



The Silhouette



January Edition

How Weird Are New Oxford's Teachers?

Brooklyn Green, Bailey Bodvin, Betsy Figueroa

We all know that teachers are not exactly the most normal people in the world. I mean, they willingly spend every day with teenagers. With this in mind, we interviewed some of New Oxford's teachers and asked them: "What is the weirdest thing you've ever done that you're willing to admit?" Some of their responses were pretty surprising.

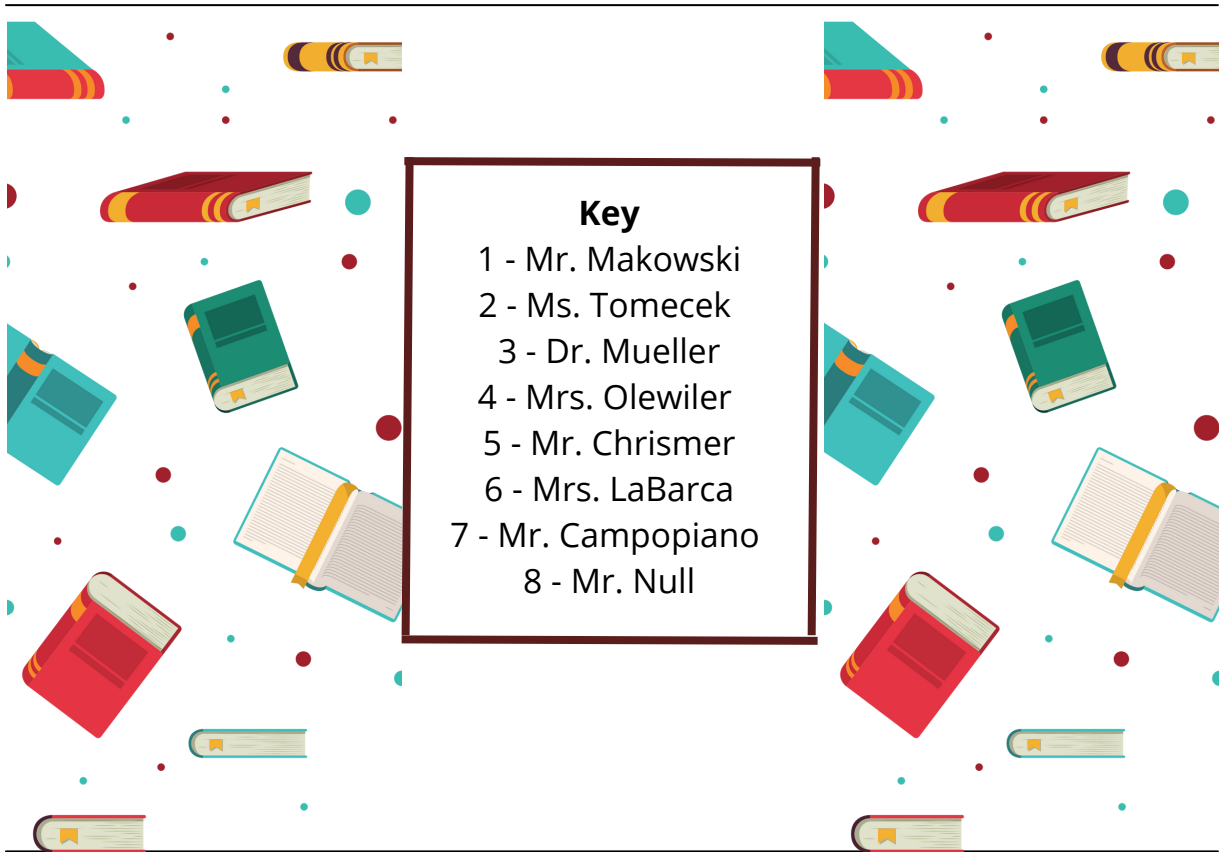
We received responses from eight teachers: Mrs. LaBarca, Mr. Chrismer, Mrs. Olewiler, Ms. Tomecek, Mr. Null, Dr. Mueller, Mr. Campopiano, and Mr. Makowski. Try to match the response to the teacher, and check to see if you got it right (*Answer Key on next page*).

- One teacher said that the weirdest thing they do is talk to their dog, and responds for them. We all talk to ourselves sometimes, but this takes that a bit further.
- One teacher admitted to eating some non-human food and enjoying it. They were eating what they thought to be yogurt bites, but later found out were chinchilla treats (They also said that they were very good, and they would probably eat them again).
- This teacher believes that their weirdest trait is how nothing they do is balanced or coordinated. "Nothing I do is straight," they said. They can't park straight, and they find themselves stumbling and walking right into lockers.
- One teacher believed that everything they do is weird, and there isn't one specific thing to name. Students around them agreed and could not think of any one odd thing.

- This teacher said that at the age of 4 years old, they wanted to be a meteorologist. So, they would dress up as the weather person they saw on TV and pretend to give weather reports to their parents.
- One teacher was gifted a toy horse head (pictured below) as a joke and admits that when they are stressed they take out the horse and braid its mane.



- This teacher would sometimes be riding in the car, roll down the window, and yell for Steve. Who is Steve? We have no idea. But, if you hear a teacher yelling for "Steve" in the parking lot, it's this teacher.
- This teacher dressed as Richard Simmons when meeting their daughter's new boyfriend. However, their spouse made them go upstairs and change, so the boyfriend never got to see the spectacular outfit. While this is rather odd, we expected something more far fetched for this teacher.

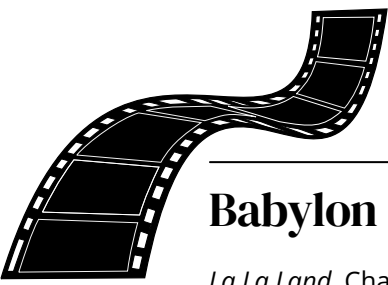


Babylon: What Could've Been the Next Big Hit

Jennie Brady

Damien Chazelle's newest film, *Babylon*, follows a slew of characters throughout early Hollywood during the transition from silent pictures to sound films. Chazelle's film witnesses the rise and fall of the characters as they either struggle to keep up with the changing film industry or become household names. Margot Robbie's Nellie LaRoy presents a familiar character seen in the likes of Lina Lamont (*Singin' in the Rain*) and Eliza Doolittle (*My Fair Lady*). Brad Pitt's Jack Conrad is the top silent film actor, but the audience watches as he struggles to make the jump to sound films. Despite household names packing the list of actors in this film, Diego Calva could find his breakthrough with his role of Manny Torres. The film highlights, and appears to bash, the pitfalls of Hollywood with homeless people from Skid Row used as extras in a silent film to an underground evil lair of sorts. The hilarity and absurdity of some scenes, paired with sobering scenes, create a captivating and seemingly realistic portrayal of early Hollywood.

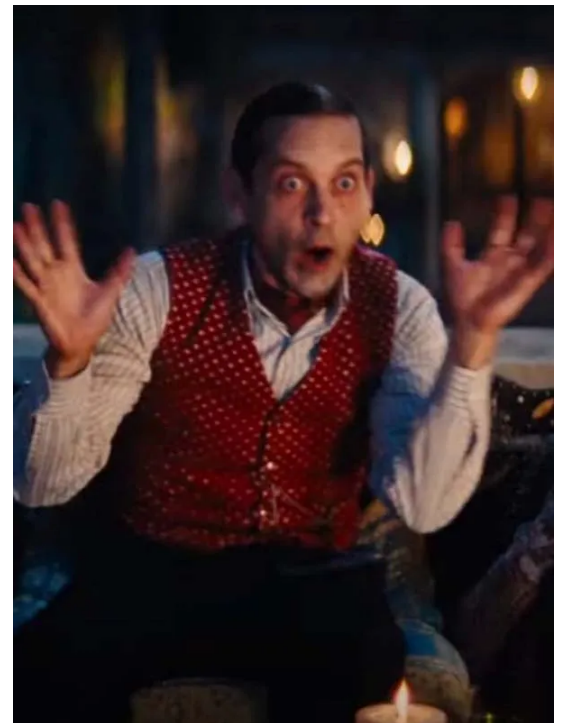




Babylon (cont.)

La La Land, Chazelle's 2016 hit movie, made over \$400 million at the box office, so why does *Babylon* seem to be a flop? With movies like *La La Land* and *Whiplash* under his belt, it would be plausible that he could produce another hit with *Babylon*. Unfortunately, this doesn't appear to be the case thus far. Chazelle's most crucial mistake was releasing his newest film only one week after the highly anticipated *Avatar: The Way of Water*. Likely, no film could have competed with the highly anticipated sequel to James Cameron's 2009 *Avatar*. Additionally, the budget of *Babylon* was a risky investment, especially combined with the release date. \$80 million went into the movie, and after 2 weekends only \$11 million was accumulated; therefore, the movie will almost certainly not make its money back. The three hour film time did not bode well either, considering that there was no fan base or huge anticipation leading up to the release date. Despite a star studded cast, *Babylon* just couldn't pull in enough like-ability to gain more than a 55% on Rotten Tomatoes.

Going into the movie, I had little to no expectations. Based off of the trailer, I thought it would maybe resemble *The Great Gatsby*. After watching the entirety of the movie, I can only compare *Babylon* and *The Great Gatsby* by their elaborate parties and level of symbolism. Even the elaborate parties is a loose comparison, as *Babylon* features way more extreme parties that maybe are more accurate than Jay Gatsby's parties ever let on. Within the first thirty minutes, there were a few too many odd and grotesque scenes; I was beginning to think I wouldn't be able to sit through the next two and a half hours of the movie. But, once the title scene rolls through (about half an hour in) Chazelle tones it down...at least until Tobey Maguire gets on the big screen. Maguire's character, James McKay, is absolutely horrifying. His character is unhinged and funny, but he is truly gross; I think him alone could classify this as a horror movie. Additionally, the underground lair he takes two of the characters into is actually traumatizing (and I never need to rewatch that part). Although Chazelle diverges from the earlier unsavory scenes, he brings that mood tumbling back with Maguire's character. While the newest film based on Hollywood's Golden Age appears to be just another quick paced story glorifying the time period, Chazelle adds depth and insight into the reality of the glamor and smokescreen of Hollywood.



The longer I sit with my thoughts on Damien Chazelle's *Babylon*, the more I realize how incredible the movie is. Putting the actual contents of the movie aside, the cinematography is fantastic. The transitions between scenes, the set design, the soundtrack, everything is just incredible; the attention to detail is extensive. Chazelle demonstrates his ability to make the audience feel like they are part of the movie. I'm the worst movie watcher ever, but Chazelle's skillful directing never once made me bored. Terrified...maybe, but never bored. Even scenes that dragged on a bit were chaotic and ever changing. After finishing the movie, I was positive that I would never watch this movie again because of a few particular scenes. Although now, I think I would rewatch this movie, as there is too much involved in this movie to catch it after only one viewing. Overall, this movie should have done better at the box office, but little public knowledge of the film combined with its *Avatar* competitor, *Babylon* was doomed from the start.

The Lack of Motivation With the Semester Change

Cassidy McNew

Winter break came to an upsetting end; the last week and a half of the first semester continued at a rate that seemed slower than ever. With this, many students find themselves struggling to even put forth effort in their classes due to the disruption in routine and the overall lack of motivation. With finals and projects being piled up like no tomorrow, it is fairly easy for many students to become easily overwhelmed. With that overwhelming feeling, the motivation to simply do anything ceases to exist.

There are always two sides to every story: the students vs the teachers. On one side, it may seem like the work is not worth it, and that it makes no sense to start anything else this close to the end of the semester. On the other hand, trying to push through can just be stressful. Students don't want to do the work, but it is important work that must be done.

When talking to a few students, I asked them 'what are your thoughts on the week-long lack of motivation before the second semester starts?' There were a variety of different answers, but they all tied back to each other somehow. Lili Hockensmith, a junior, comments on the struggle to keep up when she mentioned "...they are probably drained from the work they just put into their classes and are not ready for the new work that is about to come in." It is understandable that the kids just want to get everything done and over with since the new semester is just around the corner. It seems that the burnout slowly began to creep in around Thanksgiving break, and has taken full effect once everyone returned from winter break.

Similar to the students, I was able to ask a few teachers 'how do you handle the lack of motivation shown with the students during the

last week of the semester?' Mr. Makowski notes that because of Keystones, it is a little bit difficult. He said "Because I push them towards that [the Keystone exam], but once they are over, that is when I really struggle." Regardless of what grade or subject a teacher specializes in, there are always elements throughout the year that can put a damper on lesson plans. It may seem easy to just pop in a movie and call it a day, but in the last week, it is much more than that. With having kids in one class all at different levels, it may be daunting to try and handle the situation of 'who needs my help more.' Ultimately, it is vital that students take the time and be patient with teachers during this last week, because there is more on their plate than the average student may expect.

As a senior in high school thrust into the feeling of burnout and lack of motivation, but also being an aspiring teacher, I find it important to see both sides to every story. Kids deserve breaks, especially the ones who unfortunately have stacked schedules, many extracurricular activities, a job, and more. With all of that, plus final exams and projects, the weight of the world simply becomes unbearable. But that does not give the students an excuse to slack off for the sake of slacking off and back-talking teachers out of frustration. Imagine being a teacher with 4 classes of 18-23 teenagers. The unit is close to over, but content must still be covered and a final must be planned. With the teacher perspective of this motivational dilemma, they may find themselves thinking that nothing will get done. When people say that everybody is under an immense amount of stress and pressure, it is true. So take some time to yourself if schedules allow it, and I find that patience for one another will be the ultimate tool in pushing through one of the slowest, and most difficult weeks of school that both students and teachers will have to endure.

Does “Flowers” Mean More Than We Think?

Sydney Christner

Ever wonder why every popular song seems to involve breakups and heartbreak? Well, this is purposeful because people love drama, especially celebrity relationship drama. Music artists, specifically, know how to use their public drama to their advantage since fans willingly feed into their work if it provides the details to some hot topic Hollywood breakup story. While some artists have no shame in calling their ex out directly by name in the title of their song (yes, I mean T-Swift’s “Dear John”), most artists leave out names to avoid problematic legal situations. Though the clues tend to be obvious, a lack of confirmation forces fans to investigate the potential meaning of each and every element of a new breakup song, trying to piece together what real life relationship it may be referring to. With more fans listening to figure out the truth, the song spikes in popularity. Look at how “Love Yourself” by Justin Bieber rose to number one on the charts, as fans suspected it was about his long-lasting, on-and-off relationship with Selena Gomez. “Drivers License” by Olivia Rodrigo broke record after record as it rose in popularity, since fans were digging deep into the meaning of each line and wondering what it may have to do with the supposed love triangle between Olivia, Joshua Bassett, and Sabrina Carpenter.

Well, yet again, another breakup song is crushing records and topping charts as fans dive into discovering its true meaning. Miley Cyrus released “Flowers” on January 13th, 2023, shortly after the announcement of her next album, *Endless Summer Vacation*. This single quickly climbed to number one on charts, reaching over 83 million plays in the first week and breaking the record for the most streams in a single week on Spotify. These achievements come as no surprise, as this was the first time Miley Cyrus released music since her official public breakup with “The Hunger Games” star, Liam Hemsworth, in August of 2019. Cyrus and Hemsworth

were in an on-and-off relationship for a total span of ten years, in which they were married for eight months. After the initial release of “Flowers,” fans immediately found connections between the song and the Cyrus-Hemsworth relationship. Though no confirmation has verified any truth in these theories, here are some of the reasons why fans believe that Cyrus intended “Flowers” to be a direct hit on the faults of Hemsworth within their rocky relationship:

- Birthday Release Date

Even before the official release of the song, fans suspected some connection to Hemsworth based on the announced release date, which also happened to be his birthday. This seems too perfect to be coincidental. I’m sure Liam had a nice birthday surprise when millions of Miley fans flooded his dms with accusations regarding the song.

- The Golden Dress

In the “Flowers” music video, Miley is featured wearing a golden cutout dress. Some fans believe this attire was intentional, nodding to the suspected relationship between Liam Hemsworth and his “The Hunger Games” co-star, Jennifer Lawrence. Lawrence wore a similar golden dress on the red carpet with Hemsworth at the premiere of “The Hunger Games” in 2012, leading fans to this conclusion. Though no source has confirmed a relationship between Hemsworth and Lawrence at any point, fans believe that this connection potentially points to Hemsworth cheating on Cyrus with Lawrence.





Flowers (cont.)

- Lyric and Melody Parallel

Immediately after its release, fans were overloading social media with comments that the melody in "Flowers" sounded awfully familiar. It took no time before many made the connection to the melody in "When I Was Your Man" by Bruno Mars. After discovering the melodic similarity, fans realized that even the lyrics were similar, as it seemed that the lyrics in "Flowers" echoed those in "When I Was Your Man." The lyric comparison is as follows:

"When I Was Your Man"	"Flowers"
I shoulda bought you flowers	I can buy myself flowers
And held your hand	I can hold my own hand
Gave you all my hours	Talk to myself for hours
Take you to every party cause all you wanted to do was dance	I can take myself dancing

Fans questioned, however, how the link between "Flowers" and "When I Was Your Man" had anything to do with Liam Hemsworth. After someone online posted that Hemsworth once dedicated the playing of "When I Was Your Man" to Miley Cyrus towards the end of their relationship, fans developed their connection. Though there is no concrete proof that this is true, fans suspect the connection to make complete and logical sense.

It is extremely unlikely that Miley or anyone involved will confirm or deny any of these suspicions. Fans are left listening to the song over and over to pick up on any more clues or signs that may strengthen this connection, thus growing the song's popularity. Regardless of whether or not "Flowers" is about Miley Cyrus' relationship with Liam Hemsworth, her strategic play to use their public breakup to her advantage was no less than genius.

Why the Colonials Deserve Their Own Natatorium

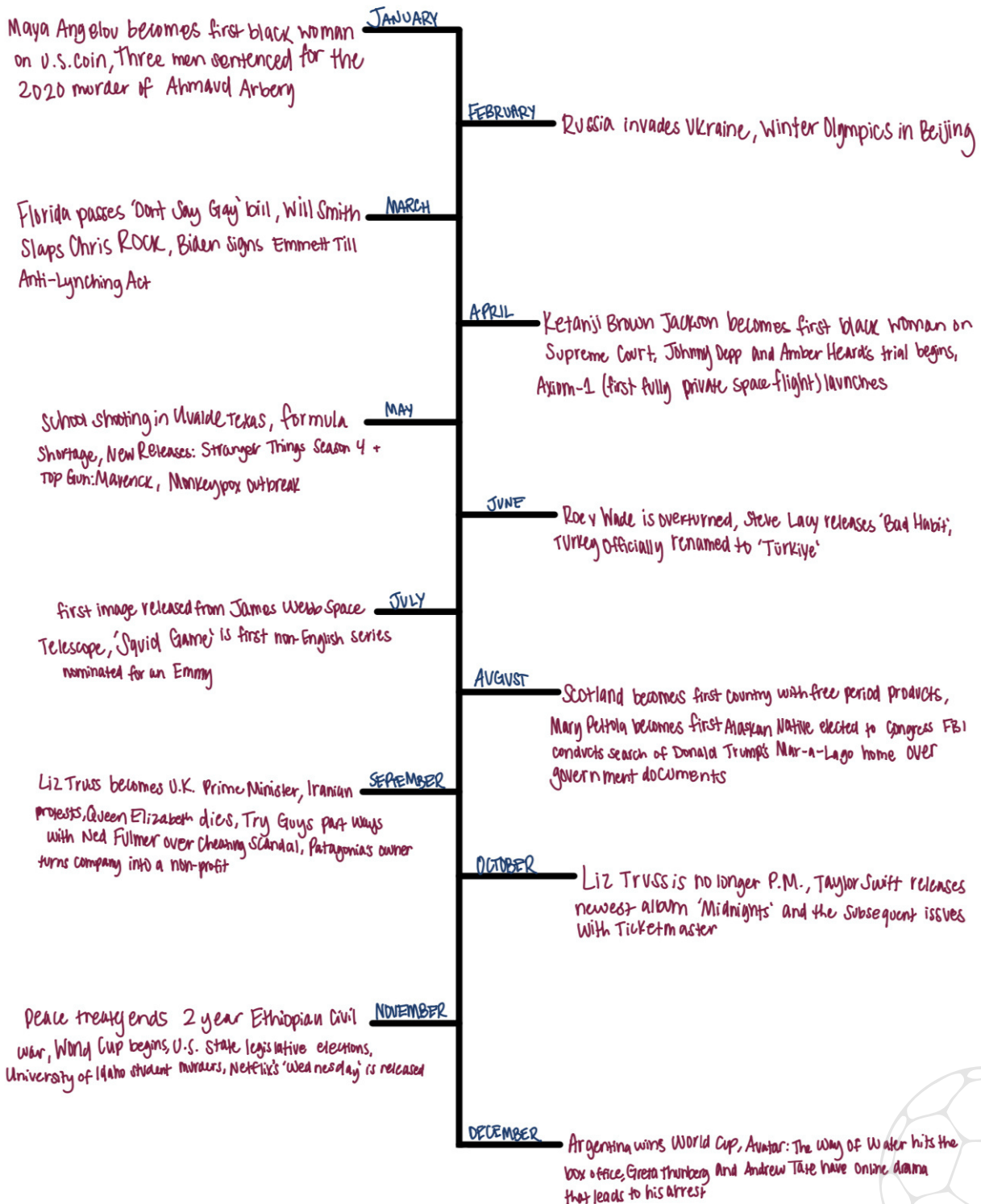
Cora Diviney

As one of the biggest schools in the area, the Colonials are among the last to add a natatorium to their school. Schools like Spring Grove, South Western, York Suburban, Central York, Dover, and Red Lion are roughly the same size as New Oxford and they all have their own natatoriums. Other schools - West York, Susquehannock, and Gettysburg - do not have their own pools, however they have excellent access to great facilities near their campus that have the capabilities to host meets. Whe on the New Oxford swim team tremendously appreciate the resources and support that the Brethren Home has provided us over the years, unfortunately, as the school and the swim team continue to grow, it will become harder for the facility to sustain our team and will become more difficult for us to avoid disrupting the residents. At the current size of the swim team, we are already crowded in the pool. With new developments and homes being added around the district, the swim team is only going to continue to grow. Along with the benefits that a natatorium would bring the swim team are the benefits it would bring to the physical education department. P.E. classes would be able to add swimming units to their courses. This could help teach kids how to swim if they are not able and strengthen other kids' skills that may already know how to swim. Members of the swim team will have a bigger sense of pride for our school knowing that they are able to practice at their own pool and feel like they are at home. Along with that, the New Oxford swim team will finally be able to host their own home meets instead of having every meet at another school. Overall, building the Colonials their own natatorium would allow the swim team to grow and reach their full potential, while improving other aspects of the school as well.



Round Up of 2022

Jennie Brady





Republican Party Fractures over Speaker of the House

Betsy Figueroa

The House of Representatives has fallen victim to factions. On November 8th, 2022, the midterm election was held and Americans voted for 435 House of Representative members. The results of the midterm election resulted in Democrats losing nine seats and Republicans gaining those seats. Now Republicans are the majority party in the House, which means their candidate for Speaker of the House was favored to win. The Speaker is the presiding officer in charge of the House with various responsibilities such as setting the House rules; they are essentially in charge of running the House of Representatives. In order to become Speaker, one of the candidates must receive at least 218 votes from the 435 members of the House. With the Republican party having 222 representatives, there should have been no problem getting their candidate in or so we thought.

On January 3, 2023, all representatives gathered at the Capitol to elect the Speaker and swear in the new representatives. Representatives stand and verbally name the candidate they vote for. The main candidates were Kevin McCarthy (Republican) and Hakeem Jeffries (Democrat). The first vote was cast and, to everyone's surprise, McCarthy received only 203 votes and Jeffries received 212, neither received enough votes to become Speaker. For the first time since 1923, it took more than one vote to elect the Speaker. It took an astonishing fifteen votes to finally elect Kevin McCarthy. The Republican party has 222 seats, so theoretically they should have had the votes to win the first time or at least the first fourteen votes. So why did it take so long?

The Republican party did not seem to take the election seriously. As elected members of the House, they have various responsibilities, but none of those responsibilities can be carried out without a Speaker. In order to swear in new members, assign committees and get any bill passed in Congress, there must be a Speaker of the House. However, actions made by various Republicans show that they were not taking the vote seriously. For example, Representative Matt Gaetz (R) voted for "Donald John Trump" then proceeded to giggle with the representative seated next to him. He was not the only one. Other votes did not make sense and some representatives voted present. These members withholding their votes belong to the freedom caucus; it is an extremist far right group in the Republican party. They believe that McCarthy will do little to change the broken system in Washington.

Following the first failed attempt, McCarthy began negotiating with those 20 Republicans who were withholding their votes. McCarthy had to give up a great deal in order to become Speaker of the House. Some may say it wasn't worth it. One of the major compromises made was the "one member election trigger." That means that one representative can trigger a motion to vacate the Speaker of the House, which would result in this whole fiasco again. Not only does McCarthy have to be extra cautious because he is already on thin ice, but it creates a sense of instability in the House. Another compromise made was regarding the House Rules Committee. This committee is in charge of setting the rules for what bills will be voted on, how long they will be debated, and what changes will be made. He guaranteed one seat to an extreme conservative. Having a seat on that committee provides the representatives with a lot of power and influence. McCarthy might be happy now, but he is very restricted due to the compromises he had to make to get the position.



9/11 and My Chemical Romance

Alessandra Inners

At first glance, these two topics seem to have absolutely nothing to do with each other, yet they have a surprising relation. While taking the CHS America in Vietnam course last semester, the class discussed songs that they associate with the Vietnam War. Students named “Fortunate Son” by Creedence Clearwater Revival (the song from Forrest Gump), “Paint It, Black” by The Rolling Stones, and “For What It’s Worth” by Buffalo Springfield. There are even large playlists available on Spotify full of songs about the Vietnam War or from the Vietnam era. However, when asked what songs we associate with modern day conflicts, such as 9/11, Afghanistan involvement, or the Ukraine conflict we couldn’t think of any. Of course, there were two songs the teacher mentioned at the lack of our response: “Die for the Government” by Anti-Flag (a song against the government) and “Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue (The Angry American)” by Toby Keith (a more uplifting, patriotic song).

Around the same time this conversation took place, I happened to come across an article about the origins of My Chemical Romance from the perspective of Gerard Way. At the time of the September 11 attacks, Way was on a ferry in New York watching as the Twin Towers began to crumble. Like many others who witnessed this devastation, he was in a state of disbelief, and terrified that life could be taken away so quickly and suddenly. This fear struck an epiphany in Way: life was too short to not take risks. In the next couple of days, he recruited his brother and some old friends to start a band, and eventually created their first album. In a more recent Instagram post, celebrating 20 years of My Chemical Romance, Way wrote, “Starting [My Chemical Romance] was a direct result of everything we experienced and witnessed during those horrific events. The world changed that day, and the next day we set about trying to change the world” (Krol). Their first album featured a song dedicated to their emotions

surrounding the 9/11 events titled, “Skylines and Turnstiles.” It was the first song I could personally find that truly resonated with the emotions people felt during a major modern conflict the United States experienced.

While during the Vietnam-era there were a plethora of songs about emotions due to war conflict, I feel we have lost that aspect among modern music and social media influences. Very few modern songs reference or discuss conflicts that the United States is dealing with today. Most modern artists tend to be more focused on creating music formulaically to rise to fame and wealth quickly. Other artists focus on major conflicts that are not military related, such as mental health and social issues. It would be intriguing to see more artists mention the conflicts we witness today, or produce uplifting words of encouragement regarding these conflicts.



Chobani Flips: Ranked

Brayden Linsey, Anna Farmer

In the professional opinion of Chobani Flip consumers Anna Farmer and Brayden Linsey; we present to you the only acceptable ranking of the Chobani Flip yogurts flavors in order from best to worst.



1. Cookie Dough
2. Strawberry Cheesecake
3. S'more S'mores
4. Salted Caramel Crunch
5. Almond Coco Loco
6. Boston Cream Pie
7. Mint Chocolate Chip
8. Red Velvet Cupcake
9. Peanut Butter Cup
10. Cookies and Cream
11. Key Lime Crumble
12. Chocolate Layer Cake
13. Lemon Meringue Pie



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