



Frustration in the Senior Lot

BY SARAH MARINE

Parking in the senior parking lot (often referred to as simply senior lot), beside Founders Hall, is a senior privilege for MBS students. Recently, however, this luxury has been looking less and less exclusive as more and more junior cars take up this sacred space. The lot represents more than a space to park for the seniors: a testament to their hard work in high school and the new freedoms ahead.

According to the MBS Family Handbook, juniors are not allowed to park on campus. They are expected to park at the Westin Governor Morris Hotel, less than 1.5 miles away, where the school provides shuttling before and after school. The only exception to this is if a junior arrives late or has to leave early for sports. In this case, the student must notify the school and park in spaces near the baseball field, not in the senior lot. Kevin McDonald, Wellness Department and dean of the class of 2023 said, "If juniors ignore this expectation, typically [administration] might give a warning, but then follow up with detention if the actions continue."

"Many unauthorized cars go unreported."

Although faculty, staff and administration are enforcing rules when they need to, seniors are still

frustrated with the junior class' disrespect for this school tradition, and foresee the issue increasing when more juniors get their licenses in the early spring months. Charles "Mack" Plante '23 said, "When seniors start getting the privilege of coming to school after their free period, and juniors have taken the spots, [seniors] will have to make spots along the side of the lot, which will be a problem." With college applications and challenging courses, perks like the senior lot can make senior year just a little more tolerable. While off-campus parking is inconvenient, it was something current seniors had to do the previous year. Fortunately, faculty involvement helps deter juniors from filling the lot, but in Plante's view, "it is not always easy to tell whether a car belongs to a junior, and many unauthorized cars go unreported."

While a majority of the junior class has been following expectations, there are some repeat offenders. Chelsea Gonzaga Torres '24 said, "some juniors park in the [senior lot], but their senior friends let it slide." This kind of activity can be frustrating to the juniors who follow the school rule, and the seniors who do not want to give up their spots for other seniors' "friends." According to McDonald, there have been no official complaints so far, so there is the possibility parking is a real issue, but it is not being reported.

Whether the classes agree on the issue or not, the debate over fairness and equality is worth more than any parking spot, even if it happens to be in the senior lot.



PHOTO: OLIVIA MANN

The Senior Lot, located next to the Athletic Center, is often filled to capacity.

For the Sake of Student Voices

BY CHARLOTTE SUSSMAN

The Student Government Association has been a fixture at Morristown Beard since the school's earliest days. Acting as a bridge between the student body and the administration, the SGA listens to the concerns of students and then passes these concerns to adults in the school who can help to address them. Each year, all grade levels gather in Founders Hall and vote on candidates for the positions of each grade's individual President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Public Relations Officer. All students elect the student body president, who then appoints the rest of their cabinet.

"The SGA primarily serves to reflect student opinions and basically convey them to the administration," explains Egbefe Omonzane '23, the SGA President for the 2022-2023 school year. "Like a medium for

students to be able to communicate when they feel like they can't."

In addition to their role as listeners, the SGA exists to plan events on behalf of the students they represent to help build community. The grade's cabinet routinely meets with their grade dean to determine what they can do and how to do it. Previous events have included trips to Funplex, tournaments between grades, and movie nights.

All students are not only welcome but encouraged to attend SGA meetings. Zachary Mazouat, Design Arts Department and faculty advisor to the SGA, said, "Anyone can be an SGA member, so you don't have to be an elected official to come to the meetings." Mazouat is not new to SGA, having been a part of it himself in high school. He said, "I would really love to start to build a culture where most of the

people in the SGA are not elected officials. When I was in high school, the SGA meetings would have 40 students, and it was run by elected officials, but everybody in it was not necessarily a part of their grade council. Whether or not you're a member of the SGA would have to do with your attendance at the meetings and not just based on an election."

In recent years, the student body has expressed concerns that the SGA election process favors those with more connections to the other students over the most qualified candidates. Though Mazouat believes this is hard to combat on the grade level, he maintains that the solution to this on a more general level is further guidelines on who can run. "If things like involvement in the SGA were a requirement for running for them, schoolwide, I

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Dress Your Best

BY EVAN DANIELS

A much debated topic in Morristown Beard School this year is the dress code. While some community members feel the dress code is too strict and should be scrapped entirely, others feel that our dress code is too lenient and should be amplified to something stronger like uniforms.

Darren Lovelock of the English department has always had strong feelings about high school dress codes. He said, "I genuinely believe that the school should introduce a school uniform; it increases the school's sense of unity and identity." Lovelock believes that the current

school dress code is extremely generous and forgiving towards the students. He said, "[I] grew up in a country that had school uniforms. It was perfectly fine and nobody squeaked about it. I think that we don't need a more relaxed dress code or even a more severe dress code, I think we just need a school uniform."

Oluwatomwa Oluwasola '23, the SGA Public Relations Officer, said "[the dress code] changed a lot, or at least, the way it's enforced has changed a lot over the years. My sister went here, so she's an alumnus. She graduated in 2019, and I used to

come and visit the school, of course, for her plays, and it was definitely much stricter. We dressed a lot more business casual. I think a lot of things fly under the radar now."

Ryan Liese, Head of the Upper School, said, "it's important for communities to agree on what a certain standard is and follow it from there...If people are interested in the dress code and interested in what it means, and interested in looking at

"I think we just need a school uniform."

ways to adjust it, they should try to do that. I don't think just one group of people should be deciding that."

Because many have one firm opinion on the dress code, Liese feels it's best to value all students and faculty's options when deciding our school's dress code. He said, "it's important that if there are people that are interested in [changing the dress code], then it's important to take all of those people into consid-



PHOTO: JONAS WEINMANN

Justin Benbassat '23 sports an MBS basketball sweatshirt in compliance with the dress code. Unfortunately for his friend, t-shirts are not a part of the 2022-2023 dress code.

eration when figuring out what's the best plan to make a proposal."

Joining groups like the SGA can help put forth proposals for a new dress code. This year, shorts were added to the Upper School dress

code after many students drew up proposals and met with members of the administration. While the dress code isn't going anywhere anytime soon, it is not set in stone.

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PERSPECTIVES

CRIMSON SUN

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Crimson Sun corrects its factual errors and accepts corrections.

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Crimson Sun provides information and entertainment in addition to various viewpoints on debatable issues. We will not print anything that is deemed libelous, obscene or in poor taste. We reserve the right to edit or withhold anything submitted and correct spelling, grammar and punctuation when necessary.

Walks in the Arbo: Ms. Chantal Thornberry

By GABRIELLE WOLIN

Ms. Chantal Thornberry joined MBS this fall as Director of Student Culture and Wellbeing after working at St. Paul Academy & Summit School in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she served as Upper School Dean of Students for the past four years. Previously, she earned a B.A. in English and Philosophy from Emory University and an M.Ed. in Secondary English at DePaul University. In her position as Director of Student Culture and Wellbeing, Thornberry works as part of the Senior Leadership team focusing on listening, observing, and learning within the student body. In addition to her position as director, she teaches a senior elective on Shakespeare's Tragedies and observes classes to better understand the student experience.



PHOTO: GABRIELLE WOLIN

What inspires your work? What is your motivation in the morning?

Well, quite honestly, the students here at MBS do. I am grateful every day to be a part of the MBS community. I love how when I come to this campus every day I can observe and connect with the student body and try and improve their general well-being. Students here, I have noticed— even after only being here a semester—are very open and honest with each other. People are overwhelmingly kind and welcoming here, so the idea that I can come to work and try and make this an even better place for all of you gets me out of bed in the morning.

What do you think is the most important lesson for students nowadays?

It's okay to fail at something, it really really is. And I have been doing this job, not in this particular department, but I have been in educa-

tion and administrator for decades now. From this, I have learned that if you can learn resilience and how to overcome an obstacle and know that it is okay not to be perfect at something ever, then you're going to be more successful in your life. My primary goal here will be to help all students in the MBS community reach their potential and feel connected by collaborating with the DEIB department and by aligning all aspects of wellness education, counseling, and advising.

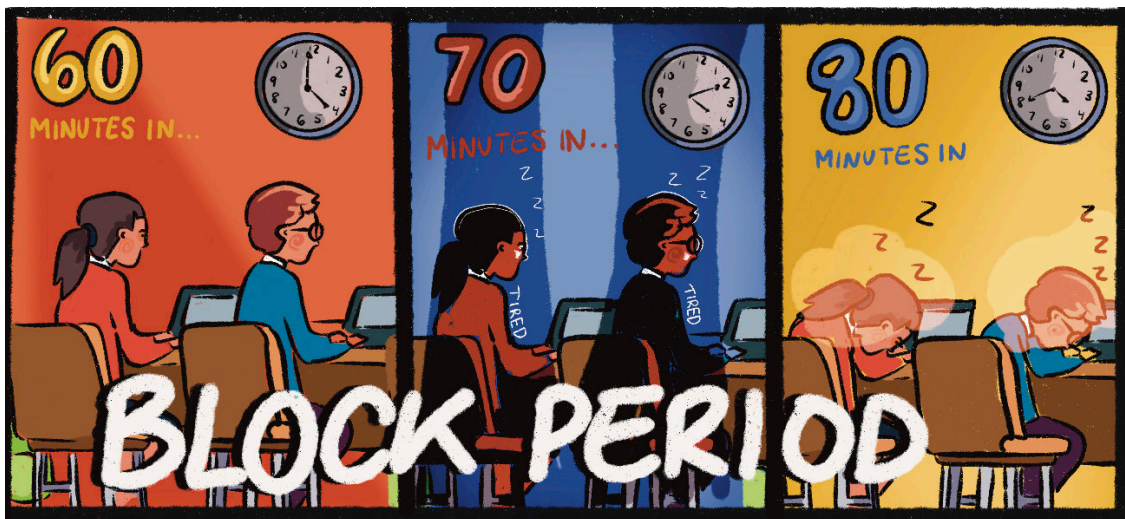
What made MBS appeal to you? What ultimately made you choose to come here for this specific department?

The people here at MBS appealed to me and ultimately made me choose to come work here. As I was looking for my next step in my career I was really invested in finding a place that had student well-being at the forefront. Upon discovering MBS, I noticed that this

school was entirely invested in the development of the whole student throughout their academic career—which I loved. I don't think you can necessarily be successful in the long-term academically or in life if you don't focus on your well-being in the world and within your community, so the fact that this role was created to focus solely on that was really inspiring to me.

What is your favorite thing to do in your free time outside of work?

Outside of work, I really like to spend time with my family and bake for them. I like to bake all sorts of sweets, from cakes, sweets, to cookies. It's really enjoyable as I've gotten better at intricate little bakes like macarons and all of that, though it is quite funny and a bit ironic as I really don't like sweet stuff very much. Therefore I'm mostly baking for my family and friends, while I prefer having salty and spicy foods for myself.



CARTOON: GABRIELLE WOLIN

Word Search




Words

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Are you passionate about something? Write an op-ed for *Crimson Sun*!

An op-ed is an opinion essay written by a staff columnist or an outside contributor. It should have a clear point of view or argument supported by specific evidence. Content does not have to be MBS specific.

Questions? Have an idea?
Email Gabrielle Wolin (gwolin_24@mbs.net)

FEATURES

Connecting Dots and Building Bridges

By ISLA JOHNSTON

This year MBS introduced a new program to better understand the connection between students and teachers. The program is called “Connect the Dots,” as the students must “dot” (select) teachers they feel know/get/understand them on a deeper level. This “dotting” exercise was rolled out via Google Forms. This program measures each grade’s feelings and helps the faculty know whether it is necessary for more team-building retreats or activities.

“Connect the Dots” was inspired by the 2014 People of Color Conference (POCC), in which they connected the importance of student-teacher relationships to

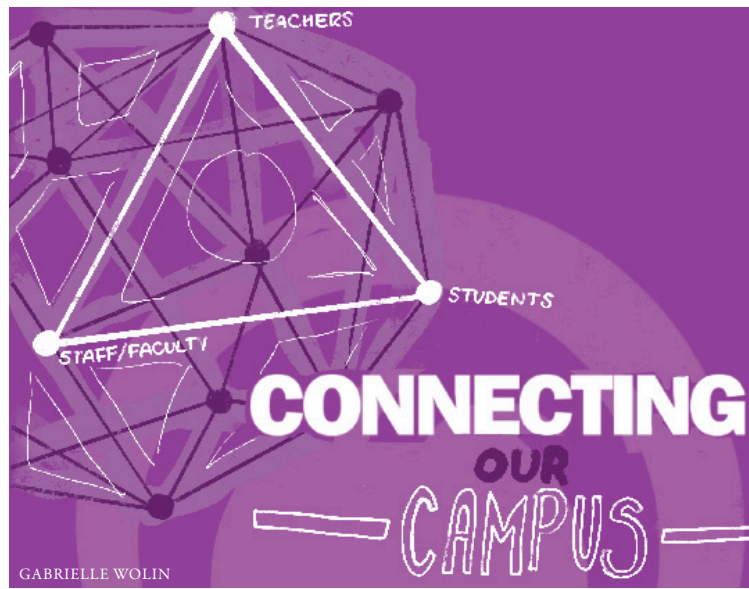
the overall well-being of the school. When students feel they have a close relationship with their teachers, they are more likely to be engaged in their own learning.

Chantal Thornberry, Director of Student Culture and Well-Being, said, “The purpose is to add another tool to ensure that every student here at MBS feels known and has adults who support them.” Thornberry undertook the program at her previous school, and it has become “one which is used in many independent schools throughout the country.”

Currently, MBS offers student support through class deans,

counselors, advisories, coaches, the DEIB office, etc. The “Connect the Dots” program is just another means by which to ensure that students feel that support. Thornberry said, “MBS is an exceptionally well-connected community with adults who see, know, and genuinely like students.”

However, if any student doesn’t feel connected to an adult on campus, she recommends meeting with their dean, advisor, or counselor. Thornberry said, “We want every student here to feel supported and at home.”



‘Tis the Season for Peppermint

By DAPHNE MARIANO

As the weather outside gets colder, it is time for a nice, warm peppermint mocha. If you are sick of Starbucks and Dunkin’ Donuts and are looking for a nice environment to get some work done, or just hang out with some friends, I know

the places for you. I went to two of the best places in Morristown to test where you could get the best seasonal coffee and enjoy the setting.

Green Point Espresso Bar is located on Speedwell Ave near the Morristown Green. While their

peppermint mocha was strong and minty, it was a bit refreshing too. The coffee itself was good but flavorful, and it had more of the mint flavor than the chocolate mocha flavor. The environment is very modern, while still being warm and friendly. The decorations are very aesthetically pleasing including a modern chandelier and unique paintings on the walls. I was welcomed with a warm smile. The baristas offered free samples of their homemade almond milk before making my order.

The place itself may be a little distracting if you are trying to get work done because it is also a smoothie place, meaning there were blenders going on in the background. That being said, they also serve a variety of juices, smoothies, and acai bowls, so if you are looking for more

I was welcomed with a warm smile.

than just a peppermint mocha, you should check out this place.

The second place I visited was Smartworld Coffee on South Street. I had previously gone to try their fall drinks, and was a bit disappointed. However, they absolutely redeemed themselves during this visit. Their peppermint mocha had the right amount of peppermint - not so overpowering that you don’t get the taste of the chocolate mocha flavor. The atmosphere was not as aestheti-

cally pleasing as Green Point’s, but if you are the type of person who enjoys getting work done in a cafe, they have a quiet seating area which makes it easy for one to focus.

Both Green Point and Smartworld have their pros and cons, but overall I would recommend both, just for different reasons. If you are looking for a more flavourful minty mocha, then I would suggest checking out Green Point Espresso Bar. If you want a more conservative and subtle peppermint mocha with a more studious atmosphere, I would head to Smartworld Coffee. Regardless, drinking a peppermint mocha is almost like drinking the holiday spirit - I would recommend you try one next time you are at a coffee shop before this seasonal drink is put away until next year.



PHOTO: DAPHNE MARIANO

Smartworld Coffee’s peppermint mocha has just the right amount of peppermint -- not too overpowering.



PHOTO: CRIMSON SUN STAFF

SGA meets the first Thursday of every month in the basement of Wilkie. All are welcome!

For the Sake of Student Voices

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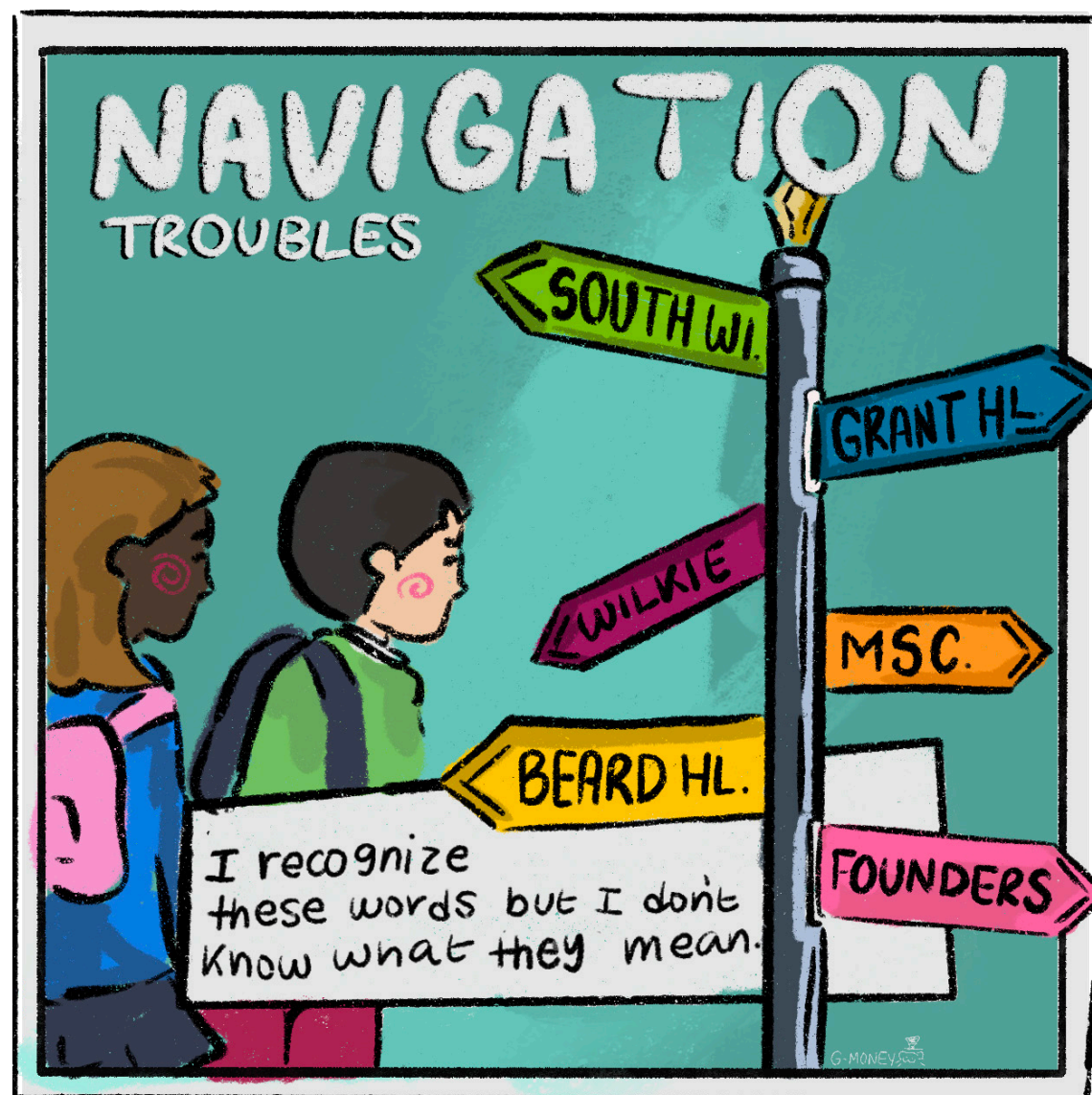
think that would help...[The candidates] would have to earn it in the fact that they were at least attending the meetings for the previous year.”

Omonzane, meanwhile, thinks the SGA would benefit from a more open structure. “I feel like commonly, the stereotype surrounding the SGA is that, ‘Oh, it doesn’t really do anything because, after the election, you don’t really see much,’ but I feel like if it was much more open or easier for people to access it, then

it’d be a lot easier for them to process that we’re going through the order of trying to get the little changes that you guys don’t really notice.”

The SGA is always open and eager to hear the opinions of the students they represent. Anybody can come to a member with concerns or attend one of their monthly meetings. The SGA meets on the first Thursday of every month during Lunch 2 (11:35 am -12:05 pm).

Cartoonist’s Corner



Twitter (Elon's Version)

BY ETHAN ROITMAN

In early 2022, Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, criticized Twitter for its policies surrounding free speech. Musk, a self-declared free-speech absolutist, envisioned a platform where people could speak freely and wouldn't be censored by a central authority. Then, Musk put his money where his mouth is.

In April, a securities filing revealed that Musk was Twitter's largest shareholder, holding 9% of the company. He was then invited to join Twitter's Board of Directors, an invitation he declined. In a turn of events, Musk offered to purchase Twitter at \$54.20 per share, totaling around \$44 billion. After much deliberation, Twitter's board publicly and unanimously accepted Musk's buyout offer. But no one is immune to buyer's remorse.

Trying to find a way out of the deal, Musk put the buyout on pause following reports that around 5% of Twitter's active users are spam accounts ("bots"). On July 8th, Musk announced his intention to terminate the acquisition; however, Twitter's chairman, Bret Taylor, said that the Board planned to pursue legal action to enforce the buyout. After a short-lived bout in the Delaware Chancery Court, Musk submitted a proposal to move forward with the original acquisition as long as Twitter dropped the lawsuit (which it did).

On October 27th, Musk and Twitter closed the deal. One of his first actions in his new role was his firing of their CEO Parag Agrawal, CFO Ned Segal, and general counsel Sean Edgett. Making good on his promise of free speech (albeit temporarily), Musk reinstated many previously banned accounts including that of former President Donald Trump. Musk put out a Twitter poll asking his followers what he should do regarding Trump's banned account status. After 15 million votes, 52% of people voted to reinstate the former President. "Vox Populi, Vox Dei," (voice of the people, voice of God) Musk wrote, and reinstated the account. Trump has not been active since his reinstatement.

Massive layoffs across the company sparked more debate, and amid the controversies, many Twitter advertisers began to flee. This posed a problem for Musk since advertisements are Twitter's primary means of income. To combat this, he implemented a new program called Twitter Blue. Before his ownership, noteworthy, famous, and largely followed accounts could get verified for free and earn a blue check next to their name to signify their status. Now, anyone can receive a snazzy blue check to their name for \$8 a month. While many refused on principle, others were happy to pay up.

Initially, it looked like Twitter Blue caused people to simply mimic famous personalities, leading to some hysterical tweets, but it also caused some more serious issues as well. For example, an account pretending to be the US-based weapons maker Lockheed Martin tweeted out, "We will begin halting all weapons sales to Saudi Arabia, Israel, and the United States until further investigation into their record of human rights abuses." This spooked investors, leading to a massive fall in Lockheed's share price.

In recent news, Musk is under heavy fire for suspending accounts that were "doxing" (the act of publishing private or identifying information about a particular individual on the internet) his real-time location, which he deemed a personal safety threat. Further, Musk began suspending reporter accounts if they wrote news stories about the suspension or had previously written negatively about him. Reporters across many news outlets, including the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, saw their accounts suspended for simply reporting on the topic.

Many question if Musk has strayed from his original ideology of absolute free speech given all of his new restrictions. The future of Twitter is currently unknown, and the direction Musk is taking the media giant is a mysterious secret that we'll all know soon enough.

A King of Rap and A King of the Court Fuel the Flames of Antisemitism

BY SARAH MARINE

This past fall, Grammy winning artist and fashion designer Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, engaged in yet another twitter battle, this time with Grammy winning artist Sean "Diddy" Combs following Ye's appearance during Paris Fashion Week where he wore a "White Lives Matter" t-shirt.

On October 7, 2022, Ye took to Instagram to post tweets in response to Combs' alleged text messages. In these messages, Combs allegedly wrote: "I'm just trying to talk to you as a Black man. And I'm talking to you because this is hurting our people. Stop."

Ye's response on twitter implied "Jewish people" were controlling Combs and making decisions for him. Two days later, after having his Instagram taken down yet again for a similar message, Ye posted a tweet that directly called out, and threatened, the Jewish community. His antisemitic tweets, and the world's response led to, according to Ye, an almost \$2 billion dollar loss in his net worth.

Weeks later, on October 27,

community and those that it's actually going to impact. Anybody else that has criticism, it obviously

growing flame of modern antisemitism.

While Ye continues to push the

Ye continues to push the boundaries of social media and free speech.

wasn't meant for them."

During an interview with conspiracy theorist Alex Jones of InfoWars on December 1, Ye said that he "sees good things about Hitler." After the interview, Ye posted another hateful, antisemitic image on his Twitter and has since declared he will be running for President in 2024. He has since been suspended by the platform.

It is important to note, also, that Ye is not the only antisemitic voice in the entertainment industry, but it can be heard, amplified, and rapidly spread from his elevated celebrity platform and large following. Ye has

boundaries of social media and free speech, Irving received a five-game suspension from the Brooklyn Nets as a result of his statements. While most people are outraged by these recent antisemitic comments, there will always be extremists who see these theories as the truth. Others have chosen to exploit Ye, not considering the millions of people they expose to such hate. For example, Jones actively chose West as an interviewee on his show for the large amounts of publicity he would gain, disregarding the fact that he was continuing to give Ye a platform to promote his hate speech. While some may dismiss these controversies because they could not imagine someone like Ye actually participating in violent acts, one does not have to participate actively to be a perpetrator of them. A single tweet from a celebrity could be enough ammunition for a dangerous home-grown terrorist.

According to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), who tracks instances of hate crimes, "there has been a 34% increase as of 2021 in antisemitic behavior across the nation." For centuries the Jewish community has been a target of threats, hate and genocide. It is important to stomp out this spark before another temple is burned to the ground in violent, misguided, and hate-filled flames.

actively chosen to use his position of power to promote prejudice and potential violence. Attacks on Jewish temples have increased since his statement. Earlier in November, New Jersey synagogues were threatened. Although the perpetrator has been arrested, Ye's posts taken down, and Irving's half-hearted apology, no disciplinary response can undo the pain these hateful words have brought upon the world and the fire that has been added to the already

A single tweet from a celebrity could be enough ammunition for a dangerous home-grown terrorist.

NBA all-star Irving, currently rostered on the Nets, posted a link to an anti-semitic documentary, publicizing the movie to his 4.5 million Twitter followers. Three days later, Irving defended his posting during a combative press conference after a tough loss to the Pacers. He said, "what I post does not mean that I support everything that's being said, or everything is being done, or I'm campaigning for anything. All I do is post things for my people in my

Who won the midterms?

BY ETHAN ROITMAN

On November 8, 2022, Americans participated in the long awaited midterm elections. Republicans expected a "red wave," meaning that they would easily win the majority in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. However, the

Nevada.

President Joe Biden has every reason to celebrate. Biden becomes the third president in his first midterm to gain, or not lose, Senate seats while losing fewer than 10 House seats (the others being John

new cohort of younger Democratic leaders.

The Democrats' ability to hold onto the Senate was crucial for the party to continue their, and the president's, agenda. This majority allows them to block any legislation coming from the Republican-held House, and they will continue to have the ability to reshape the federal judiciary.

Regarding the gubernatorial races, Republicans still maintain a majority, with 26 states having a Republican governor.

The House will be a spectacle to watch over the next two years. Drama will inevitably unfold as the 2024 presidential election is on the forefront of everyone's mind. For

Republicans, their win in the House was essential as it will allow them to keep President Biden in check for the last two years as commander in chief. It also allows them to launch an array of congressional investigations into many political issues, ranging from the United States' withdrawal from Afghanistan, to more personal probes surrounding alleged scandals of President Biden (such as his son Hunter's business activities).

There is, however, a noteworthy shift in the Republican Party that has slipped under the radar. Of the 10 Republican members of Congress who voted to impeach former President Donald Trump during his second impeachment due to his ac-

tions surrounding the January 6th insurrection, 8 of them have been ousted, leaving Dan Newhouse of Washington and David Valadao of California as the only two Republicans who voted to impeach Donald Trump left in the House. All 10 of the Republicans faced the fiery wrath of voters back in their respective states.

As the country looks ahead to the 2024 presidential election, it seems as though despite these losses, Trump is still the de-facto leader of the Republican Party as many of his endorsed candidates won their House seats. Trump may, however, face opposition from Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, who seems poised to make a presidential bid.

There is a noteworthy shift in the Republican party.

actual results were mixed for the Republican Party. While it regained control of the House of Representatives by a slim margin (222-213), it was unable to flip the Senate (49-51), losing key races in battleground states such as Arizona, Georgia and

F. Kennedy in 1962 and George W. Bush in 2002). These elections revealed a new era in the Democratic Party. With the Democrats' loss in the House, longtime House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi is stepping aside, paving the way for a

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever the Real Hero's Legacy Lives On

BY ANDRE CHABRA

It's been a long time since a movie has generated this kind of hype and fervor. Despite all the setbacks and the incredibly shocking and sad passing of its star, Chadwick Boseman, *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* finally arrived in theaters on November 11, 2022. It brought people back to the world of Wakanda and its characters, who have become so loved by Marvel fans almost like they are family. The film was directed by Ryan Coogler (*Black Panther*, *Creed*) and written by Coogler and Joe Robert Cole (*Black Panther*).

Wakanda Forever's lead cast brings back many familiar faces from the first film, such as Letitia Wright (*Urban Hymn*) as Shuri, Danai Gurira (*The Walking Dead*)

It cannot be understated just how incredible an accomplishment this film is.

as Okoye, and Angela Bassett (Malcolm X) as Queen Ramonda. Also returning are fan favorite M'Baku,

played by Winston Duke (*Us*), and Lupita Nyong'o (*Us*) as Nakia. Instead of just indulging in the past, the film strives to expand the ever-growing mythos of the Marvel Universe through several new characters like Namor, played by Tenoch Huerta Mejía (*Narcos: Mexico*), and Dominique Thorne as Riri Williams (*If Beale Street Could Talk*).

Faced with the seemingly impossible challenge of filming a sequel to *Black Panther* (arguably one of the greatest MCU movies of all time, and the only MCU film to win an Oscar and be nominated for Best Picture), without Chadwick Boseman, King T'Challa/Black Panther, what Ryan Coogler and his team have achieved in this film is nothing short of outstanding. Boseman, who passed away after a long and quiet battle with cancer in August 2020, was originally intended to headline the movie. This tragedy forced Coogler to make a movie not only without its main superhero, but a movie without his good friend who gave so much to the world through his time as the Black Panther. It is clear throughout *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* that every single person on screen wants nothing more than to give it their all in performances that would've made Boseman proud, so that they can

live up to his legacy and celebrate his life. It cannot be understated just how incredible an accomplishment this film is.

The story follows Shuri after her brother T'Challa's death from an unknown illness. While grappling with her brother's death, she must embark on a journey to defeat a new enemy named Namor. Namor is the king of the underwater kingdom of Talokan, where he and his water-breathing peoples live separated from the outside world. He can breathe in and out of the water, has super strength, and can fly due to the wings that grow on his ankles. After the events of the first film, where T'Challa revealed Wakanda's true capabilities with the metal vibranium, the governments of the world have been trying to get their hands on vibranium by any means necessary. In doing so, they encroach on Talokan, leading to Namor trying to convince Shuri and her mother, Queen Ramonda, to join him in opposition to the rest of the world. While dealing with this, the Wakandans also find themselves in a desperate search for a new Black Panther, someone who can once again become the great protector of their nation.

One of the real spectacles of this movie is the performances of Wright



IMAGE COURTESY OF MARVEL STUDIOS

and Bassett. As Shuri, Wright perfectly conveys the deep trauma and pain of losing a loved one and having to rise up to their legacy. Shuri's growth as she slowly comes to terms with her brother's death is phenomenally acted as the character goes through multiple emotional phases throughout the film.

Shuri & T'Challa's mother, Queen Ramonda (Bassett), takes on the mantle of ruler of Wakanda in the wake of her son's passing. Queen Ramonda is forced to cut her mourning short and put on a stern and serious demeanor for the sake of the people of Wakanda. Bassett's performance is absolutely stunning as she layers the feelings of her character on top of each other. On the surface, Queen Ramonda is fierce and antagonistic with the rest

of the world because of how they try to under mine and steal from the Wakandans, yet below that, it is clear in the subtle details of her eyes, her face, and her body that this is a wall she is just barely maintaining to hide how desperately she misses her son.

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever is an amazing sequel that does justice to its predecessor and honors it in every way. It is a viewing experience that will change and move you in unexpected ways that are so touching they will remain with you for a long time. It is a must-see film; just don't forget to stick around for the post-credit scene.

A Wind to Remember

BY MATTHEW WANG

The MBS 2022 Upper School fall play, *Inherit the Wind*, was well executed and portrayed many timeless themes.

Inherit the Wind, written by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee in 1955, is a fictional reenactment of the "Scopes Monkey Trial" of 1925. The trial saw a Tennessee school teacher charged with teaching Charles Darwin's Theory of Evolution. It wasn't necessary, however, to know what the play was about before entering Founders Hall, as the actors did a great job at conveying the play's theme throughout the performance to help the viewer understand the historical context.

Despite the fact that the play was written in 1955, it tackled complicated and very modern themes such as the relationships between people with differing beliefs, the right to think for yourself, and the right to dictate public school curricula. It is important to note, however, that humor was by no means absent in the performance. Maggie Ahern '23 excellently played the character of Hornbeck, a journalist, delivering jokes and snide remarks, which helped relieve the tension and lighten the mood of both the audience and the characters despite some very grim situations they find themselves in.

In addition to Ahern's notable performance, freshman Daniel Raimier and sophomore Indiya Weinmann's characters gave some of the most powerful performances

in the play. Bertram Cates (Raimier), the defendant in court who has been exiled by his community, has only his romance with Rachel Brown (Weinmann) to turn to for strength and hope. However, as the daughter of the local Reverend, who passionately believes Cates is in the wrong, Brown's relationship with Cates struggles to maintain momentum throughout the play. The strength and conviction of Cates when finally breaking and telling his truth alongside Weinmann's portrayal of Brown's moral conflict, were both extremely memorable.

Dylan Mandel '23, as Reverend Jeremiah Brown, Rachel's father, gave a chill-inducing speech that was one of the production's highlights. Kaitlin Blount '23 as Henrietta Drummond, excellently executed her role and delivered lines that were some of the most thought provoking throughout the play. Her final interaction with Hornbeck drove home the message of the play, that although people may have differing beliefs and oppose one another, we

should still respect each other, and wish no harm towards each other at the end of the day.

Sal D'Agostino as lawyer Matthew Harrison Brady gave an extremely memorable performance that balanced humor with more serious internal conflict.

The MBS Performing Arts department and all of the students involved created a meaningful and memorable performance of *Inherit the Wind*. To find out more about the cast, you can view the digital program at bit.ly/3XUlyj0.

Performing Arts
Merriamtown Board School
Presents

INHERIT THE WIND

November
9, 11, 12 7:30 PM
10 3:30 PM

The Theater at Founders Hall

Tickets available at the door. Free for MBS Students/Faculty/Staff. \$5 for all others.

Thirteen Sleepless Nights

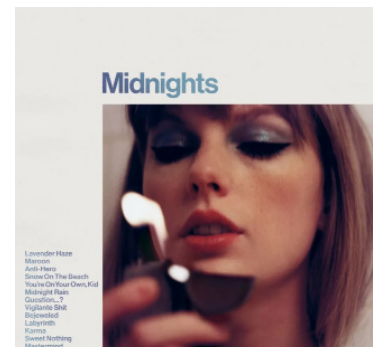
BY REBECCA STULBERGER

Taylor Swift dropped her newest album *Midnights* on October 21, 2022. This was the 10th studio album release for Swift, and marks a return to a more pop-like sound after her folklore era.

The album contains songs that are about Swift and how she sees herself in the world as someone who is constantly judged and criticized. The lead single of the album is "Anti-Hero" which has also been used in viral TikTok videos (see: "It's me, hi//I'm the problem, it's me.")

Midnights is an album that a lot of people would probably like, not only die-hard Taylor Swift fans. There are a wide variety of songs, so the album fits many people's musical tastes. They are all considered to be in the pop category, but some are slower, faster, etc. Some of the songs in the album are more upbeat, while others take on a more ballad-like role. For example, the opening track "Lavender Haze," which is about her relationship with long-time boyfriend Joe Alwyn, is slow but sweet. On the opposite end, her song "Vigilante _____" has a more aggressive overall tone as it talks about revenge.

In addition to the TikTok trend stemming from "Anti-Hero," other songs on the album have also gone viral. One trend, in particular, uses a lyric from "You're on Your Own Kid." This trend typically involves



Promotional image courtesy of Republic Records

users of the app who are applying to their dream colleges. The TikToks say something along the lines of "why would you be so upset if you did not get in?" and then use the song lyrics, "I gave my blood, sweat, and tears for this" as an explanation. Both of these TikTok trends show how much people can relate to Swift and what she has experienced throughout her life.

Midnights differs from all of Swift's previous albums because of what each song is about. Typically the songs in her albums reflect her life during the time it was written. However, the songs on *Midnights* represent different nights scattered throughout her life. These moments did not happen around the same time. Swift makes all of her albums unique and different in some way or another and *Midnights* is no exception.

The Chillest Musical Yet

By JEFFREY SCOTT VALENTINE

This spring, the full scope of Morristown Beard's theatrical talent will be captured with the musical adaptation of Ned Vizzini's bestselling novel *Be More Chill*. The musical follows high school student Jeremy Heere and his experiences with the SQUIP, a pill-sized supercomputer that he hopes will help him become more popular.

The cast is composed of several brilliant student performers this year, with freshman Daniel Raimer portraying lead Jeremy Heere and senior Alana Smith supplying the voice of the SQUIP. Jeremy's best friend, Michael Mell will be played by freshman Ari Mandel, and senior Maggie Ahern will fill the role of love interest Christine Canigula. Kaitlin Brown '24, Cameron Weil '26, and Maya Bhide '23 will play friends Chloe, Brooke, and Jenna, respectively. Sal D'Agostino '23 as Jake Dillinger and Henry D'Andrea '24 as Rich round out the ensemble cast. Supporting roles include Adin Kasmin '24 as Mr. Heere, Dylan Mandel '23 as drama teacher Mr. Reyes, and Jonathan Spencer as the Scary Stockboy.

The musical will run from the first of March through the fourth, with a matinee performance right

after school on the second. Until then, though, the cast and crew will be rehearsing diligently to ensure a smooth and entertaining show. It is only after multiple weeks of auditions and callbacks that rehearsals are finally ready to begin. Per Dylan Mandel, the musical is ready to begin staging and blocking in rehearsal, which describes a process that normally takes "a month or two" in which cast members acquaint themselves with their lines and start to position themselves in scenes. The lead-up in the two weeks before the show is reserved for run-throughs of the full show, with one or two dress rehearsals immediately preceding opening night. "Show night is very exciting. A lot of people tend to be nervous... but I know from my experience that everyone [will be] super well prepared," says Mandel.

Be More Chill will land on the Founders Hall stage after brief stints in theaters across America and England. The musical originally opened in Red Bank, New Jersey, in 2015 as part of a four-year effort to develop new plays and musicals at the Two River Theater. Three years later, in 2018, *Be More Chill* was picked back up off-Broadway, before transitioning to Broadway previews in

early 2019 at the Lyceum Theater in New York. Despite favorable reviews through 177 Broadway performances, *Be More Chill* has found only measured success in other theaters; a limited, ten-week run in London's West-End opened to overwhelmingly positive audience reviews after pandemic restrictions derailed a wider circuit of the city's theaters. However, a Chicago production originally marred by the same pandemic restrictions has now been canceled altogether for undisclosed reasons.

Now, Morristown Beard's performing arts department has selected *Be More Chill* to return to New Jersey. The decision was announced in the fall, with *Be More Chill* contending with Steven Sater's adaptation of *Spring Awakening*, another coming-of-age piece, but set in the nineteenth century. Though a choice between two sexuality-themed musicals may sound strange to some, those involved have praised the pertinence of each musical's plot. According to D'Agostino, "the suppression of teen sexuality — especially in the twenty-first century — is actually quite a pressing issue in a lot more areas than you might think."



Image courtesy of the MBS Performing Arts Department.

Andor Rebels Against the Empire: What it Means to be Star Wars

By ANDRE CHABRA

After being time-starved of new Star Wars content and desperate to see more of Baby Yoda, *Andor* graced our screens to fill the gap. It began releasing episodes weekly on September 21 on Disney+.

Created by Tony Gilroy (Michael Clayton and *The Bourne Legacy*), *Andor* contains an all-star cast helmed by Diego Luna (*Narcos: Mexico*) as Andor. His co-stars include Kyle Soller (*Poldark*) as Syril Karn, Adria Arjona (*Morbius*) as Bix Caleen, Fiona Shaw (*Killing Eve*) as Maarva Andor, Stellan

Skarsgård (*Chernobyl*) as Luthen Rael, Denise Gough (*Under the Banner of Heaven*) as Dedra Meero, Genevieve O'Reilly (*Rogue One*) as Mon Mothma. Filled to the brim with new and familiar faces from the Star Wars mythos, *Andor* is a new and brilliant take on this decades-old franchise.

Unlike many other films, shows, and comic books, this series does not feature any connection to Jedis, Siths, lightsabers, or even the Force. Instead, it is a story completely focused on the other characters of

the Star Wars universe that people have come to know and love, such as the titular hero Cassian Andor and side characters like Mon Mothma. It is no longer an epic space opera; rather, it is a much smaller show that allows for an exploration of something new. This works tremendously in its favor because each episode packs something unique that has never been done before in Star Wars, and they are always a pleasure to watch.

The show has a pattern of having several story arcs, each one taking a few episodes to complete before transitioning to the next one. This allows for the show to go in all sorts of different directions. It becomes a political thriller, a heist, and a prison break, all wrapped up beautifully in one TV show that excellently connects each of these storylines.

The only way to pull off a brilliant TV show is to have brilliant performances, and *Andor* is filled with them. Diego Luna, who reprises his role of Cassian Andor from *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, continues to play Andor as the serious and dangerous man expertly,

but this time he is allowed to show more emotion and compassion than he did during *Rogue One*. With the introduction of his adoptive mother and close friends on the planet Ferrix, Andor is given an opportunity to become a more well-rounded character with much clearer motivations for why he hates the evil Empire. Mon Mothma, a legacy character that has appeared in previous Star Wars media, including the original *Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope*, is finally given the screen time she deserves. Only ever given a few lines in her previous appearances, Mon Mothma becomes a major player in the show through her shady political schemes to support the Rebellion against the Empire.

The show also introduces new characters including Luthen Rael, who is, simply put, so cool. Rael officially works as an antiques and collectibles dealer, but he actually uses that as a front to manage his network of people as part of the larger Rebellion. Skarsgård is in his element, playing this character who can switch personalities at the drop of a hat. One moment he is smiling

and chit-chatting with customers, and the next moment he is ruthlessly dispatching Storm Troopers and TIE Fighters in his mission to free the galaxy from Imperial op-

The only way to pull off a brilliant TV show is to have brilliant performances.

pression. Rael is the one who brings Andor into the fold of the Rebellion and really gets the story underway. Skarsgård portrays Rael as a man who will do anything to stop the Empire, including sacrificing his own men. A question you will always ask yourself is: can Luthen Rael really be trusted? The answer can only be found when you watch this awesome show.

Despite the setbacks Star Wars has faced in the 21st century with the lackluster sequel trilogy, *Andor* proves that there are still plenty of stories worth telling on-screen in the Star Wars universe.

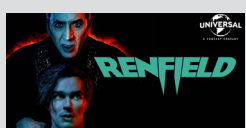


Promotional image courtesy of Disney+.

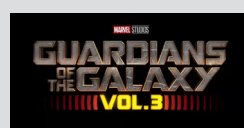
IN THEATERS THIS SPRING



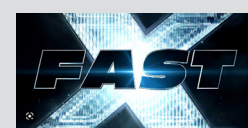
Shazam!
Fury of the Gods
March 17, 2023



Renfield
April 14, 2023



Guardians of the Galaxy
Vol. 3
May 5, 2023



Fast X
May 19, 2023

Big Skates to Fill

By JEFFREY SCOTT VALENTINE

It's not often that a tie to the fourth ranked team in the state acts as a wake-up call. However, a game that ended knotted at two proved to be just what the Morristown Beard Girls Hockey team needed.

Despite tough matches ahead, the Crimson remain confident.

On December 19th, despite outshooting the Summit Hilltoppers 30-8, each team only found the back of the net twice, ending the game in a draw. The game punctuated a modest 1-1-2 record, following a 4-1 win against Pingry and another 2-2 tie against the number two ranked Oak Knoll Royals earlier that month.

In the offseason, many questioned whether the Crimson this season could match the on-ice production defined by a dominant state tournament campaign. Key contributors to a potent offense had departed for college, namely Leah Stecker '22 and Logan Sutera '22, who combined for just under a quarter of the team's points last season. Now, almost halfway through this season, those questions have been put to rest in emphatic fashion. Taking full advantage of a two-

week hiatus following the Summit game, Morristown Beard reloaded for a perfect 4-0 record in 2023, outscoring opponents 26-5. Highlights from this stretch include a 7-1 win against Trinity Hall, ranked fifth at the time, and a 6-2 rout of New York team Rye Country Day. A collaborative effort has marked 2023 as six players have tallied goals in this four game span; captain Lillian Warnock '23 notched a hattrick in a 5-2 win against Pingry, while Jessica Sperling '24 contributed her own three-goal effort against Rye Country Day. Against Trinity Hall, Kailin Kane '24 led the way with another hat trick and Charlotte Greer '25 also contributed a goal. Freshmen Gabby DiGerinomo and Reid Snyder collected their first career points in this window as well; DiGerinomo sits at three career points (1G, 2A), while Snyder sits at six (2G, 4A).

The fourth game to take place in 2023 conveniently rematched Morristown Beard and Summit. The Hilltoppers sought to continue momentum after a 2-2 draw against Princeton Day and an 8-2 win against Westfield, but could find no recourse in an 8-0 blowout loss against the Crimson.

The eight-goal statement win by the Crimson was a dramatic turnaround from the tie earlier in the season. It saddled Summit with their worst loss since January

31st, 2018 against Chatham. Such a dominant win, however, was no fluke; the team trained hard after winter break to come back stronger than ever. Warnock said that the team's starting record of 1-1-2 was "just a little rocky in the beginning of the season. But now that we've had more practices, more games under our belt, I think it will go better — we didn't play badly, but we have more potential than we showed."

Warnock, who — along with Sperling — logged a hat trick against Summit on January 11th to reach 100 career points, remains confident about the team's capabil-

The team trained hard after winter break to come back stronger than ever.

ity to make another deep playoff run. She said, "as a team, we just need to come together a little more and communicate on the ice. It's definitely a different season this year with who we have... working as one team instead of individually is going to help us a lot."

The Crimson will certainly have ample opportunity to see how this work will continue to pay off, as they ride their four-game win streak



PHOTO: JEFFREY SCOTT VALENTINE

Pictured: Julie Kirshenbaum '25, Forward. The Crimson faced off against Oak Knoll on January 20. The tense game ended in a tie (2-2).

into a brutal upcoming schedule. Over the course of seven days, Morristown Beard will battle the Hoosac Owls as well as the Portledge Panthers. Both New York-based teams have historically given the Crimson a challenge; Hoosac's 3-2 victory remains Morristown Beard's only loss on the season thus far,

and Portledge went 0-3 versus the Crimson last season. Despite tough matches ahead, the Crimson remain confident that a potent offense and sharp defense will not waver in the face of such competition, and that a strong regular season presence will translate to the state tournament.

Cricket Coming to the US: A Four-Century Long Process

By SARAH MARINE

As of 2019, USA Cricket has teamed with American Cricket Enterprises (ACE) and invested a billion dollars in the creation of Major League Cricket. Investors in ACE include Sameer Mehta and Vijay Srinivasan, the founders of Willow TV, the largest cricket broadcaster in North America (who will also be broadcasting MLC games). Other investors include ex-Facebook CTO Aditya Agarwal, Head of Google's Search team Amit Singhal, and Neeraj Arora, former chief business officer at Whatsapp. The companies hope to build on the 20 million cricket fans already residing within the US and create an even larger fan base.

The popular sports falls just behind soccer with 2.5 billion fans worldwide.

Beginning this year, the US will have its first professional league, and many Americans will witness

their first "googly" and hear cries of a "lolly." MLC'S inaugural season will take place from July 13-30, 2023, with six teams taking part representing Dallas, San Francisco, New York City, Seattle, Los Angeles and Washington D.C. The MLC will be played in a T20 layout, where the game will last for three hours compared to the standard five days (with tea breaks!). To build a better base of players, USA cricket is creating minor leagues in addition to the major leagues to form a system of developing players and recruiting locally. Ms. Archana Sankar, Science Department and former schoolgirl cricketer, has "high hopes," although she is aware patience is required for watching

cricket, and the sport is stigmatized for being slow moving. Mr. Darren Lovelock, English Department and cricket enthusiast, is unsure if the sport could be established into American schools easily. He said, "although cricket is cheap, its fields

need to have a central, flat rectangle which makes the pitch less versatile for other sports." Another challenge is encouraging American kids to leave baseball, which was originally based on cricket.

Cricket, while foreign to many Americans, is wildly popular internationally due to its historic origins. The first known mention of the game occurred in 1611 when a dictionary defined it as a "boys game." The game originated in south-east England, and arrived in America through the English colonies as early as the 17th century. Cricket is played between two teams with 11 players each on an oval-shaped field. One team "bowls" the cricket ball aiming to strike the wicket, a set of three wooden posts and the other team defends the wicket by hitting the ball with a bat. If a player hits

The US game will last for three hours compared to the standard five days.

the cricket ball they must run to the other wicket set up in front of them and back to score runs.

The popular sport falls just behind soccer with 2.5 billion fans, and has support all around the globe through organizations such as the ICC (International Cricket Council). It can be said that fans get just as rowdy at these cricket matches as Americans do at American football.

There is a lot of competition in the American sports industry, but the MLC hopes to build their already established base of fans to increase the sport's popularity in America. Maybe in the not-too-distant future Americans will be turning off the NFL or MLB to watch their local cricket team take the field.



SPORTS

Amidst a Title-Winning 2022 Season, Ghosts Still Hant the Houston Astros

By JONAS WEINMANN

November 5, 2022 marked the end of the 118th World Series, the annual championship series of Major League Baseball (MLB) in the United States and Canada. In a fiery battle that lasted 6 games (the victor must win 4 out of the total 7 possible games), the Houston Astros were able to outlast the Philadelphia Phillies and win their second World Series title.

The Astros had been dominant all-season long, winning 106 out of 162 games, and the postseason was no different. Kick-starting their postseason, they faced the Mariners off a bye and saw Jordan Alvarez hit a walk-off missile in right field in Game 1 of the series. They proceeded to handily win the series 3-0. Next up, the Yankees. They faced the “unstoppable” Aaron Judge, who had broken the American League record for most Home Runs in a season, and a Yankees team desperate for a World Series title. Judge had a 0.063 batting average during the series and the Astros won 4-0. The Astros then proceeded to the final and finished off the red-hot Phillies, silencing the team to a 0.163 batting average after they batted 0.235 in the rest of the playoffs. There was no way to deny the dominance of the 2022 Astros.

That had been what the Astros were missing: a legitimate title (at least according to the fans). Their other title came in 2017, where they beat the Los Angeles Dodgers in 7 games. They were similarly dominant, notching 101 wins in a 162 game season amid their path to a World Series title. However, in 2019, Mike Fiers, a former Astros pitcher, revealed to *The Athletic* that the Astros had stolen opposing teams’ signs during home games in the 2017 season.

In baseball, signs are the signal that catchers make to pitchers to determine what pitch will be thrown. For example, if a catcher puts one finger down and the pitcher agrees to the call, it usually means a fastball will be thrown.

This, in turn, led to a MLB investigation that revealed that during both the 2017 regular season and postseason, and during the 2018 regular season, the As-

tros had stolen signs. The Astros had done this by using a center field camera at Minute Maid Park (Astros home stadium) that analyzed the opposing team’s catcher signals and the pitchers response to figure out what each sign meant. This allowed the Astros to signal to their at bat players what type of ball the pitcher was planning on throwing. They would use a bat or massage gun to bang a trash can that would alert the Astro players at bat. If the trash can was banged once, it meant the ball was a curveball; if it was banged twice, it meant the ball would be an off-speed pitch like a slider or change, and no bangs at all meant a fastball. The Astros regularly used this to help them throughout the regular season and to win a World Series title back in 2017.

The punishments - more the lack of one - handed out by the MLB shocked and outraged the MLB community. MLB commissioner, Rob Manfred, banned Astros’ manager A.J. Hinch and GM Jeff Luhnow for one year, and they were subsequently fired by the Astros (although Hinch found a job less than 72 hours after his ban was lifted, becoming the manager

of the Detroit Tigers). The team was also fined \$5 million and docked of several top draft picks.

The lack of punishment for the players, who were heavily involved in the sign-stealing scheme, and the decision not to strip the Astros’ 2017 title outraged fans and other players alike. Judge, who finished second in M.V.P. voting for the AL and losing to the Astros in seven in the AL Championship, said “I was pretty mad, pretty upset. To hear that you got cheated out of that opportunity, that’s tough to kind of let go.” He added “I was sick to my stomach.” Dodgers player Cody Bellinger said, “I think what people don’t realize is Altuve stole an M.V.P. from Judge in ’17,” and “Everyone knows they stole the ring from us.”

The cheating saga continues today, with more rumors swirling that the Astros were stealing signs using an electronic buzzer that would alert players at bat what pitch was coming in 2019. These rumors started after Altuve hit a 84 mile-per-hour slider into left-center field to clinch the 2019 AL Championship Series for the Astros over the Yankees. As Altuve rounded third base and headed for home, he pointed to his shirt and motioned and told

his teammates not to rip off his jersey. Many fans and baseball analysts

The Astros had stolen opposing teams’ signs during home games in the 2017 season.

questioned why Altuve, who had just hit a walk-off home run to send his team to the World Series, would ask his teammates to not rip off his jersey in celebration. Altuve was also the first Astros player to go into the locker room and change into a t-shirt. Further rumors circulated when Josh Reddick wore something that looked like a buzzer device during his TV interview. The players have denied ever wearing such devices, and the MLB did not find any evidence to support these claims. However, the MLB said they can’t be sure they never wore such devices.

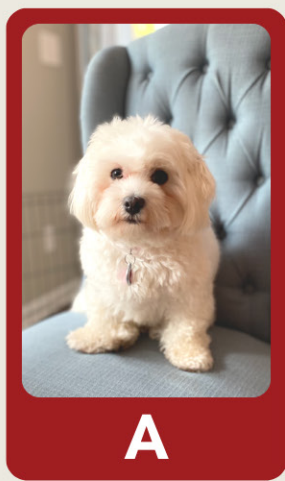
Nevertheless, the 2022 Astros found a way to combat all the cheating scandals and rumors that plagued their recent playoff success.



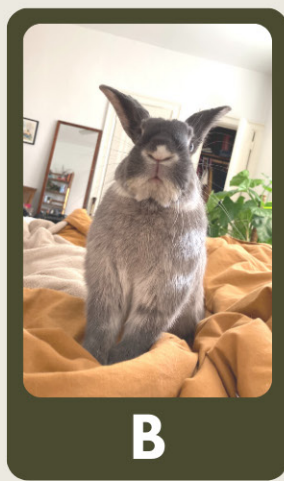
ALEXANDRA KING

Whose pet is it?

Each of the following beautiful animals lives with a member of the faculty or staff at MBS. Make your best guesses here: bit.ly/mbspetcontest2023. Students with the most correct answers will be entered into a raffle to win a free breakfast! Want a hint? Check out our Instagram stories @mbscrimsonsun.



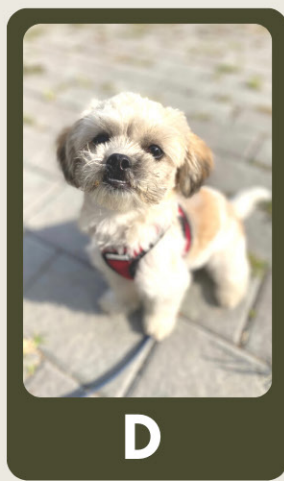
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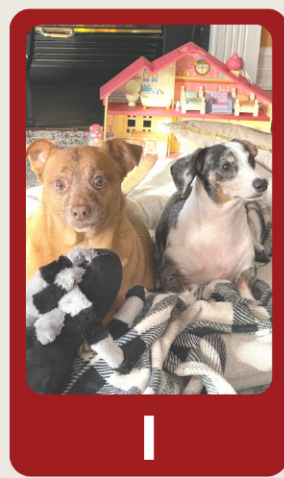
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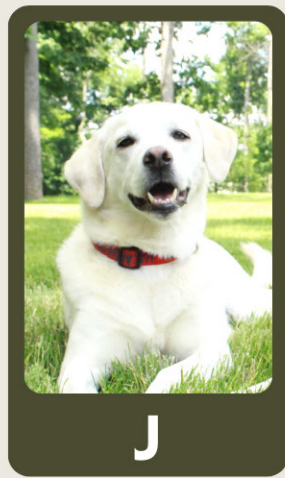
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