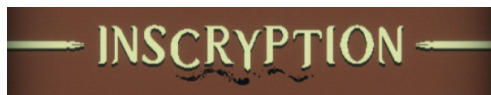




Knighly News

Glen Cove High School's Student Newspaper

March issue, 2022



pg 2



pg 3

GC Honors Dr. Martin Luther King: MLK Celebration Week

pg 5



pg 5

March Madness Grips GC

pg 7

Educational Disparities: The Fight Continues

by Michaela Adam

One of the most rampant problems seen on a systemic level in the United States is educational disparity. Educational disparities are the differences one can see in the educational level of minorities compared to their privileged counterparts. Those of minority status are not struggling because they are of lower intelligence; instead they are struggling because they are not being set up to succeed, at least in the broader lens of the entirety of the American school system.

Racial minorities often face severe exploitation by the larger American landscape, which tend to be run by folks who are upper class and white. Thus, many racial minorities tend to live in lower-income areas. School districts with students who are primarily low-income minorities are positively correlated with less access to materials and resources. Some may see this issue as a multifaceted dynamic between low-income students and racial minorities, but it is clear that both groups are facing the same challenge, due to their living situations. The segregation of school districts that tends to group low-income minority neighborhoods leads to a lack of attention from funding sources, eventually leading to the decline of low-income minority students who are not given the education they deserve.

The judicial, executive and legislative branches have made strides in addressing this serious subject. Supreme Court decisions that affected educational inequality—Brown v. Board of Education—desegregated public schools, attempting to provide equal opportunity for black and white students. Most people of color were in schools segregated from white students until the

late 1960s. After efforts to equalize spending in schools in the 1970s after integration, minorities experienced an evident growth in aptitude scores, narrowing the gap between their white counterparts. Non-White and non-Asian students still seemed to perform worse on assessments, not because of intelligence but because of a lack of educational resources that included skilled teachers and quality curriculum.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) 1965, according to Francis Keppel, commissioner of education, said education funding would be received on a conditional basis if states appealed to titles. Title I provides funds to schools with a large percentage of low-income students. Title VI provides aid for disabled children. Title VII allows funds for bilingual education. This assertion serves to be very promising in supporting the eradication of education inequality, where most inequities are caused by funding.

Congress has the ability to distribute funds. They could build on ESEA and support Title I. The legislative body holds the power in where the funds go. While congress and other administration officials have led to developments being made in terms of equalizing education, there is still a lot of work that must be done. Unfortunately, it is up to the public to hold civic responsibility and put pressure on congressional representatives if need be. With the proper people and resources, the general public can work to see the end of educational inequality.

On a local level, Glen Cove is an excel-



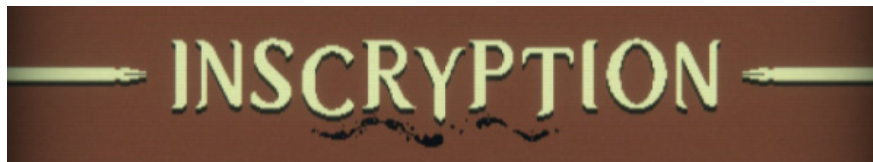
Google Images

lent example of combatting education disparities by creating opportunities for all students to succeed. The district is extremely diverse in comparison to our neighboring schools on Long Island, with far more students of different backgrounds, but disparities that one would expect in our district are being fought with diligence. When the pandemic hit, students could have struggled because they lacked a stable internet connection. However, the school district was able to provide hotspots for students who needed it. This simple thought and consideration for those who may be less fortunate is what we need to see on a greater level in districts throughout the country. With the proper people and resources, the general public can work to see the end of educational inequality.



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Warning!

This Game Review is a **Major Spoiler**. If you wish to play/watch *Inscription* yourself, please do so before reading this review.

You can find *Inscription* on Steam & Epic Games. You can also watch playthroughs on YouTube or other platforms.

On the surface, *Inscription* is a simple “tabletop” deck-building card game. Opening the game for the first time, you see that your options are limited. You aren’t able to start a new saved file, only continue. Upon your first glimpse of the gameplay, a pair of eyes take a glimpse at you as well. This is the game master, who will act as your mentor and opponent. You reside in his cabin deep in the woods, all odds against you. In your loneliness, why don’t you try and talk to your cards? Some of them may even talk back.

Inscription came out on October 19, 2021

finding each potential solution and following it to the end, no matter how unlikely it is to succeed.

I discovered *Inscription* through the YouTuber Markiplier and have been invested in it ever since. As someone who isn’t very keen on strategy games, I was hesitant at first, but to my delight, *Inscription*’s mechanics are not hard to grasp. Adding to that, what pulled me into this game was its graphics. Every individual card has its own art in a gritty, pixelated style that is very pleasing to the eye. Their use of sound and visuals set a very intense, yet displays a calm atmosphere that piqued my interest.



from the developers of Notorious Games such as *Pony Island* and *The Hex*, Daniel Mullins Games. These two games were known for being much more than they seem, so it wasn’t long before people caught onto the fact that *Inscription* was more than meets the eye. The game contains three acts, all hiding more and more secrets than the last. This all contributes to the game’s overhanging ARG. If you don’t know, ARGs is the acronym for “alternate reality games”, where people have to use information from both inside and outside of the game to solve the mystery. In this case, *Inscription*’s ARG requires the solvers to decode multiple levels of encryption,

After this perfect set up, how could I not see how this ends? I’ve talked about *Inscription*’s mysterious nature in detail, but to those concerned, *Inscription* is still a very fun game without having to solve any of the mysteries. I went into the game not knowing what it had to hide, and still loved every second of it. The story of games is very important to me, so when I discovered the rich story and even richer characters within, I couldn’t put *Inscription* down. Even though the game has a much more limited audience than some other games, it’s definitely worth every second, and if you give it a shot I think you’d like it too.



Teacher Feature

by Matt Bailey
Ms. Prado

When it comes to covering a variety of content areas at Glen Cove High School, you can say Ms. Prado is the jack of all trades. You might have seen her earlier this year covering English classes for Ms. Lindner and as a substitute teacher, but now she’s switched gears and is covering ENL classes for Ms. Beauchamp. Being bilingual allows her to communicate with and support her Spanish speaking students who are navigating the English-language waters.

Although she might not have known at the time, the seeds planted for a career of teaching might have started at 16 when she was diagnosed with dyslexia. Prior to the diagnosis, her parents just thought she just lacked enthusiasm for school, but obviously it was something more than that. “There was a time when no one believed in me, so when I went into teaching, I wanted to show that I could connect with students and excel and change the game, so to speak,” she explained.

Another game-changer was the birth of her daughter, which gave her a new lease on life when creating lessons. “I wanted to come up with new ways to do old lessons,” she remarked. “I wanted to make lessons more fun and interesting such as playing music and wearing costumes to jolt the students into action.”

When it comes to teaching English, Ms. Prado prefers to teach at the high school level with a particular focus on Gothic Literature. One of her most satisfying examples was conducting a lesson on the works of Edgar Allen Poe. “It was the kind of lesson where I just saw all the light bulbs go off in the kid’s minds, where they had to give opinions that related to the text as well as situations that may have happened in their own lives. To watch the student so engrossed in the lesson was truly a treasure.”

On top of working here at Glen Cove, Ms. Prado is also finishing her Master’s Degree in teaching at St. John’s University in Queens in May and will be looking for a full-time teaching position in September. In typical Ms. Prado form, the Bachelor’s and Master’s teaching program at St. John’s takes five years, but she will be completing it in only four years. Not too shabby.

Ms. Prado might have graduated from next door neighbor North Shore, but is familiar with the district since she hung out with friends from Glen Cove and attended a variety of different Glen Cove events.

“I had plenty of friends in Glen Cove and attended many athletic events, homecomings, proms, you name it,” she boasted. “Now that I’m working here in the high school after hanging out here during my teenage years, it really has come full circle.”

Día de San Valentín

by Yeldi Pineda & Gloria Lopez

Se tiene registro de que el primer día de San Valentín fue celebrado el 14 de febrero de 494 D.C.

Pero se han preguntado, ¿De dónde viene el nombre? ¿Por qué se celebra el 14 de febrero?

Según la historia, en el siglo III en Roma, había un sacerdote que se llamaba Valentín quien nació en el año 226 D.C. Él era cristiano y era un defensor. Se dice que en los tiempos de Claudio II se hizo una ley que prohibía que los soldados jóvenes se casaran y formaran familias. La ley intentaba maximizar el trabajo de los soldados en los enfrentamientos. Según la opinión de ellos, los soldados sin ningún vínculo sentimental ni ataduras eran mejores soldados. Valentín quien se había convertido en un monje cristiano estaba en contra de esta ley que le prohibía a los jóvenes unirse en Santo matrimonio ante Dios. Él consideró que el decreto era injusto y decidió desafiar al emperador. De esta forma, Valentín decidió realizar casamientos a los soldados y sus mujeres a escondidas del emperador Claudio II. Estos casamientos ocurrían en las cárceles del imperio por lo cual Claudio II terminó enterándose de La Rebeldía de Valentín y ordenó ejecutarlo el 14 de febrero del 262 D.C.

Existen muchas historias sobre este día. Una de ellas también señala que mientras el sacerdote Valentín estaba encarcelado esperando su destino, se había enamorado de una joven ciega que también se encontraba encarcelada y a la que hizo el milagro de poder ver antes de morir.

Hoy en día, esta celebración se ha hecho muy popular y es una fecha muy especial para muchos donde celebran la importancia del amor y expresan a sus amigos amor y cariño. En esta celebración se acostumbra a enviar regalos a sus parejas, como por ejemplo, ramos de flores. Otros,



piden matrimonio y dan detalles. En algunas ocasiones se envían regalos anónimos o hacen algo dinámico entre amigos o compañeros de estudio tal y como nosotros lo hicimos en clase. La actividad lleva por nombre “Amigo Secreto” que consiste en intercambios de regalos en secreto hasta el día del descubrimiento.

¿Cómo se juega?

Es necesario que los participantes se coordinen unas semanas antes de la fecha indicada para la entrega de regalos. El organizador del juego escribe los nombres de todos los participantes en unos papelitos. Luego, uno por uno, cada persona escoge su “Amigo Secreto” a quien le dará el regalo, pero de igual manera, no se tiene la más mínima idea de quién es el amigo que te regalara a tí. Cuando llega el día acordado, todos están curiosos haciéndose preguntas, ¿Será que le gustara mi regalo? ¿Qué me regalaran a mí? Después se reúnen todos los participantes del juego y realizan la entrega de regalos, pero antes de entregarlos cada uno pasa en frente y describe

el físico o lo que le gusta a esa persona. Los demás participantes intentan adivinar la persona a la que están describiendo. Cuando adivinan quién es la persona, se le entrega el regalo.

“Los amigos son como los zapatos. Podemos tener muchos, pero siempre andamos con los que nos sentimos más a gusto”

“Hay un secreto para vivir feliz con la persona amada: no pretender cambiarla”



The KNIGHTLY Staff

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Elana Melissa Greim – Co-Editor-in-Chief

Sarah Yates – Treasurer/ Reporter

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Yeldi Pineda – Reporter

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Gloria Lopez – Reporter

Elle Woska – Reporter

Mr. Lombardo & Mr. O'Donnell : Club Advisors

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WANTED

Greetings from the staff of The Knightly News! We are looking for energetic, dedicated writers and journalists to join our newspaper team!

Writing in other languages is a bonus as we are looking to make the newspaper bilingual! Please stop by

Room 138 on Tuesday afternoons right after school if you are interested! We look forward to seeing you then!

WANTED

Se buscan escritores!

Saludos de las personas de Knightly News! Estamos buscando escritores con mucha energía y muy dedicados que puedan unirse a nuestro equipo de noticias. El poder escribir en otro idioma es un bono, ya que estamos tratando de hacer las noticias bilingüe. Nos reunimos por el salón 138, todos los que están interesados! Te estaremos esperando.

Give Your Brain a Mental Workout with . . .

by Ella Woska

Wordle is a game in which the objective is to guess the five letter word of the day by receiving clues through your previous guesses. Wordle has increased tremendously in popularity over the past couple of months, bringing thousands upon thousands of new players everyday to guess the new word. Wordle was bought by the New York Times, which is currently the company running the site. The Times, known for its famed crossword puzzle, seems like the logical publication to manage the dissemination of Wordle.

Through Wordle's immense popularity, there have been spin-off games created for different audiences. These such games include worldle, a game in which you try to guess the country based on overall shape, byrdle, a game in which you try to guess the music word, and even octordle, a game in which you



try to guess eight words all at once. Needless to say, the variety of different wordle games should keep it in the public consciousness for some time.

As a frequent consumer of such media, when I found this site, I was immediately hooked. I have always loved word games and this was a cool way to test my brain. It also gave me an intelligence puzzle to do everyday when I wake up in the morning. I also enjoy conversations with other people about strategies in the game and how we each did on that day's word.

All-in-all, Wordle is a game that can be enjoyed by anyone, no matter the age, and can give you a way to work your brain in a game format.

World Languages Feed the Soul & the Body

by Mr. Santana

Per recent school happenings:

"it was fun watching our students engaged in scavenger hunts, learning about the various languages our students and staff speak, and in sampling foods from all over the world this past week. Students in our world language classes taught Twi or Akan-one of the languages of Ghana, Polish, Arabic, Greek, Italian, Russian, Creole, French, Mandarin, Japanese, and Norwegian. The students were also able to "taste the culture" through food. Some students brought in foods such as stuffed grape leaves, kebab (from Egypt & Iran), cannoli, donuts from Ghana (Bofrot), Chocolate candies from England, homemade scones from Scotland, cheese from Norway, and quesadillas from El Salvador. All great stuff. So a big shout goes to our world language department!!

🕒



Just maybe- if you are lucky - you have noticed one or both of these GC students walking the hallways, in the lunch room, or even in your classroom!

🌀

Who are these 2 young men & why do they walk around our school dressed like that?

Aiden *sophomore* (left) & brother Colson, *freshman* (right) provide some answers

🌀

Aiden: I find it interesting to wear period costumes of the first World War & I am interested in this time period in history, I thought it would be fun.

Colson: Some days we both dressup & other days its just me, depending on the day. I enjoy the reactions we get!

🌀



GC Honors Dr. Martin Luther King with MLK Celebration Week

by Sarah Yates



Martin Luther King Jr. has been honored in American history for many years. Glen Cove is one of the districts that celebrates and honors him with celebration for an entire week. Ms. Goodine and Mr. Hudson took part in this celebration. Previous years, the program was hosted at the Glen Cove Middle School with performances from families, programs and Glen Cove High School's Select Chorale and the appearance of the mayor, police and fire departments. At the program, they speak about his life, his friends/family and the many accomplishments he has done to make America a more tolerant and better place. They also engage in prayers to thank everything that the world has allowed everyone to experience. The main purpose of the program is to keep MLK's legacy alive.

Due to Covid-19, the program hasn't been able to be hosted in person and has turned into an online webinar on Zoom. These new challenges haven't stopped the event and Glen Cove had their 38th celebration. There was a previous march that occurred slightly prior to this webinar. The webinar had wonderful performances by The Wilcox Family Singers singing Lift Every Voice and Sing and Glen Cove High School's own Select Chorale. They performed some of MLK's favorite hymns and songs in his honor. This year the new mayor Pamela

Pazenbeck was involved in the festivities. The mayor gave the history of all his accomplishments and everything that has influenced the world now. Dr. Rianna contributed by documenting his acts of human kindness, equalities, advocacy for no discrimination and basic civil liberties.

Those who watched the webinar, learned about MLK's childhood. MLK was an intelligent child who skipped two grades before entering college, which means he was only 15 at the time. He also faced a few assassination attempts and bombings of his home. He was unfortunately killed at the age of 39 in Memphis, but scientists say that they found the heart of a profound 60-year-old man.

"He was five-feet-seven in height, but accomplished great unthinkable things," said a speaker at the webinar. He set out to change the civil injustices that were held in America. He has impacted the world as it is now, changing the injustices that were previously held.

The webinar ended with Ms. Goodine and Mr. Hudson thanking the online watchers. Everyone is able to join their program and do their part in the community. They honored a member Colette Moore, who assisted in the 2,000 pounds of food in donations for families in need for Thanksgiving.

Corner Poetry

Im sorry

I'm sorry my hair isn't perfect
I'm sorry my style isn't for you
I'm sorry I can't sing a high note like you
I'm sorry I can't communicate as well as you
I'm sorry for not being not what you want.
I'm sorry that you can't realize that
I am changing myself everyday for you.
I'm sorry that I can't be there for you like him

I'm sorry I can't make you smile like him
I'm sorry that I am not the carbon copy of him
I'm sorry that I can't present myself as well as him
I'm sorry I can never match up to him
I'm sorry, please don't leave

Veronica O'Regan

Corner Poetry

A Lonely Sparrow's Song (a sequel)

"A sequel is supposed to be the bit that comes next, it's supposed to compliment the original and add its own plot to thicken the story line
But what if the sad story that was there to start never got back to a happier ending?
What if it only got worse?"
Those sparrows, how i miss their perfect tandem but how i love to see their own stories bloom
Without their interruption of one another, its beautiful
Our graceful sparrow flying up to meet the sun, singing all the way there
They never fall, its astounding how high one can fly without ever being stuck,
Destined to fall eventually but they never do, you never do...
It's joyous and gorgeous. And it has made me miss them.
Perhaps we could have met the sun together if never shall they leave, but past is past,
i'm only allowed to live my life facing forward on a dirt path i long to escape
The other, more broken sparrow, hitting the ground hard and not getting up
Graceful sparrow was gone, the only one keeping broken sparrow afloat..
Broken sparrow watches the sky as graceful sparrow meets the sun and keeps going up
"They are well on their way, they make dazzling loops and travel only up.
My darling, my dear, my love, how proud i am of them for their long awaited travel."
But what if... maybe... my broken sparrow? I have some thoughts,
they will spin in your mind and never leave for there is no way to know that what i speak, is not the truth
What if it's all because of you? Would you forgive yourself? Would you ever get up again?
Maybe this lonely broken feeling inside was the cost of a happier graceful sparrow.
Would one be willing to give up a lifetime of peace and joy, to give you one moment of pure bliss?
"I know my answer, you know yours, you know who.
We all have that one person we would sacrifice a lifetime for.
Who we'd allow ourselves to endure the stabbing pain of loneliness
and the drowning feeling of pity when we know they wouldn't for us?"
If broken sparrow had to hurt in order for graceful sparrow to fly,
I guess the broken sparrow knew what they had to do...
"I feel the weight of my soul and it's drowning, I hope you're not drowning too..."
"But this is a sequel, and a sequel is supposed to be the bit that comes next,
it's supposed to compliment the original and add its own plot to thicken the story line
And set up the audience for the part three... "
~Sparrow

Learning to be Lawyers: Glen Cove's High School's Trial & Debate Class

by Elana Greim

Trial and Debate was recently added to the high school's list of new classes. This year, students were able to start the class again after the pandemic and begin working on new cases. Trial and Debate is a class that allows students of Glen Cove to become integrated in the Glen Cove court system by giving them real cases of fellow peers of Glen Cove. These cases can consist of marijuana use, trespassing, speeding and acts of violence such as assault.

This year's class began work right away by splitting up for two different trials. Mr. Maccarone, an experienced lawyer from Glen Cove, helped work with the students on cases for their defense and prosecution. The defense and prosecution were able to interview who they were defending, including Glen Cove police officers that were involved in the crime and those who were being accused. Seniors of the class that include Allaina James, Shellsie Avelar, Colin Gallenger, Elana Greim and Allyna James have taken the class before and were able to act as mentors for the duration of the cases to help guide their younger peers. Allaina James explained the experience.

"Even though I didn't even think I was going to be a mentor to other students in Teen Court in the beginning, it was very fun and fulfilling. Since there were a lot of students enrolled in the class this year, Mr. Contorno, the teacher of the class, had the seniors who had already been part of Teen Court be mentors to different groups of the class for each case," she explained. "My two friends Holly and Shellsie and I were the mentors for the prosecution side of our trial that happened right before winter break. I'll admit, I was a little nervous in the beginning as I felt under-qualified."

Allaina further explained her history of being involved with Trial and Debate

"When I first joined Teen court my sophomore year, I learned all of the material and was even a jury member of a different trial, but I never got to be



Mr. Contorno's class attends the Glen Cove court system; Deputy Mayor Donna M. McNaughton, Defense Attorney/City Council Member Kevin Maccarone, Mayor Pamela D. Panzenbeck and Judge Richard J. McCord speaking with our Teen Court students at the start of our most recent trial.

the defense of my own team's trial because of Covid and other conflicts, so I didn't get to experience it first hand. Aside from that, I was still able to help my team, and honestly, I couldn't have asked for a better one. Grace, Amiea, Lila, Sangimo, and Helen did such a great job. They were always on task and were open to all of the suggestions and edits the other mentors and I had, which made being a mentor so much easier! They worked so hard every single meeting. The hardest part of being a mentor was definitely the trial itself. All of the mentors had to sit in the audience and watch as the trial proceeded. I wish I could've been up there with the prosecution team but I'm glad I even got to give them advice for the redirect. Being a mentor was a great opportunity and I'm so proud of my team for winning our trial!" she remarked.

The trials took place in mid-February and early March. The class took a field trip on those days to Glen Cove City Court and was able to sit in on other trials, but also get the feeling of being in a real courthouse while parties were delivering their arguments. Students that were participating in the other trial were able to act as the jury and a student was even able to be the judge

for both trials. This created a realistic and hands-on learning experience for the students that allowed them to see what really happens during a typical trial. Although the new young lawyers were nervous to deliver their arguments, they all did this feat with immense success and courage in front of a real judge, multiple professional lawyers and Glen Cove Mayor, Pam Panzenbeck.

Mr. Contorno did an excellent job in training the students to prepare for real cases just like any real lawyer would do. The class will have two new cases for the rest of the spring semester and will further help them learn how to be a legitimate lawyer in the future. To sum it up, Mr. Contorno put a nice bow on the benefits of the program.

"The program is great since it gives the students insight into the legal process, sharpens their analytical skills and improves their public speaking," the social studies teachers added. "Plus, the kids get into it because they might know who those people are."

①

Bracketology Fever Grips Glen Cove

by Matt Bailey

Everyone knows April is the much-avoided tax season, but March is when people of all stripes fill out the infamous college basketball March Madness bracket. Whether you are a college basketball junkie who watches the most obscure game on the west coast or mother of three who never watches a single game, everyone dreams of having the perfect or near-perfect bracket that will win some cash and a little bit of bragging rights. In the end, dreams are shattered after two days when all the best laid plans go awry.

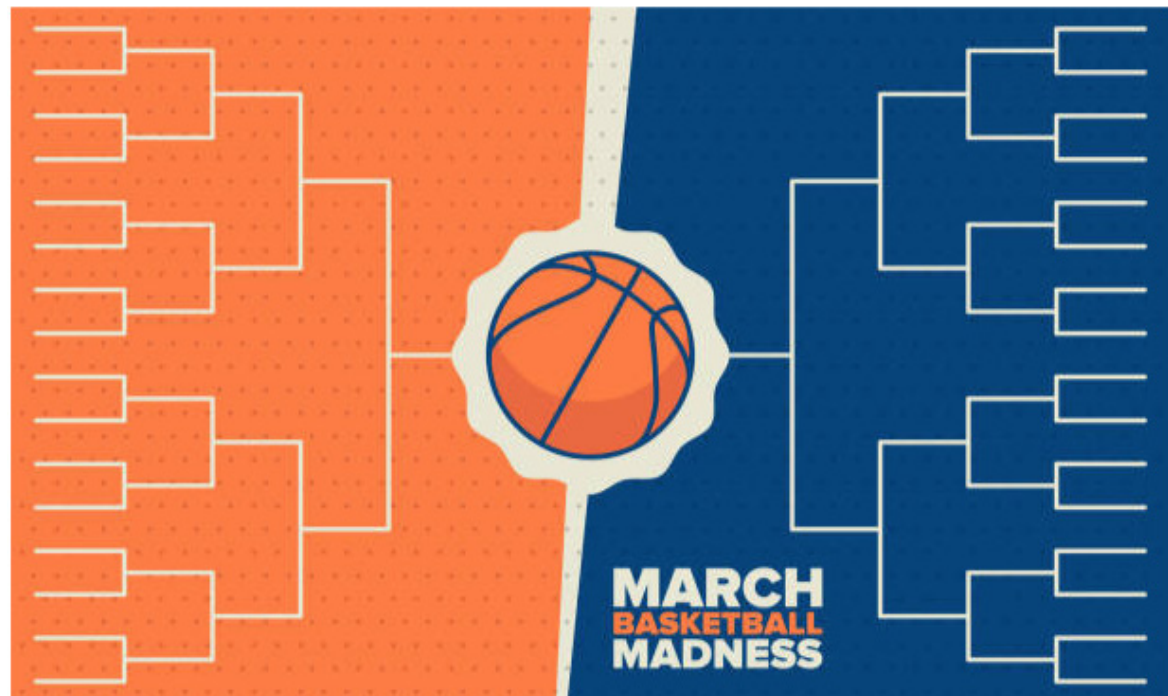
Truth be told, there may not be a better tournament format that creates drama than NCAA Tournament Basketball, otherwise more commonly known as March Madness. Sixty four teams enter the arena with dreams of punching their ticket to the Final Four in New Orleans and possibly being crowned a National Champion. The harsh reality is 48 teams will be eliminated after the first two rounds.

People often squander productive work hours filling out what they think is the golden ticket of bracket excellence. A typical fan spends time scouring the internet, following expert analysis and listening to predictions hoping to make what they think are the most informed picks. What they don't realize is that it requires a bit of luck.

That crucial bit of luck is key considering how wide-open recent iterations of the NCAA Tournament have played out. There was a time when only a handful of heavily-favored teams had a real chance at winning the whole tournament, let alone making the Final Four. Now the chaotic and upset-friendly nature of the tournament has contestants crossing off once-hopeful teams, making their brackets look like some pre-school kid scribbled all over it. Gone are the days when big names like Duke, North Carolina and Michigan were automatic finalists.

America loves a Cinderella story and when it comes to picking underdogs, there is no difference. The average bracketologist these days loves choosing schools they've never even heard of. Does anyone really know where Longwood or Wright State reside, yet there's folks taking them to beat top sides Tennessee and Arizona respectively. Most people think of Colgate as a well-known toothpaste brand and not a No.14 seed in the Midwest bracket taking on Big Ten power Wisconsin. For the record, Colgate is a school in upstate New York.

To be fair, not all contestants are fixated on putting the proverbial slipper on the upstart team. Senior Micah Stone, who oddly enough, has an



older sister playing in the NCAA Women's Tournament for Princeton, tends to go "straight chalk" as they say and side with the traditional powers.

"I love the competition and it's fun to watch a multitude of great teams, but I tend to pick the favorites," he said. "When it comes to format, it's the best tournament in sports."

While some make picks like throwing darts at the board, others choose to "nerd out" and dig into the nitty-gritty details to get an advantage. One of those is Mr. Rotolo, who is fond of using his math expertise and statistical analysis to choose teams that may be overlooked.

"As a first-year AP Statistics teacher, I have become more aware that stat models and research are used to evaluate the tournament and see which teams advance and which teams don't," he replied. "For instance, over the last three years, the No. 13 seed has beaten the No. 4 seed five times in the last 12 outings."

This type of trend model could be the difference between finishing in the money zone or

leaving with empty pockets. Now you can also laugh at the nerds all you want, but this type of analytics looks like it might be the future of those in the sports media industry. Mr. Rotolo can attest to that. "I'm noticing the younger analysts are using statistical models more and more as well as starting podcasts and making some money and getting wealthy in the process," the math teacher replied. "Now they're sharing their model with everybody else." Regardless of what method you use, take a deep breath, stay calm and realize you will likely be crossing out all your master plans in the course of one night!



Rifle Team Targets Notoriety *by:Matt Bailey*

Ready, aim, fire!

Obviously there are more intricacies involved in the sport of Rifle than just some stale old cliché, but make no mistake, the Glen Cove Rifle team are enjoying themselves despite being an overlooked sport. That might be changing now that three of its top marksmen (Olivia Bifone, Carolina Genova and Julia Lucidi) have all earned All-County Honors. Maybe these honors will change the perception of the sport.

For sixth-year coach Tom DiCarlo, heading up a team that students may not know about doesn't stop him from enjoying what he does. "I love it. It's different from the other sports and I have a good group of kids" he said. "It's more mental than physical when it comes to shooting."

Junior Jake Casale highlighted another aspect when it comes to the mental aspect of hitting your mark.

"Unlike other sports, it's the one sport that is the most intense and yet quiet at the same time," he remarked. "This means you really have to focus and concentrate when you're in the moment. Not only that, the other thing that stands out is you have to rely on yourself in that particular moment unlike a team sport."

When it comes to how a match is set up and scored,

Top row: Jake Casale, Grace Guillen, Michael Markoulis, Robbie Malvino



Front: Julia Lucidi, Carolina Genova, Olivia Bifone



it's really quite simple. Each team features six shooters with four best shooter's scores counting and the lower two are discarded. The four best shooter's scores are added up and the team with the highest total score wins. To state the obvious, the closer to the bullseye you shoot, the more points you can accumulate.

Furthermore, while the team also sport traditional jerseys, shooters also wear a special type of jacket and pants that are a tighter fit and facilitates a stabilizing effect for shooters when trying to hit their target. Shooters agree, overall, that this jacket and pants help with their shooting.

The rifle team is also a sport where boys and girls team up and work together instead of being in their respective gender lanes. In fact, the top three shooters are females. For sophomore Olivia Bifone, she has no qualms in saying females have an edge over males. "Girls tend to be better since we are more flexible when it comes to shooting," she said. "With all these male-focused sports, it's nice when the females get a chance to shine."

Bifone drifted to the sport since the sport of rifle affords an opportunity for females to participate and excel. In fact, her father Salvatore, a Glen Cove City Police Officer, was intrigued about the sport and wanted his daughter to learn about it. She has since excelled and become one of the team's top

shooters.

Casale, like other members of the time, sort of stumbled into varsity rifle through word of mouth. "I just heard about it from my peers and it was intriguing to me. I wanted to try something new and not some of the usual sports that get all the attention," explained the junior.

Like many other shooters, Bifone feels there are a variety of reasons that the sport is so appealing. "The team-oriented and individual aspect is not typical of most sports and I love the feeling of beating your high score, which isn't always easy," she remarked. Appeals of the sport aside, rifling does not come without challenges unlike traditional sports where kids start a young age.

"The biggest hurdle is that these kids have never done it before and are starting from scratch," said DeCarlo. "You need to put in a lot of work, dedication and there's a lot of struggling and not doing well before you make headway."

The team barely missed out on the playoffs this season, but feel confident that the goal of making the postseason will be reached next season since the majority of the team will be back next winter. "It's a relatively young team that's losing very few members," said DeCarlo. "I feel confident we can make the playoffs next season."