but also imprisoned many of the other leaders of the NLD, such as President U Win Myint.

For weeks after the coup started, peaceful protests flooded the streets all around the country. On February 20th, two unarmed protesters were killed by the military. Millions protested in reaction to this murder. On February 22, there was a huge walkout took over the nation. The military, infuriated by the protests, resorted to further violent methods by which to halt the

protestors. On March 27, the Burmese military killed over 550 people, while countless others were abused or taken captive. The protesters have now chosen to take up arms; many are training with weapons, believing that armed resistance is the only way to oust the military from power.

This catastrophic event shows how fragile democracy can be in a place like Myanmar, with over 100 different ethnic groups. The U.S., UK, and the European Union, have all, in one way or another, condemned the coup. The U.S., for example, is withholding aid for the military regime. China prevented the UN Security Council from criticizing the coup publicly. Nevertheless, it has supported cries for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

COLORADO MASS SHOOTING & GUN CONTROL

BY MARGARET Z.

On March 22nd, 2021, at a Colorado supermarket, a mass shooting occurred which left 10 dead, including a store manager and a police officer.

This event led to a major rise in debates regarding gun control. There are opinions on both sides of the spectrum. Some are saying that we should ban most or even all gun sales and ownership in the US, while others are saying that we should keep things as they are.

President Biden had a strong opinion on what we could do as a country to lower the number of mass shootings that occur. On March 13 in a statement, he said, “We can ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines in this country once again. I got that done when I was a senator. It passed. It was law

for the longest time, and it brought down these mass killings. We should do it again.” Biden also stated that, “We can close the loopholes in our background check system, including the “Charleston loophole.” That’s one of the best tools we have right now to prevent gun violence.” The Charleston loophole occurs when a potential gun customer submits to a background check, but the system cannot get immediate results as to whether or not the individual is eligible to own a gun. The FBI then has 3 days to continue the investigation. If they do not find anything, the salesperson, according to federal law, is allowed to choose whether to sell the gun to that person or not.

Most arguments for more gun control are about how limiting or banning guns will make it harder for possible mass shooters to get their hands on firearms,

therefore lowering the number of mass shootings that can occur.

On the other hand, there are several strong arguments against further gun control, one of the main ones being that the Second Amendment protects gun ownership. Another common one is that gun control, while perhaps a good idea on paper, will not actually prevent criminals from getting guns if they really want them. Those who support this idea have a saying: “If guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns.”

No matter which side of the gun control debate you choose to support, take a moment to remember not only those who were killed in the Colorado shooting, but also the countless other victims of gun violence.

ALL ABOUT CINCO DE MAYO

BY SIENNA O.

Cinco de Mayo is a celebration of Mexican heritage and tradition. Taking place on the fifth of May, or Cinco de Mayo in Spanish, this celebration gained more and more popularity in the U.S. around the mid-1900s. The celebration of Cinco de Mayo is to commemorate the Mexican army’s victory over France at the Battle of Puebla. Mexican president Benito Juárez officially made it a national holiday nearly 160 years ago in 1862. However, in Mexico, Cinco de Mayo is no longer considered a holiday.

Over time, Cinco de Mayo has grown into a day to celebrate Mexican food, culture, and traditions. Some delicious meals include carne asada, tamales, and flan cake. An iconic dish in Puebla is mole poblano, which is made of varied tons of ingredients including chili peppers, plantains, and chocolate. Mole poblano is actually considered the official dish of Cinco de Mayo, and many recipes for how to make it can be found online!

It can also be quite a spectacle: Huge parades full of people dressed up as French and Mexican soldiers march through Puebla, where the battle took place.

This procession also has dancing, singing, and large floats. Dancers wear vibrant colors and large flowing dresses; sombreros can be spotted on the heads of Mariachi singers. The Mexican flag appears in many of the decorations. The largest Cinco de Mayo celebration takes place in Los Angeles, where thousands of people crowd the streets to celebrate.

Cinco de Mayo is celebrated by many people all over the world, and it is so interesting to learn about the history behind this important day, and what the celebrated traditions are all about!



Photo Credit: The New York Times

SPECIAL TREATS FOR OUR MOMS

BY ALISON L.

Our parents are the heroes of our lives. Mother’s Day has just passed. Sometimes we don’t show appreciation as often as we should. Mother’s day was a few days ago, but here are some ways you can change that by showing some gratitude for Mom even if a bit later, like after you read this article :)

If your mom is someone who loves to garden and spends time planting things, you could pick out something for her to add to her garden such as flowers or a tree.

For a more personal touch, get her something Monogrammed! Add a personal design, such as her initials, a sibling’s birthday, or her own. If it’s nice out, try being her chauffeur for the day and taking her wherever she wants to go. But, you should probably let an older sibling or adult/guardian with a driver’s license do the driving. For a more laid back approach, consider making a homemade spa day for your mom. Give her some choices for pedicures, manicures, hair and face masks. However, make sure she’s not wearing her best clothes or jewelry so nothing gets ruined.

A gift or act of service won’t quite do the trick? Keep her entertained! If your family craves a little competition, I suggest attempting a board game marathon. Play a variety of games and see how many wins each person can collect. Since it is for Mother’s Day, make sure to let her pick her favorite game, and maybe even let her win. If you want to go for something more polished, try making a homemade meal for her. Maybe even three courses, try making her favorite dishes! Maybe she could even give you a restaurant review after.



Photo Credit: Teen Vogue

ADVICE COLUMN

BY NATALIE Z.

Welcome to the official *Lakeside Leo* Advice Column. Here, you will find answers to student questions, queries, and riddles. If you have a question and want to submit it to *The Lakeside Leo*, please email the Life Section-Editor or look out for the monthly Google form.

Dear Leo, I'm a teacher and I notice some of my students are often off task during remote learning. There's no way to prove it and they often say they are paying attention when asked directly. It's very clear by watching their eyes on Zoom and the reflection of their screen that something else is going on. Any advice for this teacher? Thanks!

Dear Anonymous, I know that online learning is tough and may have its problems, but there are many solutions to counteract them. I would suggest that you create a few more interactive games for your students, for example, a Kahoot! Then, students would have to participate in activities you make. Also, you could try to make the material more engaging by using bright visuals and sounds to divert students' attention from their multi-tasking. Games like Kahoot, Gimkit, and Quizlet live are all so much fun to play as a class. I'm sure your students would love them!

Dear Leo, how do I keep up with my huge overload of homework? It's really too much for me.

Dear Anonymous, I would probably say to find a schedule or a routine that works well for you. For example, try to find days where you can do a lot of your homework and get ahead of the curve, or form study groups with your friends to make homework go by faster. Check into PowerSchool often to keep up with assignments, and don't hesitate to simply tell your teachers. Lakeside has such amazing and understanding faculty members and advisors that can help you find solutions if you are overwhelmed.

UNIQUE SUMMER FERRY RIDES

BY TOMMY D.

Are you looking for an interesting ferry ride this summer? The Wahkiakum and Keller Ferry routes are two interesting ferry rides to try out. Both of these ferry rides are on the Columbia River, but each display very different scenery. The Wahkiakum ferry is on the lower Columbia River west of Longview, and the Keller Ferry is on the upper Columbia River east of the Grand Coulee Dam.

The Wahkiakum County Ferry crosses the Columbia River from Puget Island, Washington to Westport, Oregon. To get to the Wahkiakum County Ferry, you would pass through Cathlamet, the county seat of Wahkiakum County. Cathlamet is an old town on the Columbia River halfway between Longview

and the Pacific Ocean. There are many things to see in Cathlamet, including the old church built in 1895 that towers over the town. After touring the town, you would cross the bridge to Puget Island. Then you can take the 12-minute ferry ride into Westport, Oregon.

If you want a free ferry ride, you might want to try the Keller Ferry. The Keller ferry can carry up to twenty cars at its full capacity. To get to the Keller Ferry, you pass through Wilbur. Wilbur is a town in Eastern Washington, approximately 170 miles from Lakeside. Rolling hills with wheat fields surround the town of Wilbur. The first farm in the area was Wild Goose Bill's Ranch. In fact, some people considered the name Goosetown when Wilbur was incorporated.

A fun museum in Wilbur is the Big Bend Historical Society Museum. The museum is filled with old artifacts from Wilbur's past, including artifacts from Wild Goose Bill's Ranch. If you choose to go to the museum, make sure to go on a Thursday during the summer when it is open! After seeing Wilbur, you would drive down the Keller grade, which is a series of switchbacks overlooking the Columbia River. Finally, enjoy the scenic ten minute ferry ride as you cross the Columbia River!

Riding on the Wahkiakum and the Keller Ferries is a great way to start the summer off on a good note. Try exploring the many other ferry routes around Puget Sound and across the state!

Photo Credit: The Daily Times



Photo Credit: History Link

The Opinion articles published in The Lakeside Leo reflect the sole viewpoint of their respective authors and do not represent the opinions or viewpoints of the editorial board nor imply endorsement.

BALLOT INITIATIVES THE KEY TO DEMOCRACY

BY ROHAN D.

“For the people, of the people, and by the people” was the original intent of the United States. But for most of our country’s history, this phrase was not put into practice. Until 1865, African Americans were still enslaved, and a large majority of colored people were unable to vote until the 1960s. Women only earned the right to vote after the passage of the 19th amendment in 1920. Even still, America is not truly a democracy.

Often, there is a strong disconnect between what the people of America want and what Congress wants. One recent example of this is gun control. As of September 2019, 60% of Americans support stricter gun restrictions, while 90% support universal background checks for guns. Meanwhile, Congress is unwilling to pass such legislation due to substantial lobbying by groups that support guns such as the

NRA (the National Rifle Association). There is, however, one way the United States could remedy this. The U.S. can, and should, implement national ballot initiatives.

Ballot initiatives are already in place in every US state. By collecting enough signatures, anyone can put something on the ballot to be approved in the next election cycle. If this ballot initiative is approved, it is implemented as law in many states, although subject to judicial review as with any other law. There is, however, limited power in state level government, as to approve something for all Americans would require 50 separate ballot initiatives, and even then, this law wouldn’t be approved in U.S. territories. There is only one clear solution to this dilemma: we must have ballot initiatives on the national level. This would allow our government to be significantly more responsive to the people it serves. If our coun-

try wants to label itself a democratic republic, the “democratic” part of this “democratic republic” must also be functioning.

Moving on to the implementation of this plan, national ballot initiatives would require at least one million signatures, a significant portion of the US population, though not an unreasonable one. The initiative would then move onto the ballot for the next election cycle. If at least 55 to 60 percent of the votes for it are in the affirmative, the initiative would be implemented as if it were legislation.

In summary, the possibility for national ballot initiatives in the U.S would allow for the people of the U.S. to have a greater say in how our country is run. We, the people of the United States of America, must defend our democracy.

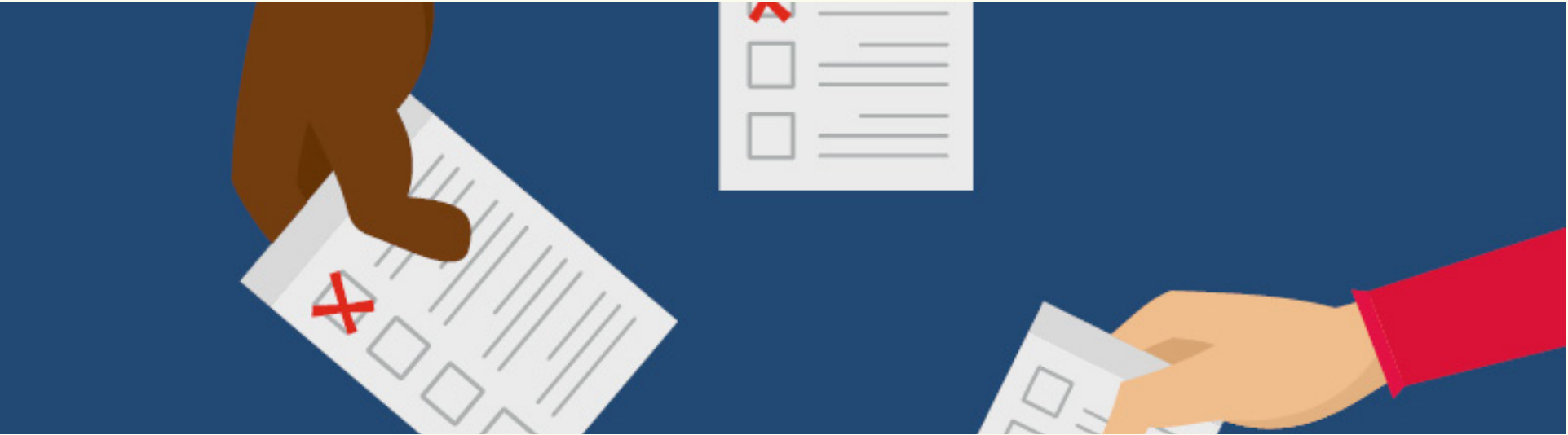


Photo Credit: Elevate Rapid City

ARE SHORTER SCHOOL DAYS BETTER?

BY SYNDIELY T.

School. Seven hours a day, five days a week. For fourteen years, we go through elementary, middle, and high school. Then, we attend two-to-four more years of college and then further schooling if you wish. Wouldn’t it be nice to have a break a little more often?

Let’s start with the cons of long school days. Supposedly, with longer school days, we can get more done. But do we really need all that time? Long days are stressful and tiring, especially as the day goes on. I feel terrible for teachers who teach afternoon classes. I myself know that I am less focused, less interested,

and less engaged, and I’m guessing it is similar for other students. Furthermore, studies from the Center of Public Education show that there is no correlation between longer school hours and better grades/ higher achievement. It depends more on the classroom environment, the quality of teachers and instructors, and, of course, the ability of the students.

There are so many good things about shorter school days. To begin, students have more time outside of school to focus on the things that they really enjoy. They can play more sports, have more time for homework, and hopefully even be able to go to sleep earlier. It’s also been shown that the highest-ranking

schools operate on shorter hours. Finland, for example, has one of the highest ranked education systems. They have only five-hour long school days plus a little homework after school, and yet their students still perform wonderfully. Let’s follow Finland’s example!

All in all, school is stressful. Although teachers are working every day to make it less stressful, it still is. That’s why I believe that shorter days will keep students alert and awake throughout the day. This system should definitely be considered in the United States.



Photo Credit: Composition Classroom

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LAKESIDE NEEDS A SKI BUS

BY JACKSON B.

One of the best feelings is the brush of wind against your face as you glide down the slopes, the sight of symmetrical tracks forging through the snow, and the laughs and smiles shared with friends while skiing. Skiing is not only something fun to do, but it helps build community, teaches kids a lifelong skill, and creates lasting memories. Skiing opens doors of opportunity for the students and the parents which, in return, will strengthen the community.

Skiing comes with many benefits, not only to physical health but mental health as well. The Scandinavian Journal Of Medicine and Science in Sports wrote that skiing can increase aerobic capacity, leg muscle power, and overall strength. A study conducted by Science Direct found that when they sent sixty random people on fifty-minute walks (half in nature and half in an urban setting) they found that the ones who walked through nature performed better on the psychological exams that they administered afterward. The exposure to nature also caused less anxiety and rumination in the people who took the walk. Due to the fact that skiing exposes one to nature, we can definitively conclude that skiing would have the same benefits in combatting and relieving stress.

Downhill ski racer and Olympic gold medalist Lindsey Vonn once said, “I always channeled what I felt emotionally into skiing – my insecurities, my anger,

my disappointment. Skiing was always my outlet, and it worked.” This directly supports my assertion on how skiing through nature could help students deal with the stresses of school, especially during the dreary Seattle winters. Seasonal Affective Disorder, or SAD, is a disorder that affects around 10 million Americans. First coined by Norman Rosenthal in the 1980s, more and more research has been conducted on determining possible remedies for SAD. While the most effective treatment is light therapy, scientists have concluded that an hour of aerobic activity (like skiing) is equivalent to two and a half hours of light therapy. Skiing would aid Lakeside students in making it through the disheartening Seattle weather and alleviate student’s anxiety about the mountains of homework we receive.

Skiing opens up opportunities for students, and this leads to a robust community. At my old school, there was no basketball team whatsoever. The closest thing we had was a PE unit where we’d learn the basics and hold a short skirmish at the very end. Needless to say, basketball didn’t pique my interest, and it definitely wasn’t a sport I envisioned myself playing in the future. But after arriving at Lakeside, I decided to try basketball again. At the end of the season, I looked back and realized that I had really liked playing basketball and that it had brought me a lot closer to those eight other peers. While I wasn’t as talented as my teammates, I had a superb experience. I practiced

all summer and in 6th grade, and I made the varsity team. Moreover, I became good friends with all eight other boys on that team, a friendship which has lasted throughout my middle school years. I envision that a ski bus will be able to not only provide an outlet for people to discover something they really love, but it will also help the people of our grade draw more profound and deeper connections with nature and their classmates. These connections would consequently strengthen our community and further increase what we share in common.

Lastly, skiing can teach important life lessons. When you are at the top of a difficult run, you need to analyze the terrain and find the easiest route. This can pertain to figuring out tough problems by taking it slow and analyzing the problem. Mikaela Shiffrin is a two-time Olympic gold medalist for the USA and a world cup skiing champion. She talks a lot about how skiing is relevant in her life such as when she stated, “Life is like getting down a tough racecourse. Things you don’t expect come up and you have to adapt. You can’t let it throw you off. You have to cope. Those are all really valuable skills.”

In summary, imagine how much satisfaction the Lakeside administration could take in knowing that, through the implementation of a ski bus, they played a key role in the making of not only intelligent leaders but active and well-rounded students.



Photo Credit: Ski Utah

MOTHERS DESERVE BETTER



BY ANYA V.

As Mother’s day just passed by, we have focused more on giving gratitude to our wonderful mothers. While having a day of appreciation is nice, we have historically bombarded mothers with unrealistic expectations and disregarded their physical and emotional well-being. The societal pressure placed on mothers is incredibly harmful and must be solved.

Mothers are often looked to for stability and solutions. However, this reliance on mother’s wisdom and guidance has quickly evolved into an expectation that, in order to be considered a “qualified mother,” mothers cannot ever make mistakes. This “myth of motherhood,” as coined by Dr. Michal Regev, a postpartum therapist and writer, comes from a belief that motherhood is a fantastical job with no challenges that couldn’t

be easily overcome. This causes isolation when mothers are faced with very demanding obstacles. Postpartum depression, or mothers feeling detached from their newborn child, is a prime example of this. Not receiving proper support during postpartum depression puts the child and the mother’s wellbeing at risk.

A survey done by the Pittsburgh Foundation about how government services impact a mother concluded that even though these programs exist, their funding is low and their ability to educate mothers about the availability of this aforementioned help is severely lacking. Mothers are often discouraged to accept help from these services, as social standards will then display them as too weak to take care of their children. This puts all mothers at a social disadvantage as they often cannot reach

out for help, and yet are still expected, almost required, to live up to the often unattainable bar set by society.

Mothers around the world are subjected to mountains of pressure to be flawless for the duration of their child’s life, and yet they are never given the resources to scale such a feat. Even though Mother’s Day has already passed, let’s try to not only continue the gratitude we feel for them then into every day of the year but also continue to try and fix the unnecessarily arduous expectations society places on them.

Photo Credit: The Indian Express

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THE TRUTH BEHIND GEORGIA’S VOTER LAWS

BY HENRY P.

Joe Biden, Nancy Pelosi, Delta, United, the MLB, J.P. Morgan, and Coca-Cola. These are just some of the well known companies and figures who have spoken out against Georgia’s new SB 202 voting laws, calling them racist and oppressive. But are these laws really what these companies say they are? No. Here’s why.

The amount of disinformation being spread regarding these new voting laws is incredible. Some politicians opposing these voting restrictions, including new GA senator Rev. Raphael Warnock, accused GA’s GOP members of committing “a massive and unabashed assault on voting rights” by “ending no-excuse mail voting” and “restricting early voting on weekends.” This is false. SB 202 does not end no-excuse mail voting, and it actually expands early voting by dictating that an additional day of weekend voting must be added in all GA counties.

Moving to more notable politicians, Joe Biden said that the new photo-ID-number requirement for ab-

sentee ballots would “deny the right to vote to countless voters.” This also is false. Most Georgia voters in general approved the notion, including most Georgia Democrats and voters of color, for the “latest YouGov/ The Economist poll found that Americans support requiring a photo ID in order to vote absentee, 53 percent to 28 percent. And Georgians are even more supportive: 74 percent of registered voters in the UGA/ AJC poll backed requiring voters to include a copy of their photo ID or other documentation in order to vote by mail.” The president of our country is echoing questionable claims about election laws, further spreading the misinformation regarding them, and creating even more mayhem surrounding the subject.

These Georgia voting laws are not crazy. They are not discriminatory. To contradict Joe Biden, these laws do not “make Jim Crow look like Jim Eagle.” You have to show your ID to buy alcohol, to open a bank account, to buy a house, and to drive a car, so why are there complaints about using IDs to vote?

Georgia passed laws to make voting easier by extending Georgia’s amount of early voting days to 17 days from 16, an already generous amount of time, much more than states like New York or Delaware who don’t even offer early voting. They also made it so that you can vote using an absentee ballot without an excuse. These new laws also made it harder to commit voter fraud by mandating the procurement of either a driver’s license or a state ID to vote, and prohibiting the giving away of food or drink within 150 feet of a polling place, considering this to be campaigning. They made these laws to stop electioneering, the act of trying to influence voters at polling places, and bribery, which in this context means giving or offering an item to influence someone’s vote, particularly at the polls. Contrary to what the media is preaching, these laws were made to help voting by making it both easier to cast your vote, and making it harder for one to commit voter fraud in Georgia elections, and thus, these laws are not discriminatory.

THE INACCURACIES OF TESTING

BY SYNDIELY T.

Every year, students face significant stress and anxiety over every test or quiz that comes their way. Testing is a way for teachers to gauge how a student is doing in their classes and to understand how they can grow as a teacher. But here’s the thing: students get so worked up over tests that they underperform. In this article, I will talk about how testing can be ineffective and inaccurate.

First, let’s talk about the science behind it. Imagine you’re a kid at school, and you have an upcoming test. Your heart might start racing, your mind may start wandering, and you might start worrying about whether you’re going to fail or not. This is your body’s natural response: it’s activating its fight or flight mode. Adrenaline begins to course through your veins, and your body will decide if it’s going to stay and deal with the stress or “run.” Sometimes adrenaline can be a good thing, because it gets you excited and you’ll stay alert. But at other times, it can make you unfocused and unattentive. Some common symptoms are shaking, nausea, and sweating.

Now that we understand our body’s reaction, let’s talk about our minds. When I hear I have a test, I start thinking about all the ways I can fail. Even if I’ve done well on the homework for the entire unit, I start to worry and I get anxious or scared. I think about all the people who I have to please; I want my parents to be happy, I want my teachers to be proud, I want to do as good as, if not better than, my friends, I want to be satisfied with my work, but then I am consumed by the thought that I won’t be able to live up to their expectations. If I end up doing badly on the test, I feel like I’ll never be able to make it up. When I am taking a math test, for instance, I can immediately see if I got the problem correct or incorrect. If I see that screen shake, and the little phrase telling me that “saved by the safety net!” or “balderdash!” response on an electronic test, I get scared. I feel like I’ve set myself up to fail the rest of the exam.

There is also a disparity in testing when it comes to the resources students can use outside of school, as some kids have the ability to ask their parents or get a private tutor while many others do not. The students with more resources and more outside help will inevitably do better on the test than students who do not have those same resources. It’s helpful to be able to ask teachers and advisors for help, but that is also scary for some students to do. Also outside meetings with teachers and advisors can only help so much.

We’ve talked about testing anxiety, so now let’s talk about other reasons testing isn’t always the best way to receive a progress report. Often, testing pushes students to memorize facts and information instead of actually learning it. I can memorize facts and spew a bunch of words out onto paper to pretend I actually know something when, in reality, I have no clue what I’m saying. I’m more focused on getting a good grade than actually learning about the different topics we’re studying. Some fun alternatives to tests are projects, either in a group or alone, as I actually enjoyed creating a poster about The Boston Tea Party, working with a team to understand how mammoth hunters lived years ago, and creating a slideshow and doing research about a topic that I chose and cared about.

Finally, I want to talk about ways that we as students can start to deal with those problems. The first tip I have is to make sure you’re prepared. Preparation is always important with any test you take, no matter how big or important it is. Second, don’t let those negative thoughts overtake you; you have to tell yourself that you can do it, that you are smart, and that you do know the material. Another tip: take deep breaths and work to calm yourself down. If you walk into that test too hyper and too active, you might not be able to focus. Lastly, and maybe most importantly, don’t be a perfectionist. You don’t have to be perfect, you don’t need to get 100% every single time, instead set a goal for yourself. Do your best, and it will be enough.



Photo Credit: Parent Map

TOP 5 BIGGEST UPSETS IN SPORTS HISTORY



Photo Credit: Wall Street Journal

BY CONNOR D.

As we look back on the crazy basketball tournament that was March Madness 2021, we really see how unpredictable sports can be. And while No. 11 seed UCLA beating No. 1 seed Michigan may seem like a big deal, compared to other upsets, it is miniscule. Here is my list of the top 5 biggest upsets in sports history.

Honorable Mentions: Greece winning the 2004 European Championship, No. 8 Villanova 66, No. 1 Georgetown 64. Now that we’ve got that out of the way let’s dive on in.

5. A Big Upset At The Big House

It’s opening day for the College Football National Championship contenders Michigan Wolverines in 2007. They are facing Appalachian State, a relatively small college football team from Boone, North Carolina. They also happen to be playing at Michigan’s home stadium, The Big House, in front of 110,000 people. Fast forward to the fourth quarter and Michigan is leading by one. They have a chance to kick a field goal and go up by four, but Appalachian State blocks the field goal and they get the ball. Then, after a few trades of possession and a field goal by Appalachian State, Michigan has a 37 yard field goal attempt to win it with six seconds left on the clock. Incredibly, the kick is blocked and Appalachian State stuns Michigan.

4. Rulon Gardner takes down the Russian Bear at the 2000 Olympic Games

In a David and Goliath style victory, Rulon Gardner took down Aleksandr Karelin in the 2000 Olympic gold medal match for Greco-Roman wrestling. The dairy farmer from Wyoming defeated one of the best wrestlers ever: Aleksandr had a record of 887 wins... and one loss. Karelin’s signature move was the reverse lift, a move in which the wrestler lifts the opponent off the mat fully before twisting them around and landing on top of their opponent. But, since Gardner had such a big frame, Karelin could not pull it off and the first round ended 0-0. During the second round, the two were in a lock and the Russian made a huge mistake. He broke the lock, meaning Gardner was awarded a point. So, due to the rules of Greco-Roman wrestling, the match went into overtime. Finally, after Karelin attempts a reverse lift, the bell tolls, and USA takes home the gold.

3. Jets 16, Colts 7 in the 1969 Super Bowl

The Colts were such heavy favorites that one reporter from the Detroit Free Press predicted that they would win 270-0. But the result proved otherwise. This game was also crucial in the formation of the NFL. Back when there was the National Football League and the American Football League, many

saw the AFL as a much worse league and the NFL as vastly superior. The AFL Jets’ defense would ultimately cause this result after forcing three interceptions of Earl Morall who would later be replaced by Johnny Unitas. Also, Joe Namath, the Jets’ quarterback at the time, famously guaranteed that they would win the game at the Miami Touchdown Club three days before the game actually happened.

2. James “Buster” Douglas v Mike Tyson

Coming into the fight, Mike Tyson was the undefeated heavyweight champion of the World, after all, he held the WBA, WBC, and IBF titles. This fight was seen as a warm-up bout before he faced heavyweight contender Evander Holyfield. During the fight, Buster was surprisingly not afraid of Tyson and showed that he was more agile than the heavyweight champion. Douglas also did a good job of not letting Tyson get inside, a position which greatly favored Tyson. He did this by either tying him up, moving back, or immediately firing back multiple strikes when Tyson got in his range. It was a back and forth fight, with Douglas gaining a slight advantage heading into round ten. In round ten, Tyson was reckless and Buster caught him off guard by landing a clean uppercut that sent the champion reeling back. He followed this with four punches to the head, knocking Tyson down and ending the fight.

1. Miracle on Ice

Over four decades ago, the USA men’s hockey team stunned the world with a victory over the Soviet Union team in the 1980 Olympic semi-final match. The USSR had won five of the last six olympic gold medals and were clear favorites to win. While the USSR team was made up of pros and veterans, the USA’s team was made up of college kids and amateurs. To add to all of this, Al Michaels, a NBC sports broadcaster, noted that, “The [USA] needed a boost”. The US fell behind early, though, and were 2-1 down with the time in the first period diminishing. A late goal for the US off a goaltender mistake tied the game up heading into the second period. The Soviets dominated in this stretch outshooting the Americans 12-2. They only scored once, however, and the game was still on. In the third period the Americans got a power play after Vladmir Kru-tov was sent to the penalty box for high-sticking, and capitalized with a goal. Captain Mike Eruzione would later score, giving the USA their first lead of the game with eleven minutes left. The Soviets attacked hard but with eleven second left, it was still 4-3 USA. What happened next? Well, I guess I’ll hand it back over to Al Michaels. “11 seconds, you’ve got 10 seconds, the countdown going on right now! Morrow, up to Silk. Five seconds left in the game. Do you believe in miracles? YES!”

FORMULA ONE

BY KIRA M.

You may have heard of Formula One before but never really known what the sport was about. Formula One, like NASCAR, is a high speed motor sport, but unlike NASCAR, the Formula One tracks are much more complicated, and the cars go about 30 mph faster than NASCAR cars.

In Formula One racing, not only is the skill of the driver highly important but so is the engineering of the car. Teams such as Mercedes, Ferrari, and Red Bull spend millions of dollars perfecting their engines to have the fastest car on the track. Currently, the most successful team and driver is the Mercedes-AMG team with 7 time World Champion Lewis Hamilton.

To crown the World Champion of Formula One, there are 20 races, or Grand

Prixs, all across the world from Mexico to Japan. At each Grand Prix there is a qualifying race to determine starting position and then a race to determine the race winner. The person who drives the fastest in the qualifying lap starts at the front and the person with the slowest lap starts at the back. Almost all races are 190 miles long and can be on a race course or on the road. Based on your finishing position of the final race, you get an allotted number of points, with the winner getting 25, second getting 18, and a steady drop in the next 8 positions. There are 20 cars on the track and 10 teams. If after reading this article you found that Formula One has piqued your interest, I would recommend watching Formula One: Drive to Survive on Netflix or watch the Portuguese Grand Prix which was held on May 2 at 7 am on ESPN.



Photo Credit: Formula 1

VOLLEYBALL LAKESIDE SPORTS

BY NATALIE Z.

Welcome back to Lakeside Sports! Here, I will be reviewing all of the sports Lakeside offers and will cover the practice times, difficulty level, training, and competitions! This time it's volleyball, and let's get right into it!

Lakeside volleyball is a really fun sport that includes teamwork, practice, and competition. If you don't know what volleyball is, it's a game that includes a ball, net. A team hits the ball over the net and tries to get the other team out. In order to win, the ball must hit the ground of the other team within the bounds.

Practice sessions are usually 1.5-2 hours each, depending on which team you're on. Teams are grouped based on grade, and kids work together to learn new skills as

the level of difficulty grows. Practices are at a relatively balanced level, not too easy nor too hard, and you'll probably have a light sweat by the end of practice. Practices include a lot of training on serving, setting, and more drills that help you when playing.

During competitions, members come to the gymnasium and warm up with their team, followed by the start of the competition. During the competition there are three rounds. The team that wins the majority of rounds wins the competition. Teams have a really fun time playing volleyball, and overall, it's a really fun sport!

If you love energy and competition. Learning new things and practicing new concepts, then I would suggest you try out Lakeside's volleyball program!



Photo Credit: Lakeside School

THE EUROPEAN SUPER LEAGUE

BY CONNOR D.

On Sunday April 18th, 12 of the world's biggest soccer clubs came out with an announcement that would shock the world of soccer. Arsenal, Juventus, Manchester United, Manchester City, Tottenham Hotspur, Chelsea, Barcelona, Liverpool, Real Madrid, Inter Milan, AC Milan, and Atletico Madrid all announced their participation in a

new break away competition called the European Super League. This league would take 15 of the best clubs in Europe and guarantee them a spot yearly, along with 5 other clubs that would qualify for the remaining spots. Like most fans, I was outraged when I heard this as it would completely change the landscape of European soccer for the worse by completely erasing the

idea of earning a place in a competitive league. Online, people weren't on board with it either; you would not believe the amount of Tik-toks claiming this was the end of soccer forever. Even the prime minister of the United Kingdom, Boris Johnson, publicly condemned the radical idea. This also reintroduced the idea of money ruining soccer. This was a clear money grab

and a result of greed from the owners of the clubs that joined. After all, having big teams play each other weekly would bring in billions of dollars rather than occasionally in the semi-finals or finals of the Europa of Champions League. Luckily, though, this was a short-lived idea and the Super League is no more.



Photo Credit: Sky Sports

BY FELICITY W.

Jewish American Heritage Month is an annual recognition and celebration of American Jews’ achievements and contributions to the United States of America during the month of May. Here are three incredible Jewish American artists.

Steven Spielberg

“I don’t dream at night. I dream at day., I dream all day; I’m dreaming for a living.”

At the age of 10, Steven Spielberg discovered his passion for making movies when he started taking his father’s 8mm camera and filming home movies.

By 1975, Spielberg became one of the most powerful directors in Hollywood. His films have explored primeval fears as in Jaws; explored historical events like Schindler’s List about a businessman who saved Jewish citizens; covered sci-fi Adventures like Minority Report; and considered the marvels of our world and be-

yond from Close Encounters of the Third Kind, a monster-horror from Jurassic Park, and many more.

Spielberg is considered by many to be one of the founding pioneers of the new Hollywood era. He has claimed victory in the Best Director category twice.

He once said, “Whether in success or in failure, I’m proud of every single movie I’ve directed,” adding, “I’ve always been very hopeful which I guess isn’t strange coming from me. I don’t want to call myself an optimist. I want to say that I’ve always been full of hope. I’ve never lost that. I have a lot of hope for this country and for the entire world.” His optimism has clearly been shown in his approach to projects, movies, and life.

Barbra Streisand

By the age of five, Barbra Streisand was known in her neighborhood as the “girl with no father and a good voice.”

Decades from then, she is now

a renowned singer, composer, actress, director, producer, and the first major female to command roles as a Jewish actress. She redefined female stardom from the 1960s to the 1970s. Streisand is considered by many to be the greatest singer of her generation. She has become one of the most powerful women in show business and often noted for her legendary voice and political thoughts.

Michael Kosarin, music director, arranger, and conductor says that despite having no music training, “Streisand was a prodigy.” She had the willpower to hold her long notes. “Singer’s can be overtrained. The technique can get in the way of acting.” When looking at her rendition of the song “My Man” from Funny Girl, he stated that, “In the first half she’s barely singing. Some notes are a little off-pitch. She’s overcome by emotion. It’s perfect for telling the story, not perfect in and of itself.” Barbra Streisand says that she sings like speaking and naturally embodies the role of a character.

While her voice rarely appears, singing has financed her causes and fueled her investing. “She sees herself as much bigger than a singer or actor,” says the composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim, 90, who has known Streisand since she was 19. “She’s a political figure who affects things that go well beyond entertainment.” Back in the ‘80s and the ‘90s, she fought for gender pay equality inside Holywood. It wasn’t easy as the business didn’t value women as much as men, but she stood up for what she believed in. Streisand also helps raise money for presidential candidates. Her influence is far-reaching, and she always deeply cares.

Nancy Pelosi says it best: Streisand in political fund-raising mode “is dazzling to behold... It’s not just because she’s a celebrity. She knows the issues. She’s studied. She can explain why she supports what she does. That’s what’s persuasive.”

Sol LeWitt

LeWitt often said that ideas, not physical creations, are the substance of art.

As a young boy, LeWitt displayed a proclivity for art, showing a talent for creating humorous drawings. Now, he has earned a place in the history of art for his role in the Conceptual Art Movement and Minimalism.

LeWitt firmly believed that the idea itself could be the work of art, like an architect who creates blueprints for a building and then turns it to a construction crew, any artist should be able to conceive an idea and have its actual production be gifted to others.

Begun in 1968 and including more than 1,000 examples, LeWitt’s extensive series of numbered wall drawings, sculptures, and prints all resulted in endless possibilities within the regulations of written instructions. Today, many of his assistants have executed his designs through his written instructions.

TIME TO BINGE-WATCH!

BY MEERA W.

Are you looking for a good TV series to binge-watch? A movie that you can curl up to and eat popcorn? If so, you’re in the right place! Here are five of my favorite TV shows and movies!

Sully

Sully certainly nails its depiction of 2009’s Miracle on the Hudson, the emergency water landing that allowed all 155 passengers and crew to come out alive.

Starring Tom Hanks, this solemn but sensational film is about the astoundingly courageous Captain Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger and his landing on the Hudson River. The captain landed a plane full of people on the Hudson River and saved each and every one of them. The crew and passengers evacuated without any fatalities, and the press and public hailed Sully as a hero. However, recent findings show that Sully theoretically could have made it back to the runway, and he is now being questioned if he made the right choice. The movie captures the fear of the passengers during the landing, the intensity of the captain’s choice, and the way the captain’s entire career and life come down to 208 seconds.

Madam Secretary

Madam Secretary is about a former CIA agent, mother, and Secretary of State. Elizabeth McCord was asked by the president to be Secretary of State in place of Vincent Marsh, whose plane went down in the Atlantic Ocean. While the president values her apolitical leanings, frankness, and creative thinking, these qualities aren’t appreciated by many other staff in the White House. Madam Secretary must face many obstacles in her job, her family, and an investigation into Marsh’s death. This is a woman-empowering television show that is a winner for anyone who likes political dramas!

One Day at a Time

One Day at a Time is a remake of the popular reality show, also called One Day at a Time. This modern version is about a Cuban-American family living in Los Angeles. The show focuses on the mother, Penelope Alvarez, a former military vet. Penelope is dealing with PTSD, all while being a single mother of two teenagers and living with her mother. She weaves her way through life, focusing on each day as it comes. The show is filled with family, romance, heart-breaking moments, and hilarious characters. I have watched One Day at a Time at least 5 times in the past four years, and I still can’t get

enough of it. I would recommend this show to anyone because it has deep life lessons, but also because of its comedy, romance, and most importantly, love throughout a family. (And, a new season recently came out!)

Forrest Gump

Forrest Gump is one of, if not the, most stunning movies I have ever watched in my entire life. It is a glorious film about the life of Forrest Gump, a fictional character played by Tom Hanks. The film takes you from his boyhood to adulthood, with many adventures along the way, ranging from Forrest Gump having leg braces as a child to him enlisting in the military, winning ping-pong championships and the Medal of Honor, and even to Forrest going on a shrimping boat in honor of a friend, Bubba. Throughout the movie, you feel like you are in the story with Forrest Gump, living out his life right alongside him in the span of 2 hours. I adore and admire this movie because it takes you through one extraordinary life, through love and heartbreak, through bravery and death. Forrest Gump is a stupefying movie that I think everyone needs to see.

David Attenborough’s Life on Our Planet

David Attenborough’s inspirational movie Life on Our Planet is about the struggles the earth has and will face because of climate change. This awe-inspiring documentary makes your heart break when you realize how valuable nature is and how we’re destroying it. Sir David Attenborough helps us understand that nature will go on, no matter what. Rather, it’s a question of whether we will go on along with nature. This astonishingly real film shows you how we are wrecking the planet. However, it isn’t just downcast. Attenborough shares his hope in the small successes like sustainable farming in the Netherlands or fishing restrictions that have helped marine life rebound. The movie also shows you that we can change and why we must change. He explains a few ways that we can change and make the world a better place instead of killing the planet. Everyone, big or small, old or young, must watch this film because it opens your eyes to something that you need to see.

THE HISTORY OF THREE AGE-OLD ART FORMS

BY HANNAH B.

We’ve all heard the words “Terrazzo,” “Macrame,” and “Plaster” before, but not a lot of us know how they began-- and their history is fascinating.

Terrazzo

Terrazzo highlights the beauty in haphazard imperfection. Flecks of bright color on a lighter background create a random design, and no two designs are ever exactly alike.

This art technique, often compared to confetti, was first seen in Venice during the 1400s. Terrazzo is Italian for terraces, and it was invented by workers trying to use up discarded pieces of leftover marble from other projects. After some experimentation, they found that mixing the leftover scraps with cement made a long-lasting and visually attractive medium. The resulting material was often used as flooring, and the workers also found that it could be “sanded” by being rubbed all over with pebbles. They also originally used goats’ milk as a sealant!

In the late 17th century, artisans from Europe migrated to the United States, bringing their use of terrazzo with them. Because of their influence, terrazzo gained popularity and was often used in monuments and larger structures. By the early 1900s, the art of terrazzo was also favored outside of Italy, eventually becoming a means to make a modern design that was used frequently in homes and businesses worldwide.

After 1920, marble strips were made

to make terrazzo tiles as well as metal strips. However, since there was such a high demand for metal during World War II, plastic strips were used instead. These were important because they could control how much the terrazzo topping shrank. They could also prevent cracks, which took away from the aesthetic beauty of terrazzo surfaces. Strips of different gauges were deployed to create diverse and complex patterns.

Shortly after, electric grinding equipment was utilized to generate a finer finish on the terrazzo tiles. These grinders would use Carborundum stones, which are sharpening stones made from silicon carbide, placed on a rotating head, which would make for a very smooth and spotless finish. Later, white Portland cement was used to increase the color sections of terrazzo since it can be mixed with an expansive selection of mineral pigment additives. As any color can be added to the cement, the spectrum of color options is unlimited!

Besides being practical, terrazzo is also extremely visually pleasing. It’s also sensible, as it’s both beautiful and relatively cheap. Phone cases, basketballs, and cakes have even been inspired by these spectacular speckles.

Macrame

Macrame combines the practical skill of knot-tying with the crafty fun of design, and this art of cord knotting is thousands of years old! It can also be applied to almost anything, which is a large factor in why it’s lasted for so long. It’s possible to macrame anything

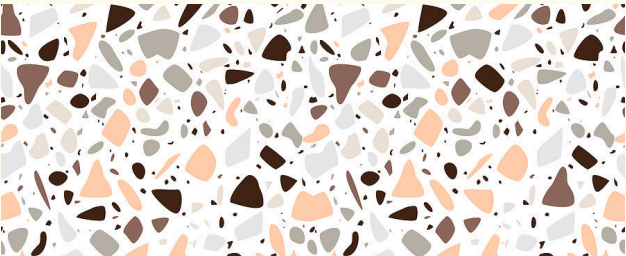
from decorative wall tapestries to functional belts! Decorative knot-tying, not then called macrame, can be traced back to 200 AD in China on ceremonial textiles.

The word macrame comes from macrama, which was a word meaning “fringe” used by Arabics in the thirteenth century. Arabic weavers are normally credited for the creation of macrame, who used decorative knots to finish off the ends of hand-woven cloths. They also equipped their camels with macrame blankets, which kept flies away since the swinging, knotted ends made it hard for them to land.

Because macrame was so popular during the 13th century, it slowly spread worldwide. Eventually, macrame became a common pastime for sailors, who were expert knot makers by profession and would macrame in their free time. They called it “square knotting” since they used the same style as one of their most often utilized knots. Besides the practical uses of knots aboard ships, decorative knot-tying kept the sailors occupied during long voyages and often brought in some profit when they sold their goods, such as hammocks, belts, and hats, when they arrived at the port. Additionally, they helped to spread the art around, which played a large role in teaching macrame to new cultures and people and kept it alive.

Nowadays, you can find macrame bracelets, hammocks, dog collars, and even, crazily enough, Christmas trees! It’s possible to macrame almost anything!

Photo Credits: Fine Art America, Wescover, Creative Clichés



OPERATION VARSITY BLUES THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS SCANDAL

BY MAX S.

A Netflix documentary covering one of the biggest scandals of the 21st century Operation Varsity Blues: The College Admissions Scandal on Netflix gives us an in-depth look at how 25 million dollars were given to Rick Singer by 33 parents to make sure their kids got into the most prestigious schools in America, including USC, Stanford, and Yale. Rick Singer bribed exam administrators to facilitate cheating on college entry exams and bribed coaches to nominate unqualified applicants as elite athletes. He used a charitable organization to conceal the way he received large sums of money, doing this all while posing as a college counselor.

Rick Singer’s plan was extremely complex, yet it somehow wasn’t uncovered for over eight years. At least 53 people have been charged as part of the conspiracy, among them famous actors and business people; children of over 750 families have been unethically assisted by Singer. Now, in 2021, Netflix shines a light on the unfair “side door” option Singer gave to wealthy families to get their kids into top colleges. This entailed making them athletes in less popular sports such as sailing, when they had never even attended a practice. This film is a must-watch that talks not only about the scandal but the culture around getting into top schools and the emotional stress that brings to students.

I truly enjoyed every minute of watching the documentary. Unlike many documentaries, Operation Varsity Blues: The College Admissions Scandal involved acting in the film as well, with actors and actresses playing real people involved with the scandal, including Rick Singer himself. They recreated real phone conversations, making the film more compelling and thrilling to watch, especially for those who don’t enjoy the monotony of other documentaries.

Additionally, this documentary explained the pressure students feel when applying to colleges, the single-mindedness for prestigious schools even though many other institutions could give them an equally good education.

The documentary explained that with many places ranking colleges, this gave incentives for colleges to lower acceptance rates as it would make their school look more exclusive in various school ranking statistics. In 2010, USC’s acceptance rate stood at 25% while in 2020, it was significantly lower, at 11%.

With the recreated wire-tapped phone conversations, interview clips, and ominous music to go along, Operation Varsity Blues: The College Admissions Scandal is highly enjoyable, and I recommend it to anyone interested in the scandal, how Singer managed to stay undetected for years, or the desperation around college admissions among top institutions.

MOM AND CHILD CONVERSATION

Mom: Go clean your room.
Me: No! It's my room.
Mom: Well it's my house.
Me: Then go clean it!

(P.S. Never say that to your mom. This is just for fun.)

BY
ABIGAIL L.


SISTER 1 & SISTER 2

BY MAISY S.

Sister 1 is eating cereal on the couch.
Sister 2 comes into the living room.

Sister 2: Eat your cereal!
Sister 1: *Ignores her.*
Sister 2: Eat your cereal!
Sister 1: *Hums as to not to hear her.*
Sister 2: Eat your cereal!!
Sister 1: I am eating my cereal!
Sister 2: Eat your cereal!!!!
Sister 1: I am eating my cereal!!!!!!
Dad comes in.
Dad: WHAT IS ALL THIS RUCKUS ABOUT!?!?!
Sister 1: She told me to eat my cereal!!!
Dad: WELL, SHE WAS RIGHT. YOU DO NEED TO EAT YOUR CEREAL!!

Dad walks off and Sister 2 smirks.



WOULD YOU DARE INSULT THE CACTUS?

BY CHLOE L.

No, I wouldn't dare insult the cactus if i were you. In fact, why would anyone want to insult the cactus? It makes no sense, unless you were some sort of pledged cactus hater. I highly doubt that there are very many pledged cactus haters in the world, and if there are, then, well, this is the article to convince them once and for all that cacti are the most amazing

plants in the history of the multiverse.

I'm not going to list a bunch of points; in fact, I'll only list one point that will convince every single cactus hater why they should love cacti: cacti are cool. That's all. cacti are cool, and it's all that counts.

Okay, I will provide some cover for my argument, seeing as so many people hate cactus. I just don't

understand... how could anyone hate cacti, and how do so many people need more than one point to be convinced that cacti are amazing? That is insulting the cactus, and let me restate my point: no one would dare insult the cactus.

