

The Krob

Miller Place High School Newspaper



Cleopatra's Tomb and its Unknown Location



Scarlett Denton

Over 2,000 years ago, Cleopatra and Mark Antony ruled over Egypt. The lovers were arguably one of the most famous in history, their marriage helped them gain huge political authority, and led to a flourishing period for Egypt. They eventually were overthrown by the Roman leader Octavian. They consequently each committed suicide, Cleopatra poisoning herself, and Antony stabbing himself. Afterward, they were permitted to be buried together by Octavian. But unbeknownst to most, the tomb's location remains unknown. Archeologists are constantly digging for past relics from the old great Egyptian pharaohs. Another notable figure's tomb, King Tut, was missing for around 3,200 years. Until they found his tomb in 1922 and excavated it, which took a total of six years to do. So, why does it take so long to find these tombs; and when will we find Cleopatra and Mark Antony's?

King Tut's tomb was located in Egypt in the Valley of the Kings. The environmental problems contribute a lot to the difficulty of locating the tomb's remains. The wind absolutely dominates the region, causing vast amounts of sand and sand dunes to form. Egypt has struggled with water scarcity from extreme droughts and extreme pollution. Tut's tomb was completely covered and buried with debris, which contributed to its long excavation. The environment contributes to the damage of these historical monuments; as well as the countless royal Egyptian tombs that have been broken into by grave-robbing thieves.

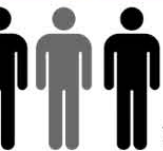
So, where is Cleopatra's Tomb?

It's theorized to be specifically near Alexandria, Egypt, which has become a victim of coastal erosion. A section of her palace was taken underwater after a devastating earthquake and tsunami that took place around a thousand years ago. But her tomb's possible destruction still isn't proven; we don't actually know the exact location of her and her lover's tomb. Considering this, there still stands a good chance we may never discover the mystery of her tomb.

Some people may question why this discovery could be important, but Cleopatra was essentially the end of ancient Egypt. She was an extremely powerful and influential leader; being very involved and influencing politics during her time. She was even more infamous for her love triangle between Mark Antony and Julius Caesar. Her people considered her to be a goddess, and she thought exactly that. The tomb's discovery could contain certain riches/goods and within that, we can use them to educate ourselves about her reign or history.

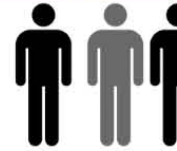
Her tomb's whereabouts remain unknown, but her influence continues to live on.





The World's Popping Population

Julianne Donohue



As citizens around the globe range on World Population Day on July 11th, 2022, stunning revelations about humanity's growth were observed, in wonderment and fear, by population analysts. According to projections made by officials of the United Nations, this year the world population is set to exceed 8 billion people. Although it is realistically impossible to maintain a precise count of the earth's population, these projections have been formed based on past trends of population development.

In 2011, less than 20 years ago, the world population transcended 7 billion. Previously, in the early 1800s, when the count surpassed 1 billion people, the planet's population has grown at dramatic rates but not in the places one would expect. Earth's historically most populous country, China, has slowed its population growth and is expected to be outdone by India in the upcoming years. In other high-income and populous countries, like the United States, population growth has declined as well. However, in comparatively low-income countries throughout Sub-Saharan Africa, humanity's growth rate continues to skyrocket.

Specifically, in countries such as Nigeria, Ethiopia, Congo, and Tanzania, women overall lack an abundance of sexual and reproductive healthcare, especially in comparison to populous giants of an economy like China and the U.S. Generally, women living in the world's economically prosperous countries have more access to contraception methods, reproductive awareness, and family planning tactics. While prospective parents' knowledge and sexual health have increased in these countries, their densely populated nations have stalled in growth. In contrast, in low-income countries where the birth rate remains high, women generally lack the awareness or freedom to plan their families. In correlation to these facts, countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are on course to "account for more than 90 percent of global growth" between 2022 and 2037, says the UN.

Despite falling fertility rates in historically populous countries, the global population's continuous trend of growth is in full effect which poses a danger to the environment. For instance, a greater quantity of humans projects further extraction of imperative natural resources such as fossil fuels, water, trees, and wildlife. As these resources decline, society's chances at advancement, survival, and fulfillment die with them. Additionally, the greater the global population, the bigger the threat to public health. As humanity witnessed with the Covid-19 pandemic recently, diseases spread quicker among a larger and dense concentration of people than a smaller one in comparison.

Population analysts and environmental conservationists both argue that the world must improve upon the outlook of society's future by giving women around the globe access to reproductive health and contraception methods. Although the growing population trends cannot be so rapidly saved, according to environmental activist Jane Goodall, "Educating and empowering women and girls and providing family planning information enables more people to choose the size of their families." By making conscious choices to better sexual health around the globe, among other actions, the impact of the world's overflowing population can be lessened, thereby boosting the human race's condition and allowing natural resources to flourish.





Political Prisoners

Bianca Zou



A prisoner is defined as “a person who has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment pursuant to a conviction for a Federal criminal offense,” according to the Legal Information Institute. Though most people think felons wearing bleak jumpsuits deserve to be there to serve a punishment for their actions, they are also severely mistreated. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, there were 24,661 reported sexual abuse and violence cases occurring in prison in 2015. As stated by the Georgia Innocence Project, there are “1/20 criminal cases that result in a wrongful conviction.” It’s not a shock that these facilities are poorly managed; most prisoners are not deserving of living in these conditions because they were wrongly accused. How can the government work to fix these sadly pressing issues? It may sound weird but... they should be given dignity by restoring their right to vote. Allowing felons to vote is a necessity because prisoners bring more reasonable opinions through their experiences of the legal system.

By giving prisoners the right to vote, it will protect them from these confinements, since “...inmates have little political power [which] has allowed them to be victimized and killed in poorly managed facilities” (Bozelko, Britannica Pro-Con). If prisoners wait out their time in better conditions, they won’t be incarcerated again. As stated in a Newsela article, written by Sawari and Matthews, “Restoring prisoners’ right to vote could also reduce repeat offender rates. Fifty-four percent — more than half of citizens impacted by incarceration — believe that voting would help them stay out of federal and state prisons and local jails after their internment.” Even the prisoners themselves had said they’d be better citizens if given the ability to express their political stance. Having the prisoners participate in society would help release them and in turn, make them less likely to break laws. If prisoners could express their opinions about the bad treatment in prison, then politicians could be held accountable for mistreatment.

An unfortunate truth about the beginning of this policy is its roots in race. In the report of Will Doran, it is said that “State leaders created felon disenfranchisement after the Civil War for explicitly racist purposes, with police rounding up freed Black residents all around the state and charging them with bogus crimes...” The ban should be at the very least reevaluated, seeing as the law began through discrimination.

Though most agree with going for felon voting, according to a New York Daily News Editorial Board, written by Bar Bernie, “...losing rights available to the law-abiding is part of felony punishment. Losing rights is especially true for murder, where not only is an individual’s life lost but so too is a citizen’s ability to participate in democracy. A life and voter are taken — permanently.” Honesty, this is agreeable. But there’s always a but. The best way to compromise with this belief is to allow voting to certain prisoners, as it is not fair that some petty crimes suffer the same consequences as murder or homicide. Prisoners can serve a certain amount of time before they get the right to vote again. If a prisoner shows no signs of change, then they should be restricted. The problem is, prisoners are grouped and stereotyped to be unchangeable, but there’s a whole spectrum of crimes they might be in for and they should be individualized. Regardless, it doesn’t make sense that the law isn’t modified yet.

The potential that returning citizens have is also very valuable. According to Tara Simmons, she states that “Real change is possible when people who are directly hurt by broken systems engage in the political process.” Giving the right to vote to prisoners would give them a voice on how mistreated and badly managed the facilities are.

Vote For Your Life



Political Prisoners (continued from Page 3)

It would give them an opportunity to speak out about what they have to undergo. Simmons continues to state that, "Returning citizens have broken down discriminatory legislation and practices through their resilience, dedication, and desire to make a world that works for all"...

After prisoners serve their time, most of them work to create a better and just government, and by giving them the right to vote, it motivates them to be better citizens once they're let out and pushes them to fight for their fellow inmates. The battle for allowing prisoners to vote is by no means a new issue, but it is still pressing. Giving convicted people the ability to vote will eventually improve our government and better its facilities. Political prisoners don't just sound like a good idea, it's a basic necessity that people overlook too often because of their misguided, illusionary fears.

DO YOU

BELIEVE THAT

PRISONERS

SHOULD VOTE?

"Goblin Mode":Oxford's Word of the Year (2022)

Natalie Cervenka

Originally written in a tweet from 2009, this term's meaning takes on many amusing forms. Spanning from binge-watching television without worrying about the passing of time, to eating snacks in bed with no regard for the mess that comes along with doing so. It's wearing the same set of loungewear for three days straight while working from home. This is "goblin mode."

The slang term is defined as a "type of behavior which is unapologetically self-indulgent, lazy, slovenly, or greedy, typically in a way that rejects social norms or expectations." This year, Oxford Languages, the creator of the Oxford English dictionary, referred to "goblin mode" as the word of the year in 2022, which means that it is the phrase that best reflects the attitude and mood of the past 12 months. Runner-ups included the term "metaverse", which means a virtual-reality environment, and the hashtag "#IStandWith", which recognizes the division and activism that occurred between different groups of people this year.

People who felt defeated by the pandemic's third year and the accompanying political unrest in the world were particularly affected by the lingo, using it frequently to describe their daily lives. As a result, people have begun rejecting traditional norms and establishing their own sets of rules for how they go about the weeks when having to quarantine from work, school, etc. A deviation from respectability and aesthetics characterizes the trend perfectly. Individuals feel encouraged to embrace their untamed, indulgent, and perhaps wicked tendencies when at home.

"Goblin mode" truly captures the zeitgeist or mood, and the era we are living in, according to American lexicographer and linguist Ben Zimmer. Social standards are being viewed by people in novel ways and individuals feel liberated enough to reject existing social customs and adopt new ones. "Goblin mode" is undoubtedly a 2022 expression.





Students of the Month

Mia Amundsen



Matthew Cirrito

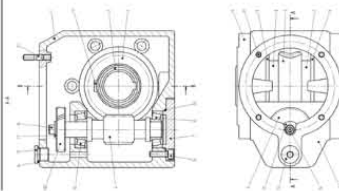
Matthew Cirrito is the most recent Unified Art Student of the Month here at MPHS. He takes Computer Aided Design which is a software computer class taught by Mr. Stano. Matthew got this award by not only completing the given projects to the full extent, but also putting in extra work and using the skills that he picked up outside of school. He consistently stayed focused on his task during class and made sure that his projects exceeded all expectations.

Matthew is very grateful to be receiving this award. He feels that this is very motivating because it shows that he is "headed on the right path." It lets him know that the effort he put in did not go unrecognized and for that he is very appreciative. Clearly his effort was noticed and he is a great example for every high school student. He lets us know that hard work is essential and that we should all strive for excellence.



"Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard"

-Kevin Durant



Emma Balamoti



Emma Balamoti is this month's Unified Music Student here at MPHS. Emma is a senior in orchestra and plays first chair viola. To receive this award not only has she excelled in Orchestra but involves herself in many music related extracurricular activities. She is vice president of Tri- M Music Honor Society and has been volunteering at all of the concerts with the Sound Symphony Orchestra. She has also been part of the Drama club working with sound and lighting since freshman year as well as partaking in NYSSMA and SCMEA.

Emma is very grateful to be receiving this award; it gives her an "overwhelming sense of pride" to be involved in something that she is so passionate about. She values those in the arts department greatly And is so thankful for this recognition.



"Don't Regret, Remember"
-Unknown



ZIP IT UP

Onjali Gomez

Why are students forced to follow a dress code? According to assistant principal, Mrs. White, the purpose of dress codes are to “prioritize education”. In the Miller Place Agenda, page 23 you can read the dress code specifically to our district. There are dress codes that are fair and require no debate as to their purposes. It is, rule four, one that all students, faculty and staff can agree on: “Students must always have footwear on; shoes must be worn at all times to protect you, to ease locomotion and prevent injuries”. Dress Codes are how we express ourselves everyday. We don’t purposefully wear clothes in the utter hopes we get in trouble. Students simply put on whatever is most comfortable and accessible. Why should schools state what is and isn’t “appropriate?” Schools instead should be teaching children how to express themselves and be comfortable in their own bodies.

Section Six of our school dress code policy states that students cannot “promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities”, as some articles of clothing may contain drug advertisements. Students can mostly agree that this is reasonable, yet many continue to wear (this type of clothing). (According to) A male Miller Place student notes, “I have worn my shirt with an alcoholic reference on it at least three times. No administrator has ever asked me to change.” According to a female Miller Place student, “I have worn my Budweiser shirt maybe three times to school since my freshman year. No one has dress coded me for shirts with alcoholic references.” Section Six of the school dress code may be missed at times, but it has been seen to be fair to both male and female students. As the warmer weather begins to approach the rates of students being dress coded compared to winter are much higher.

According to Mrs. White, “I dress code approximately one girl per month in the winter. In the spring I have to dress code at least once everyday.” To call a student out of class at least once per day, seems like a loss of learning time.

If the purpose of the dress code is to “prioritize learning,” why are we pulling kids out of class to dress code them? Although administration privately addresses the dress code violation some students still feel embarrassed or even oversexualized. According to a female Miller Place student, “I got dress coded on my birthday. I wore a crop top and high-waisted pants. I got called out in front of all my friends, and it made me upset. It was supposed to be a special day for me.” There are different consequences students may go through depending on the severity of their outfit.

If students feel uncomfortable when being dress-coded does faculty feel uncomfortable as well? Mrs. White states, “I am extremely uncomfortable when dress coding students. Honestly, disciplining kids is my least favorite thing to do. I try my best to be discreet in having these conversations. I only say ‘zip up’ or I ask a counselor to address it. I try to not make students feel uncomfortable. I go to whoever would have a better relationship with the student.”

Section Two of our school dress code adds: “short/skort skirts (must be mid-thigh), and other garments like these, that are excessively revealing, are not appropriate”. Are mid-thigh shorts and skirts “excessively” revealing? When buying clothes for teenage girls, most are “shorty-shorts”. When making the dress code maybe there are other aspects we should look into; on the Gap website, prices differ from the typically seen “excessively inappropriate” shorts and the “appropriate” shorts. A pair of “Women’s Gap Vintage Soft Shorts” is priced at \$19.99. A longer pair of shorts “Denim Shorts” are currently being sold for \$39.99. We need to recognize that the appropriateness of shorts also comes at a hefty price from our parents’ bank accounts.





Zip Up (continued from Page 6)

According to a female Miller Place student, “My mother brought me shopping for back-to-school in August. She told me I could only buy two back-to-school outfits. Of course I got one of the cheaper pairs of denim shorts, it's still super expensive. But if I was worried about the dress code and buying longer shorts, there's no way my mom would be able to afford it.”

According to two female senior students in sixth grade they had their first experience where their short length was questioned at school. “It made us feel

violated and weirdly called out and sexualized. We were only ten, our moms still helped pick out outfits.” If a mother can pick out an outfit for her ten year old daughter and does not sexualize her, maybe the disconnect is whether or not the this clothing style is appropriate in an educational environment. Would you wear a bathing suit to an interview?



Miller Place Winter Concert Series



Hope Jacobson & Taylor McHugh

**LADSBS BAND
TOTAL SCORE: 4.9/5**

**LADSBS ORCHESTRA:
TOTAL SCORE: 5/5**

**LADSBS CHORUS:
TOTAL SCORE: 5/5**

**NCRMS GRADE 6 BAND
TOTAL SCORE: 5/5**

**NCRMS GRADE 6 ORCHESTRA:
TOTAL SCORE: 5/5**

**NCRMS GRADE 6 CHORUS:
TOTAL SCORE: 5/5**

**NCRMS GRADE 7 BAND
TOTAL SCORE: 4.7/5**

**NCRMS GRADE 7 ORCHESTRA:
TOTAL SCORE: 5/5**

**NCRMS GRADE 7 CHORUS:
TOTAL SCORE: 4.5/5**

**NCRMS GRADE 8 BAND
TOTAL SCORE: 4.7/5**

**NCRMS GRADE 8 ORCHESTRA:
TOTAL SCORE: 5/5**

**NCRMS GRADE 8 CHORUS:
TOTAL SCORE: 4.5/5**

**NCRMS VOCAL JAZZ
TOTAL SCORE: 5/5**

**MPHS VOCAL JAZZ:
TOTAL SCORE: 5/5**

**MPHS INSTRUMENTAL JAZZ:
TOTAL SCORE: 5/5**

**MPHS CONCERT CHORUS:
TOTAL SCORE: 4.7/5**

**MPHS SELECT CHORUS:
TOTAL SCORE: 4.8/5**

**MPHS CONCERT BAND
TOTAL SCORE: 4.8/5**

**MPHS SYMPHONIC BAND
TOTAL SCORE: 4.9/5**

**MPHS ORCHESTRA
TOTAL SCORE: 4.9/5**

LADSBS:

Laddie A. Decker held their winter concert for band on December 14th at North country road middle school under the direction of Mr. Maxx Vogelsberg. Though they had a shorter program than most of the middle and highschool concerts, it was a blast to see nonetheless. Their program was made up of two familiar songs, “Ode to Joy” by Beethoven and “Linus and Lucy” by Vince Guaraldi along with a finale of Jingle Bells, which they performed with both the 5th grade orchestra and chorus.

Also performing on the same day as the Band and Chorus, was the Laddie A. Decker 5th grade Orchestra

(Page 7, continued on Page 8)



Miller Place Winter Concerts (Continued Page 7)

under the direction of Ms. Jennifer Most. Their song selection consisted of two pieces “Jazzy old Saint Nick” arranged by Douglas E. Wagner and “Spy Rock” by Eric B. Davis.

Lastly, Laddie’s 5th grade Chorus also put on their winter concert Under the direction of Ms. Jennifer Most . With a slightly longer program they sang three songs, “Happy, Happy Holidays” by Mary Lynn Lightfoot, “A Candle in the Window” by VickI Tucker Courtney and “Think Snow” By Jill Gallina as well as the finale that was shared with the Orchestra and Band.

NCRMS:

The 6th grade Band was a highly anticipated concert, taking place at Miller Place High School under the direction of Ms. Jennifer Kirby. After leading the auditorium in “The Star Spangled Banner,” the 6th grade Band proceeded to perform: “American Spirit March” by John Higgins, an arrangement of “Frosty the Snowman” by Gerald Sebesky and “Journey on the Yukon Express” by Jordan Sterk . Overall, This performance was spectacular and though only in 6th grade these students upstood even some of their older classmates at the High-School level.

Performing just after the 6th grade Band, the 6th grade Orchestra took the stage under the direction of Mrs. Christine Desiderio. Their program consisted of 4 pieces: “Telemann Sinfonia” by Georg Philipp Telemann, “Jurassic Park” by John Williams, “Bees are Boppin’ ” by Thom Sharp and “Holiday Hoedown” by Mark Williams. The 6th grade Orchestra was equally as impressive as their 7th grade counterparts, with good enthusiasm, blend, and rhythm.

The 6th grade Chorus took the spotlight on December 12th, directed by Ms. Emily Dimitriou with Ms. Jennifer Most as the piano accompaniment. As one of the most enthusiastic performances, the 6th grade Chorus stole the night. Their program consisted of 5 pieces: “Kusimama (Stand Tall)” by Jim Papoluis, “In Winter” by Rebecca Rossiter,” Jingle Bell Rock” by Douglas E. Wagner, “Oseh Shalom” by Joan Beckow and finally “Galop” by Ken Berg.

On December 19th, the 7th grade Band kicked off the third and final week of winter concerts. Starting their program off strong, the band performed a rendition of “The Star Spangled Banner” arranged, by Mark Williams, and followed it with a festive arrangement called “Dreidel Adventure” by Scott Watson, as well as a tune

with a rather conquering tone called, “Royal and Triumphant” by Douglas Court. The Band finished with a familiar tune to some of the movie buffs or children, “The Incredibles” by Michael Giacchino. Overall we rated this concert a 4.7/5 for strong dynamics and intonation.

On December 5th, Under the direction of Mr. Mathew Matura, NCR’s 7th grade Orchestra performed their winter program at Miller Place High School. Beginning the program with “Gaelic Castle” by Soon Hee Newbold and ending with “Burst” by Brian Balmages and included a familiar tune of “Tis the Season” arranged by William Owens. The 7th grade Orchestra took this concert by storm and definitely left some spectators surprised with how well they performed.

On December 12th, the 7th grade Chorus was the second performance of the night. After leading the auditorium in “The Star Spangled Banner,” the 7th grade Chorus proceed to sing 3 more songs, notably: “Hawaiian Rollercoaster Ride” by Mark Keali’i Ho’omalulu, “It’s The most Wonderful time of The Year” by Edward Pola and George Wyle and lastly “Wonderwall” by Oasis. Overall, half a point was deducted due to microphone issues causing the vocalists to be drowned out by instrumentalists. However their song selection was great and they demonstrated good intonation and enthusiasm.

Next, 8th grade Band took the stage and proceeded to captivate the audience with “Fanfare on a theme of Imagination” by Brain Balmages, and made us laugh with their rendition of “I got you” (I feel good) by James Brown. All the students in the audience felt a twinge of nostalgia when we heard “The Polar Express” by Glen Ballard and Alan Silvestri. They had a grand finale of “Sleigh Ride” by Leroy Anderson to finish off the night. Overall we rated this concert a 4.8/5 for amazing song selection and musicality.

On December 5th, North Country Road Middle School Also presented their 8th grade winter Orchestra concert under the direction of Mr. Mathew Matura at Miller Place High School. Their program consisted of three songs: “Resilience” by Chris Bernotas, “Let It Snow” arranged by Robert Longfeild and “Celtic Force” by Steve Frankenpohl. With their large violin section, the 8th grade Orchestra captivated the audience with some familiar tunes and energetic new pieces.



Miller Place Winter Concerts (concluded from Page 8)

Eighth Grade Chorus also performed their winter arrangement on December 15th. Their program consisted of 5 songs that are titled as follows: "Stolda Pumpa" By Mark Weston, "S'vivon" by Andrew Parr, "A Very Merry Christmas" by Pinkzebra, and finally, "Rock-a My Soul" by Linda Spevacek-Avery. Overall we rated their performance a 4.7/5 for slight intonation issues but an overall fun program and a lot of holiday spirit!

Finally, the NCRMS Vocal Jazz is the middle school vocal group made up of roughly 45 students spanning from 6th to 8th grade. They were a great enthusiastic group of kids that showed wonderfully what Miller Place's Choral department has to offer and a glimpse into the future of the High School music department. They performed their winter program on December 15th that consisted of 3 pieces. First up was "Linus and Lucy" arranged by Roger Emerson, followed by "Teach me the Blues" by Kirby Shaw, and finished with "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" arranged by Audrey Snyder. Overall we rated this group a 4.8/5 for enthusiasm and tone.

MPHS:

Miller Place High School hosted their Vocal Jazz concert on December 8th under the direction of Dr. Cynthia Reinhardt. Their program consisted of 3 pieces, the star of the show being the White Winter Hymnal by The Pentatonix. We really enjoyed the song selection, the synchronized clapping that looked like a pain to perfect, and general musicality.

Following the Vocal Jazz concert, the Instrumental Jazz took its place under the direction of Mrs. Pat Isenberg. The Instrumental Jazz program consisted of 6 different pieces, featuring many different soloists throughout each piece. Overall the concert was amazing, with many upbeat pieces paired with the inclusion of some festive and more recognizable songs.

The Miller Place High School Concert Chorus put on their winter concert on December 13th in the Miller Place High School auditorium, under the direction of Dr. Cynthia Reinhardt with Ms. Jennifer Most featured on piano. The Chorus sang a total of five songs: "A Festive Holiday" by Jerry Estes, "Something Told the Wild Geese" by Greg Gilpin "Carol of the Bells" by M. Leontovich, "Mirrors" by J. Timberlake, J. Fauntleroy, J. Harmon, R. Mosely, C. Godbey and G. Mosley and "Winter Wonderland" by Felix Berbard.

Succeeding the Concert Chorus' concert, the Select Chorus finished off the show. Their program consisted of 5 pieces: "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" By E. Pola and G. Wyle, "O Magnum Mysterium" by Evan Ramos, The Familiar "From Now On" from The Greatest Showman, "We are Lights" by Stephan Schwartz, and "Bohemian Rhapsody" by Freddie Mercury.

Mrs. Isenburg has successfully completed her final concerts of the MPHS winter concert season. On Tuesday, December 20th, the Miller Place High School Concert and Symphonic bands performed for their winter concerts at 7:30. It's clear that months of rehearsing concert repertoire paid off after hearing how cohesive concert band sounded. The band honorably played the Star Spangled Banner to open the evening. Pronounced articulations shined through during the entirety of the performance, as they worked their way through "Algorithms", "Where the Black Hawk Soars", "DeSalvo the Salute", and "C'est Noel!".

Symphonic band filled the MPHS auditorium with passion during their concert. Throughout the performance, audience members got the chance to see lots of foot tapping, head bopping, and passionate facial expressions up on stage. The band confidently started off with "Enchanted Spaces" and "A Scottish Portrait". Their attention to detail, dynamic contrast in particular, truly hit its peak during their 3rd piece, "Fate of the Gods". To close, the band played "An American Christmas" and "Auld Lang Syne".

The Miller Place High School Orchestra put on their performance on December 21st. Their show of 5 captivating and impressive pieces included: Mozart's 25th Symphony, Grieg's Piano Concerto in A Minor, Opus 16, Fire Dance and a festive tune of "Dueling Jingle Strings" by James Pierpont. Overall, we rated this performance a 4.9 out of 5; we took off points for intonation but we were very moved by the dynamic contrast and overall impressiveness of the pieces.





A Saturday with the Science Students

Nailah Rahman

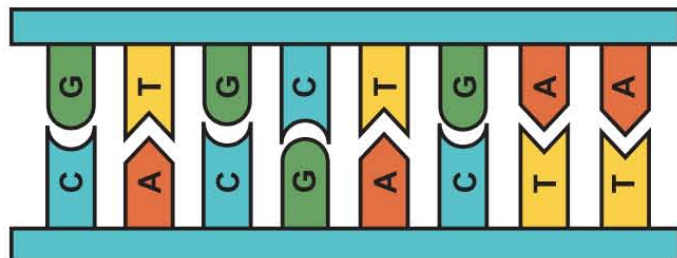
**"I HOPE MY REMARKS AREN'T POLARIZING
DIHYDROGEN MONOXIDE."**

-JACOB HUWER

On Saturday, December 3rd, the Miller Place Science Olympiad team gathered in room 209 for the final day of Boyceville's 2022 Invitational at approximately 8:00 a.m. Prior to this chilly Saturday, some participants completed their events on Thursday or Friday afternoon. Our invitational team included Emma Balamoti, Jonathan Bang, Natalie Cervenka, Lucy Chang, Jacob Huwer, Lilah Lindemann, Taylor McHugh, Brandy Moeller, Maya Murphy, Virginia O'Hanlon, Evelyn Paul, Luke Posner, Nailah Rahman, Stephen Ye, and Bianca Zou, all under the direction of their coach, Dr. Skolnick.

Participants from the invitational team mostly worked in pairs or trios to complete the events they chose to tackle. Competitors participating in build events such as Experimental Design and Bridge were tasked with submitting videos that showed their creations in action. Competitors participating in test events such as Rocks & Minerals and Forestry completed an online test consisting of multiple choice and short answer questions. Jacob Huwer, a sophomore who completed the Green Generation and Anatomy & Physiology test events, believes that overall, the invitational went well. "It went better than expected. I was expecting some catastrophe, but we had limited damage. I think I did better than expected." Huwer believes that the team as a whole would significantly benefit from reading over rules and regulations before the competition.

Co-president Lilah Lindemann reports that this is Science Olympiad's first time completing a competition online. Although she feels that this was a more challenging experience, she strongly believes that



this competition will better prepare the team for their upcoming regional competition on January 23rd, 2023. Lindemann states, "Now that we've had a good opportunity to prepare earlier, we have extra time to brush up on our skills and improve before our next competition." Most of the competitors have already compiled all their reference materials for the events they will be completing in January, which leaves them with over a month to study their resources.

The challenging online competition brought out the best of the Science Olympiad team. Dr. Skolnick's room on that Saturday morning was full of laughter and struggling smiles, accompanied by a delicious Munchkin medley. Teammates motivated each other and pushed through the challenges they encountered together. Skolnick states, "I'm proud of how everyone worked together as teammates".





WINTER WONDERLAND



Nailah Rahman

On Friday, December 9th, the Sophomore student government cabinet successfully completed their first fundraiser. President Lucy Chang, Vice President Taylor McHugh, and Secretary Nailah Rahman had worked tirelessly over the last month to bring the kids of Miller Place the holiday season they deserve. After many midnight FaceTime calls, mid-day meetings in the nurse's office, and early morning stairwell discussions, the group thoroughly organized Winter Wonderland.

Winter Wonderland on Friday, December 9th was a holiday celebration welcome to all. The event featured many rooms including rooms for movies, games, crafts, and food. Various members from clubs such as Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Athletes Helping Athletes (AHA), Art Club, and Service Club participated by managing rooms. Additionally, friend groups from the freshman, sophomore, and junior classes, as well as members of the freshman and junior student government cabinets managed their game, activity, or movie rooms. The families who attended the event had the opportunity to take a picture with Santa, played by Mr. Veryzer. Ms. Caperna reported that Mr. Veryzer was deep into his character throughout the entire night.

Many days of planning donations, rooms, and scheduling went into this event. Lucy, Taylor, and Nailah met with Mrs. Gelibter, the advisor for the sophomore student government cabinet, numerous times during the weeks leading up to this event. The cabinet coordinated with Bianca Zou, who made the fliers and assisted with both the food and dance rooms. On Wednesday, December 7th, this bashful bunch gathered at Nailah's house to make chocolate-covered pretzels, play dough, and brownies for the event. Although the event started at 5:30 p.m., many students stayed after school to decorate their rooms. Sophomore Jake Lauther reports that the decorating process was a lot of fun. The pressure of having to fully decorate the classrooms and hallways before 5:30 p.m. motivated volunteers to efficiently and effectively work together to create a festive family environment.

During the approximate 3 hours leading up to the event, students were found setting up the Christmas tree, writing out Dreidel instructions, blowing up balloons, and taping decorations to the walls.

The event had a moderate turnout, with the main attendees being families with young children. During the event, parents and children had the opportunity to color, watch movies, take part in a snowball fight, take pictures with Santa, and much more. Antonio



Bencivengo, a sophomore who managed the dreidel room, states, "It was a lot of fun to act like I didn't know how to play and have the kids try to teach me and feel like they're better at the game than me". Bencivengo reports that he enjoyed spending time with most of the groups he played dreidel with. Additionally, he had fun hanging out with his friends during the event.

The sophomore cabinet agrees that this event was an overall success. President Lucy Chang states, "Considering the fact that we, as sophomores, took over a previously junior-led fundraiser, the event was incredibly put together." Next year, President Chang wants to start planning and get the event announced on the daily announcements as early as possible. She would also like to see more games revolving around physical activity, such as the snowball fight room led by AHA, as well as more involvement from teachers. Vice President Taylor McHugh reported that next year, she hopes that the Winter Wonderland fundraiser will gain popularity among the "Facebook moms of Miller Place". McHugh, who stated that she "couldn't keep her eyes off the spectacular balloon arch made by Natalie Cervenka", believes that the school would benefit from holiday décor during the holiday season.

Both Chang and McHugh believe that prom planning will go smoother now that the cabinet has fundraising experience. The cabinet is grateful for all of the help and donations they received from the student body. This event wouldn't have been made possible without support from the school. Lucy Chang, Taylor McHugh, and Nailah Rahman are already planning the next fundraiser. Stay tuned!

(Page 11, continued on Page 12)



Winter Wonderland (Continued From Page 11)

Less than 24 hours after the Winter Wonderland event hosted by the Sophomore student government cabinet, strange things started happening. Prior to the event, Vice President Taylor McHugh purchased a pack of 3 walkie-talkies for the group to use for easy communication. On Saturday, December 10th at 1:39 a.m., president Lucy Chang was woken up by a ghastly voice coming from her backpack. She unzipped her backpack, and found her walkie-talkie. The ghastly voice seemed to belong to a small child, who was telling Chang about their fatal tree-climbing incident that resulted in a broken toe. After hearing the child's moving story, Chang was inspired to tell her story of how she broke her toe while getting off the school bus in 1st grade, but received no response from the other end of the line.



A few hours later, Vice President Taylor McHugh was disturbed the voice of a young girl singing a nursery rhyme about poop into her walkie talkie. McHugh was so impressed by the young girl's singing that she herself broke into "Baa Baa Black Sheep", her favorite nursery rhyme. The following day, Nailah Rahman helped her new walkie-talkie bestie relocate their lost spiderman costume. Rahman bolted to her closet the second the voice on the walkie-talkie mentioned a Spiderman costume, which she found 3 years ago at Cedar Beach. What's the connection between the cabinet's members and the other walkie-talkie users? The cabinet still has access to their walkie-talkies, so any other mysterious walkie-talkie incidents will be reported to the KROB. Until next time...

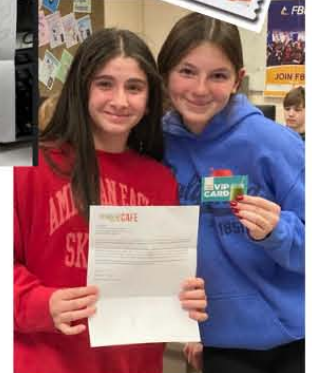
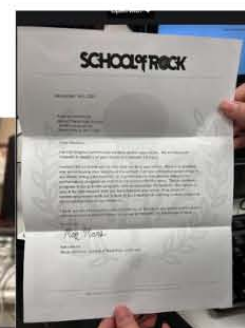
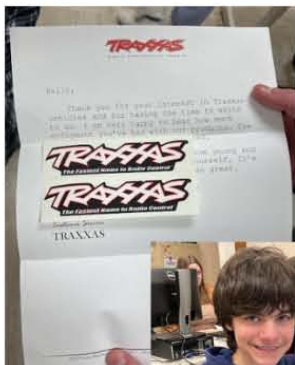


KROB Staff

GOT MAIL?



The Computer Literacy classes at Miller Place High School learned how to write and format business letters properly. As the final letter assessment students' were asked to write to a business of their choice. In the letter, students were to describe why they were writing, why they chose to write to that specific company, and request a response with some swag. The most important part of the lesson was allowing the students to realize the connection to the "real world". Students excitedly chose their companies and made sure to format their letters properly to have the best chance of receiving a response. In addition, most students have never addressed an envelope or tried to fold a letter, which was another teaching moment. Thank you to all the businesses that sent responses, you truly mad our students' day.





Anastasia: A Miller Place Panther Players Production

Claire Wagner



The Miller Place High School Drama Club is a unique setting in which students work together to create a high-quality production of musicals, lasting friendships, and positive memories. Once a member of the Drama Club, the student is known as a Panther Player.

The Miller Place Drama Club has started rehearsals for this year's musical "*Anastasia*". Following the production of "*You Can't Take It With You*" this past November, the Panther Players are having a very busy year! The musical tells the tale of Anastasia Nikolaevna Romanov, the daughter of Tsar Nicholas II of Russia. After the whole Romanov family is killed in an attack, it is rumored that the youngest daughter Anastasia may have survived. Years later, an amnesiac orphan named Anya teams up with two con men named Dimitry and Vlad in hopes of finding her long-lost family. The show features show-stopping numbers like "A Rumor in St. Petersburg", "Land of Yesterday", "Journey to the Past", and many more.

The show is scheduled to perform on March 4th, 5th, and 7th of 2023. Tickets will be released soon on the Panther Player's website listed below. The Panther Players are very excited to perform. Jamie Crovello, a Historian, says "I think this year is going to be a very good year. We are more prepared and I think that what was given to us this year is going to make Anastasia way better than in past years. I am very excited to share the role of The Dowager Empress Maria with my good friend Brooke McCormick. I can't wait to see it all come together!"

The Panther Players have been working tirelessly to prepare an amazing show to perform. Their production of Anastasia is running from March 4th-7th. To buy tickets and to see behind-the-scenes pictures and information, you can visit their website: <https://millerplacepanther.wixsite.com/miller-place-drama-c>.

GSA CLUB TAKES ON A NEW MEANING

Faith Torres



The GSA club is a safe place for students of the LGBTQIA+ Community to embrace their true identities as well as for those who just want to be supportive. The first ever GSA club was founded in 1988 and has come a long way since then. The GSA Acronym originally stood for Gay Straight Alliance but as of this year now stands for Gender Sexuality Alliance. The new name was designed to be more inclusive for the different sexualities and those on the transgender spectrum. This year's President Aslan Oher, along with Vice President Colton Young and Secretary Bella Danchalski, have plans to make this year one to remember. If you are interested in joining, seek out one of the GSA officers or advisors Mrs. Zorn and Mrs. Klappert.



The 2023 Met Gala and its Boiling Controversy

Scarlett Denton

Various celebrities, influencers, and figures each year gather on a red carpet outside the Metropolitan Museum of Art in their best-dressed outfits for a chosen category. This fundraising event is known as the annual Met Gala; it occurs on the first Monday in May every year. It raises money for the Metropolitan Museum of Art institute: it provides funding for the self-funding institute and pays for the various annual exhibit openings. Tickets cost a staggering \$35,000! The current helm who oversees the event is Vogue editor-in-chief, Anna Wintour, who has held the position since 1995. Previous themes for the gala include “Gilded Glamor”, “Camp: Notes on Fashion”, “Heavenly Bodies: Fashion and the Catholic Imagination”, and various others.

It begins with guests arriving for cocktail hour and walking the red carpet, on it, they participate in interviews explaining their designers' visions for their couture. They proceed to tour the museum's new exhibition of the year. Afterward, they are seated in their assigned seats to engage in a formal dinner and entertainment. There are some odd rules throughout the event, for example, no onion or garlic is allowed during the dinner to avoid bad breath. Attendees cannot take photos or use social media to avoid screen time during the exclusive event. As mentioned earlier, seats are strictly assigned; spouses and families are never seated together. It aims to make attendees talk to others they typically wouldn't. Nobody under 18 can attend the event as certain themes can be inappropriate. And, no smoking is allowed since it is considered disrespectful to the art.

Preparation for the event takes months. Celebrities typically begin skin treatments months ahead to look their best. Celebrities meet with artists, stylists, and designers to create a unique collaborative look. Or sometimes a designer will reach out to a celebrity to wear their clothes and attend as their muse. Usually,

they have a go-to stylist for the MET Gala. The day off is hectic until everything comes together and can take anywhere from one to five hours the day of the event. Although, attendees typically partake in their dress rehearsal the day before.

The upcoming 2023 theme is “Karl Lagerfeld: A Line of Beauty”. The theme is in honor of the passing of German fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld, who died of cancer in 2019. He had helmed Chanel since 1983, in which he would interpret CoCo Chanel's designs, revolutionizing them and the fashion industry itself. Although he had a good eye for fashion, he did stir up some controversies in his lifetime. Lagerfeld was very openly fat-phobic, claiming “no one wants to see curvy women on the runway”. He's made other fat-phobic remarks toward Adele and Heidi Klum. Lagerfeld also stated he was “fed up” with the MeToo movement, a social movement against sexual violence. He made a revolting comment about the industry regarding models saying, “If you don't want your pants pulled about, don't become a model! Join a nunnery, there'll always be a place for you in the convent. They're recruiting even!”. Needless to say, Lagerfeld did not hold back any remarks he had; countless others besides these uphold morals of homophobia, islamophobia, and misogyny. So, does he deserve to be honored by a theme?





The Problem with Marvel's Phase Four

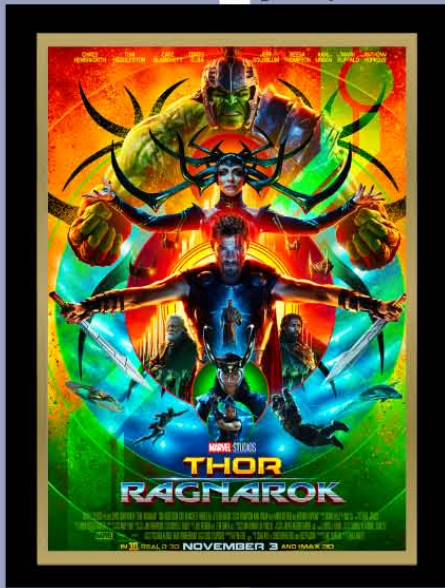
Bianca Zou

Thor Ragnarok, the third movie in the Marvel tetralogy, made 854 million dollars at the box office, meanwhile Thor: Love and Thunder, the most recent of the Thor movies, only made 761 million dollars. While still making a lot to profit from, there's a clear difference of 93 million dollars. But, why is that? Marvel has a giant fan base that is still sticking around for the next "Endgame," but from where it's going, there's not much hope for that same hype again.

After Avengers Endgame was released in 2019, it soared through as one of the highest-grossing movie ranks and passed Avatar within months, according to IMDB. As fans cheered on a decade's worth of characters finally being put together, there was an unspoken feeling throughout the theaters and soft, silent tears collectively shed towards the end of the franchise. So, where did it all go wrong?

After beloved characters such as Tony Stark and Steve Rogers reached the end of their stories, Marvel desperately tried using new characters as a replacement. The Disney Plus shows are a clear indication of rushed substitution. Hawkeye, for example, quickly brought Kate Bishop as a replacement for himself, but her development was reduced to only six episodes. Although we look into her backstory, there are so many events in the show that it's hard to focus solely on Kate Bishop. It makes the show's pacing feel very unsteady and doesn't allow the audience to connect better with the main character. In the early years of Marvel, the entertainment company produced single films dedicated to a specific character in the comics rather than rush to produce shows to satisfy their audiences' ever-growing demand for more; but, by doing this, they cause fans to lose interest and attention... granted, Marvel has gained lots of traction over the decade, but they knew they were doing something right to earn all the success.

Kevin Feige, the president of Marvel Studios, recently revealed the upcoming shows and movies at Comic-Con. He announced all of phase four up projects until phase six. This is what went wrong. Marvel is picking quantity over quality.



In previous years, Marvel had produced and planned throughout movies that took time but gained more publicity over the time it had to advertise. Fans were able to make plans to go to theaters and buy tickets early. But, now there are so many Marvel movies and shows that come out within the same year that it's overwhelming to some. Viewers are getting ever more disappointed with the rushed CGI that workers are forced to churn out because of these quick deadlines. Previously, Marvel had the

time to perfect their movies, but since Feige announced so many films, they've had to finish so much with so little time. It's rather upsetting and has caused many people to advocate for change, but Marvel hasn't indicated anything about changing their ways anytime soon.

As a long-time watcher of Marvel, I've felt let down because of the company's future. They're rushing to build up the new team of Avengers to replace the old and introduce new faces that hold the same superpower as before; but, I don't feel the connection with these characters as I did for the old ones. Yes, there is still time, but I'm losing hope for it with every new movie and show they produce. There's definitely been some really good movies released in the past year. But, it doesn't make up for what comes next and still doesn't shadow the others. I'm not sure myself or long-time fans will be there to watch the decade of new characters come together.



Netflix's New Hit Series: Wednesday

Faith Torres



On Wednesday, November 23rd, Netflix released their new series 'Wednesday', a coming-of-age mystery and comedy series, starring Jenna Ortega as Wednesday Addams, a character most people remember from the 90's show 'The Addams Family.'

This version of Wednesday is quite different from the others; she's more relatable- minus the homicidal tendencies. Tim Burton's new series, Wednesday is sent off to a boarding school for freaks (Nevermore Academy) in a small town named Jericho- which in Arabic translates to the city of the moon. Wednesday's parents, Morticia and Gomez Addams were alumni at the academy- it is where they first met and fell in love. During her stay at Nevermore, Wednesday is welcomed with all sorts of challenges, such as attempted murder, murder mysteries, ghosts, bullying, social isolation, a man-eating monster, and the most difficult of all love and friendship.

The Addams family was originally created by Charles Addams, an American cartoonist who started his career in the late 1930s. Before the Addams family made its way to the screen it was originally a comic panel in the weekly magazine, The New Yorker. Addams made over 50 panels featuring the spooky family.

Considering the morbidity of the Addams family, one would think that it was the product of a troubled childhood but that isn't the case with Addams. He had a happy childhood, being an only child with hard-working and devoted parents. The tone the cartoon family took was a result of Addams and his love for the macabre (death).

Despite the fact that the Addams family came out in 1938, they didn't get their name until they were brought to the screen in 1964. With its popularity, the Addams family continued to repeatedly make its appearance in mainstream media. The show was recreated in the '90s a few times and was made into an animated comedy in 2017 that came out with a sequel in 2021.

These previous features of the Addams family paved a way for 'Wednesday'. Compared to the other variants of the Addams family, the new series has received the highest rotten tomato rating as well as audience rating; everybody is already expecting approval for future seasons.



The New Mario Movie And its Questionable Casting

Faith Torres

In early October Illumination released the trailer for 'Super Mario Bros', an animated film, anticipated to come out in early April of 2023, based on the popular Nintendo game franchise: Super Mario. The Super Mario games typically follow the Italian protagonist, Mario, and his fraternal twin brother, Luigi, on some adventure filled with strange encounters and random battles. Of course, over the years the franchise had developed some diversity in its game style and storytelling- creating popular multiplayer family games like Mario Kart and Super Mario Party.

Nintendo, Illumination, and Universal had started the discussion of the film in January of 2018, although it wasn't until 2020 that the triad would start the actual production. In September 2021, the official casting for the movie was publicly announced. With the trailer being recently released, the public was finally able to get a glimpse of the voice acting and most people were not impressed.





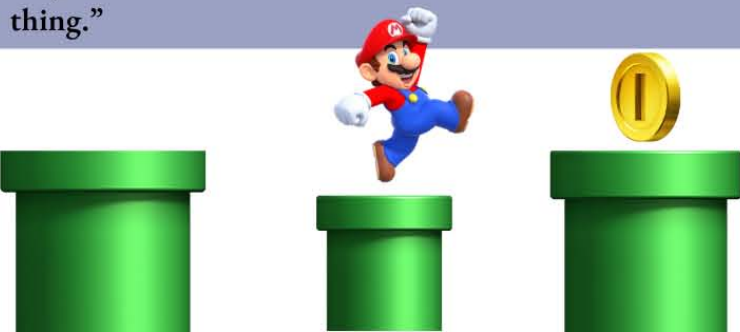
The New Mario... (Continued from page 16)

Super Mario has been around since the 80s, so most people grew up playing the games. Although some things might have changed over the years, the characters pretty much stayed the same; they are a familiar constant to Nintendo fans, so you can imagine the uproar when the characters sounded severely different from what they had imagined. The most upsetting voice reveal was none other than Mario himself who is voiced by Chris Pratt, an American actor best known for his lead roles in *Marvel's Guardians of the Galaxy* and the *Jurassic World* movies.

Chris Pratt is a very popular and likable actor so he wasn't exactly the issue. The problem was that he sounded nothing like Mario most were used to. Mario and Luigi both have very heavy Italian accents and their voices tend to usually be higher pitched than the average adult male. They have the kind of voice that even if someone was doing a terrible impression, you would still be able to tell whom it was supposed to be. Chris Pratt didn't even attempt a horrible impression, in the end, he just sounds like himself, an average American man.

The backlash that both Nintendo and the actor received may have been unavoidable. Sure he didn't use an Italian accent but if he did and it wasn't up to the standards people had set, they would have torn him apart either way. The easy solution to this would have been to cast someone else, even if they weren't as famous as Chris Pratt. With the influence that Nintendo has on this generation, they would have had no problem advertising the film, with or without Chris Pratt.

The most unfortunate part of Pratt's new role was that he had told fans that he was working closely with the directors to create the perfect Mario voice and that he was proud of what he accomplished. Fans have started poking fun at his statement, saying things like "Chris Pratt saying he worked so hard on Mario's voice only for it to sound like Chris Pratt is the funniest thing."



After the trailer for the French dub was released some of them even started saying that they wished the French Actor (Pierre Tossier) would voice the English Mario instead of Pratt.

More than just fans were upset by this casting. John Leguizamo, the Latino Actor who played Luigi in the original live-action 'Super Mario Bros.' in 1993, has expressed his distaste for the new casting as well.

When asked his thoughts on the new movie he said that it was "unfortunate" and that the studio was progressing "backwards." Leguizamo first spoke out about the movie on Twitter. He released a tweet saying that he was happy that 'Super Mario Bros' was getting a reboot but that it was too bad that the new casting was all white and that there were no Latinx in lead roles. The lack of diversity in the casting hits close to home for Leguizamo. When he was auditioning for the role of Luigi in '93, the studio said they didn't want him to be a lead because he was a Latin man; the directors had to advocate for him to stay on. This isn't the first time Leguizamo has spoken out about racist and exclusionary casting in the Hollywood scene; a few months before the new 'Super Mario Bros' trailer came out, Leguizamo shared his distaste for American Actor James Franco being cast as a former Cuban leader in Miguel Bardem's upcoming film 'Alina of Cuba'. In an Instagram post, he stated, "I don't have a problem with Franco, he just isn't Latino!" Nintendo and Chris Pratt have yet to make any comments on the recent backlash from Leguizamo.

On the other hand, people were extremely impressed with the voice of Bowser, the antagonist of the film. Bowser is played by Jack Black, an American Actor, comedian, and musician known for his roles in 'Jumanji' and 'School of Rock'. Jack Black has some experience in the world of voice acting with his roles in 'Ice Age' and 'Kung Fu Panda'. Chris Pratt has done voice acting before like in Disney's animated film 'Onward' and in "The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part" but unlike Jack Black, his characters' voices lack diversity, much like his Mario performance, they sound like the usual Chris Pratt. Despite the experience both parties have, Jack Black has proven to be more successful when it comes to voice acting. Fans can't get enough of his voice for the new film and it's even started a spike in the actor's popularity. Fans are even saying that Jack Black "saved" the film from becoming a drag as a result of Pratt's apathetic performance.



The World of AI



Patrick Milord

ChatGPT is a new controversial type of artificial intelligence chatbot that is being offered for free by the tech company OpenAI. Released in November 2022, The software allows users to receive a natural, conversational text from their computers and devices. Although there are other chatbots around, ChatGPT is making noticeable waves because of its ability to almost instantaneously formulate creative and topical content while relaying large amounts of coherent information to users.

ChatGPT stands for generative pre-trained transformer, a type of natural language processing tool that uses machine learning algorithms to generate human-like text in a way that has never before been achieved. It does this by finding information about the prompt you input. Let's use the example "What color is the sky." By crawling through the internet, Wikipedia and archived books, it finds the answer to be "blue." Then, after analyzing large bodies of human data, it learns nuanced patterns and structures of human speech, and the outputted result is "The sky is usually blue during the day."

This new technology has been recently discussed because of its presence in schools and its effect on students. Because of its ability to write out long essays in seconds, many students have begun using ChatGPT to swiftly avoid any form of written assignment. Besides its obvious hindrance to students' understanding of the material they are supposed to be writing about, this form of academic dishonesty is a large issue because it is considered plagiarism, and the more excelled a student is in their education programs(s), the graver the consequences may be. Examples include suspension or, in some cases, even expulsion. It's also an issue for students to plagiarize off of the software because of ChatGPT's accuracy problem...

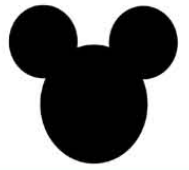
ChatGPT is receiving a lot of complaints because it has a random possibility of spewing out misinformation in an accurate-sounding way. In one example, when the program is asked what mammal lays the largest eggs, it relays a long, information-filled answer claiming elephants lay the largest eggs. So, even if students read through an essay before submitting it, it could be littered with undetectable misinformation caused by a misunderstanding from the AI.

Along with its proclivity for inaccuracy, there are also growing concerns about the AI's inherited bias and prejudice in its responses. Though it may seem ridiculous for a robot to be prejudiced without being programmed to do so, it happens because it "learns" from studying and analyzing humans, their data, and literature, causing it to pick up on the trends of bigotry, racism, sexism, etc... This horror has already reared its ugly head in some responses. In one case, ChatGPT was asked to write code to determine if someone would be a good scientist based on their variable race and gender. The robot responded with code that outlined that a good scientist must be white and a male.

Another widely debated issue is the possibility of it and other AIs to replace people's jobs. Claims that creative and literary careers such as marketing, authorship and journalism could be in danger have been made because of ChatGPT's developing ability to quickly come up with different ideas, and write long stories and articles. Another speculated at-risk occupation is programmers, although it would be a long while, ChatGPT's infantile ability to write and understand code warrants the expectancy of future AI working better than humans in software development. Only time will tell how ChatGPT and other AI like it will be used and how it will affect our lives, but for now all we can do is pray for its benefits to outshine its possible detriments.



Film Review: Disney's *Strange World*



Natalie Cervenka

The Walt Disney Company is a gigantic, multi-billion dollar corporation known for its immersive storytelling and whimsical visual animations. *Strange World*, directed by Don Hall, doesn't fall short of that legacy. It is refreshingly modern and unique in lots of beautiful ways, proving that with every moment your eyes are on the screen there is something compelling to look out for.

Having watched Walt Disney animated films since I was a toddler, I would consider myself a sort of Disney super-fan. That being said, I have never been so pleasantly surprised by a children's movie before. *Strange World* is quite diverse in its cast of characters, featuring a white male protagonist married to a Black woman, with whom he has a mixed race and openly gay son. Following in *Lightyear's* footsteps, a Disney animated film about the iconic character Buzz Lightyear that came out last July, *Strange World* features bi-racial and black people as main characters. In Disney's past, this has been a scarce occurrence. The 2009 film *The Princess and the Frog* was the only Disney princess movie to feature an all black princess. However, in recent years we have seen more and more colorful faces appear on-screen, and *Strange World* is no exception.

The main protagonist, Searcher, has grown up and made a life for himself in the region of Avalonia, where he discovered a powerful plant on his last expedition with his father, Jaeger Clade, leading to a very successful farm after. Searcher has a family including his wife, son Ethan, and a three-legged dog named Legend. While Legend is much less significant of a character in terms of story development, he is the perfect way to shine a light on all dogs with disabilities. These animals are often neglected and misunderstood, sometimes even abandoned by their owners. However, the scenes including Legend only show how lovable and goofy he is, as well as the fact that he is perfectly capable of being a wonderful companion. The film writers understood this concept and utilized their abilities to spread awareness in a very pure format.

In addition to depicting animals in powerful ways, there are numerous instances in which the scenes in *Strange World* create a diverse environment. For example, when Searcher and his son Ethan venture into the city, they are greeted by various types of people throughout the scene. The viewer sees a group of elderly Asian ladies as well as indigenous, Arab, and Black people walking in the town square. A merchant can be seen in a wheelchair as she sells her wares to Searcher. On the way home,

Ethan's group of friends is introduced. Among them is a Caucasian girl with red hair, a dark-skinned boy with a tall frame who remains unnamed, as well as an East Asian boy named Diazo.

Another exciting detail that sets *Strange World* apart from other Disney films is the introduction and normalization of homosexuality. There is no sense of intolerance or exclusion of Ethan due to his identity, which can be seen when his father makes a joke in regards to his crush on his friend Diazo. Even Searcher's father Jaeger, who is reintroduced later on in the movie, acts as if Ethan's crush on the male character is the norm, lovingly teasing him for it. Jaeger is a much older and stubborn character compared to most, so seeing the movie squash the stereotype of intolerance within older generations was very refreshing to watch.

With all that *Strange World* has given us, the one thing that I find most compelling is the abundance of strong female characters that the story has to offer. In much of the media that I consumed as a young girl, women were often perceived as helpless on their own. There was always some outside factor, whether it be a man or a magical force, that needed to be present in order for them to succeed in their life. However, Searcher's wife Meridian was a flawless way to give aspiring girls and women the kind of representation they deserve. Meridian is a black woman with a knack for the technological sciences. She is extremely resourceful and brave, relentlessly refusing to let fear get in the way of her achieving great things in difficult situations. A scene from the movie that showcases her character well is when she saves her family and the crew members on an aircraft she has never flown before, though she does hit a few bumps in the road. Meridian shows that it is imperative to try new things, and that making mistakes is just part of the journey.

Overall, I am proud of what Disney has brought to the scene with *Strange World*. The myriad of representation, inspiring visuals and hope for the future have brought out the best in what the company and all of its employees are capable of.





Lynch's Corner

Book Review

Mrs. Kate Lynch

ALL OF US VILLAINS

By Amanda Foody and Christine Lynn Herman

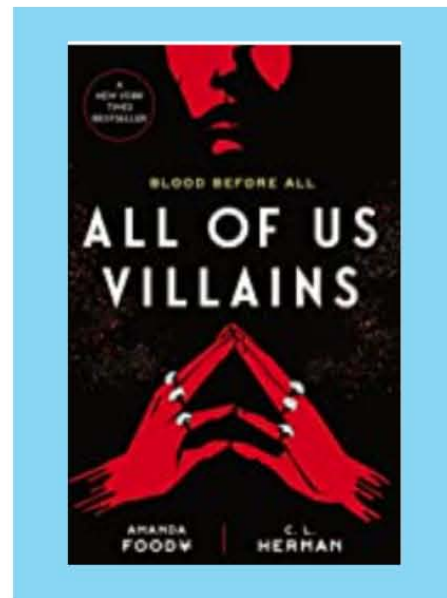
Okay, think of this book as a combination of the battle-to-the-death style tournament of *The Hunger Games* combined with the powerful magical spells of the world of *Harry Potter*. If this idea has you interested, now add in blood sacrifice curses, villains on another level, betrayal and revenge.

The plot of the book is about a horrible tradition that occurs in the city of Ilvernth. This city is host to a Blood Veil tournament where the champions of seven families are picked as competitors. These champions are competing to become the most villainous of all.

The book is told from the points of view of the 4 most villainous characters. Two boys and two girls and we are able to witness a shift in their willingness to be champion villains. Obviously, with a theme such as this book entails, death is featured very prominently in this book, but the details differ for each one.

I love the pacing of this book and the switching of points of view. It is interesting to see how some villains are always necessary and we might not know who is a villain and what type of monstrous behavior they are capable of when pushed to extremes.

The ending of this book does not wrap up nicely as there is a sequel. Be prepared to be confused, angry and terrified at the ending while looking to get your hands on the second book!



Amanda Foody

ABOUT THE AUTHORS & INSPIRATION

First collaboration together inspired by a conversation about our favorite YA tropes. As avid YA readers-turned-YA authors, we're both very passionate about the category in general, and we both confessed a deep love for the death tournament trope...but admitted we were too intimidated to tackle it on our own. So instead, we tackled it together.

Amanda is a *New York Times* and indie bestselling author of Young Adult and children's fantasy novels, including the *Wilderlore* series, the *All of Us Villains* duology, the *Shadow Game* series, and more. She lives in Massachusetts with her partner and their feline Beastly companion, Jelly Bean.



Christine Lynn Herman

C.L. is the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, and indie bestselling author of atmospheric, magical novels, including the *All of Us Villains* duology, the *Devouring Gray* duology, and *The Drowning Summer*. She currently, resides in Massachusetts with her partner and cat.



The Super Bowl:

Taylor McHugh

Prime Time Advertisements



2023's Super Bowl will be held on February 12th, at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona. Obviously, the most notable aspects of this sporting event, viewed annually by an average of 90 million Americans, can be attributed to the half-time show and commercials.

Last year, the Super Bowl's half-time show fared better than the game itself. With the game acquiring 99 million viewers, an additional 4 million were captivated by the performances of Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Eminem, Mary J. Blige, Kendrick Lamar, and 50 Cent, totaling 103.4 million. This year, with the sponsor of the event changing from Pepsi to Apple Music, there were some minor rumors about whom this year's show would feature. After talk of Taylor Swift being a favorable option, on September 25, Rhianna was officially announced as the main event.

Although those numbers are impressive, commercials during the Super Bowl get the attention of, on average, 106 million viewers. Notoriously well-liked, expensive, and memorable, commercials during this time are a major way for companies to boost their sales and gain positive traction. This upcoming Super Bowl has had a record amount of time slots sold and the cost of commercials to date.

Commercials have been practically sold out since November, an occurrence that usually takes place at most a month before the show.

As of now, there are 57 different commercials scheduled to be shown. A mix of fan-favorite brands and new faces, advertisement has already begun on various social media platforms. TurboTax pre-released its commercial, making this the 10th year it has bought a timeslot. Downy started a 12-week campaign, releasing new commercials weekly in order to get viewers invested in their grand finale. Other brands have taken the liberty to post sneak peeks and spoilers on both Instagram and Twitter.

Some of the most anticipated commercials currently are M&M's, PopCorners, Pringles, DraftKings featuring Kevin Hart, Avocados from Mexico, and Hellmann's Mayonnaise. Most brands are taking a break from their usual advertising strategies, and instead using this platform as an opportunity to take a more worldly approach to larger issues, all while still showing the products you know and love. With all that being said, the big question still remains: will any of these commercials be worth the 7 million dollar investment?

Takin' it to the Mat

League VI Stand Outs

On February 4th @ Kings Park HS our Miller Place Varsity Wrestlers competed in the League VI tournament to display their skills and fight to dominate their weight class. Congratulations to the following winners as well as Mikey Giugliano receiving the Most Outstanding Wrestler award along with Brian Schreck earning Most Pins.

Robby Cunningham- 172lbs. *Champ*

Nick Bloom- 118lbs. *Champ*

Spencer Bruno- 110lbs. *Champ*

Matt Frueh- 126lbs. *Champ*

Mike Giugliano- 132lbs. *Champ*

Brian Schreck- 145lbs. *Champ*

John Caccavale- 160lbs. *3rd Place*

Ty Grebe- 138lbs. *3rd Place*

AJ Perrino (8th grade)- 102lbs. *3rd Place*



Seniors: Robby Cunningham (top), Ty Grebe (right) Nick Bloom (left)

Girls Wrestler Awarded

Jisselle Menjivar-Robles represented Miller Place well by placing 4th in the Long Island Girls Championship and being recognized with All-County Honors @ 118lbs.

Best in Suffolk

The Suffolk County Section XI tournament occurred the weekend of 2/13-2/14 @ Stony Brook University. Here the top contenders from each league competed for the official title as the "Best in Suffolk". Congratulations to the following:

Mike Giugliano- *County Champion*

Robby Cunningham- *County Champion*

Brian Schreck- *4th Place*

John Caccavale- *4th Place*

Nick Bloom- *5th Place*



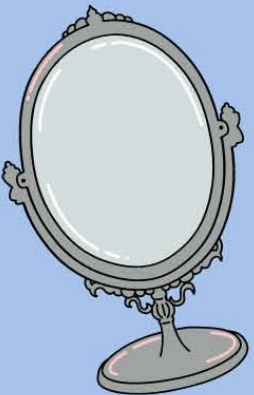


Never Frozen

Bianca Zou

*I've never tried a pina colada
I'd always assumed they were
Sweet, in a bitter way.
I doubt I'd ever try it.
Any curiosity
Of the weird drink
Had been quenched
A while ago.
Maybe I'm scared
That it would attack me,
The straw sharpening to a sword,
Glass breaking and shooting
At my brown eyes
While the pineapple skin
Giggles as I cry
In unexpected pain.
Or maybe it's because
I wouldn't
Have anyone to try it with
To share the expensive "treat"
But no one comes to mind.
I would curl the straw
Wrap in a ball
Letting it absorb the sweat from my
Hands
As the waiter asked
"Anyone joining you today?"
A polite smile, I would give
"No, just me. A pina colada please."
The worker scribbled on the paper
Then scratched it out
She would present it to me
The demonic drink
It seemed moldy*

*Maybe my contacts had been
In too long
But it wasn't
I dipped the straw in
It floated to the top
I couldn't do it
I wasn't scared
The drink seemed
Ok I guess
But I was at
The two table
Seating
Where was the
Second person?
I've never had a
Problem
With being alone
It's satisfying
Calm, listening to
Your own thoughts
But
Sometimes I
Sit here...
In this
Silent restaurant
Order a pina
Colada.
But I never
Try it.
It's not...
Being alone.
It's the feeling
Of loneliness
I leave it to
Soak with the
Straw
Sit and stare
At the bubbles
Coming from
The mixing of the ice and the fruit*



Firefly

Natalie Cervenka

Firefly
Firefly
Fire fly away
You make me suffer cold and
I'd rather not say
Why it feels like everything is
Going gray
Firefly
Firefly
Fire fly away
Don't complicate
Don't talk about
The thoughts that stay
I'd rather not say it
No, I'd rather not say that
As my body decays,
You convey my new ballet
As a deathly sway
You hope and pray to wish away
The aching melody I obey
Survey my dismay as I walk the other way
You'll never know, you'll never know
I beg myself to stay



ME, MYSELF & I

Onjali Gomez

Love the person in the mirror
Before you try to love someone else
Be comfortable in your own skin
Be happy alone
Before you bring another person into your life
Put yourself first
It isn't selfish nor cruel
Don't ever put yourself against you
Instead be the new and better you



ABOUT THE KROB



What is our goal?

Our goal is to shed light on exciting news. Here at the KROB we encourage each other to become better researchers, writers and reporters. We write with hopes that you, a reader, can learn something new whether it be about your local community or something world-wide.

Scan to read the last issue!



FOLLOW US ON...

Instagram 



@krobnews

Want to part of the KROB?

The KROB is our high school's virtual newspaper. New members welcomed, and can join at any time. You just need to have a willingness to be part of something and reach out to Mrs. Sturtz or any current KROB staff member.

