



The Talon

Gripping News



Volume VI

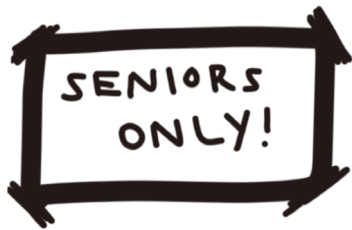
Issue II

Onteora High School

Boiceville, NY 12412

February 2024

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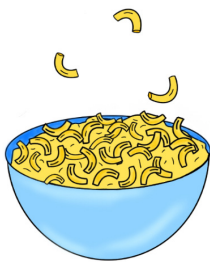
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Webpage Blocked! An All Too Familiar Message

By Oskar Baron, Sophomore

Relentless "page blocked" notifications from network blockers have become an unwelcome intrusion in the daily lives of Onteora students, often restricting access to essential information and hampers the ability to use other crucial academic resources, such as scholarship applications and College Board access.

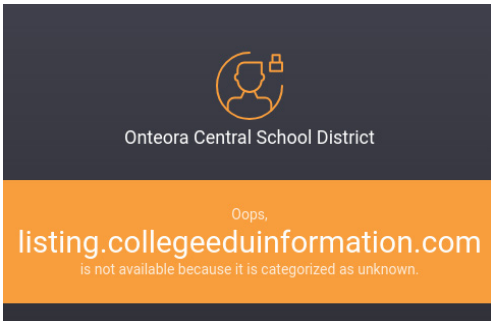
Currently, the system is controlled by an A.I. that rather arbitrarily assigns webpages to one of more than 100 categories. It creates many errors and unjustified restrictions. For example, Wikimedia, the website that hosts all images used on Wikipedia, is blocked for being a "media sharing website," causing students' screens to be filled with the image below.



The primary issue lies in how the system handles these A.I. mistakes. When the system blocks a website, it only provides the category label as justification without offering any option to appeal the decision, leaving students frustrated, especially when they need access to legitimate educational sites. Even scholarship application sites provided by Naviance are blocked.

Nevertheless, we can mitigate this problem by adding a human lifeline. If we assign someone to monitor white-list requests (requests for webpages to be unblocked), it should create a stopgap for the inconsistencies. While the A.I. isn't perfect, it tries to perform to the best of its ability. To rectify wrongfully blocked websites, there needs to be a person reviewing decisions. We would only need to address these white-list requests infrequently, and it would take seconds to do so. Perhaps access requests could be managed on a Google Forum.

Web filtering in a school is necessary. According to the Children's



Internet Protection Act, schools are required by law to have such a system in place; however, this law is nearly 25-years-old, and its criteria for censure is simply any "inappropriate matter on the Internet." On the national level, we need to update guidelines, as the current ones are so vague as to do more harm than good. That aside, at Onteora, having a system to submit appeals will not only allow for more wrongfully blocked websites to be changed, but it will also offer more comprehensive explanations for just restrictions.

With much needed human oversight, accuracy can be improved, ensuring a more balanced, fair, and efficient system that allows our technology to work with us, rather than against us.

Did Covid Kill Fashion?

By Fiona Green, Sophomore

The effects of the Covid pandemic are felt in everything from mental health to test scores, including what we wear.

When quarantine ended, we continued to wear the same clothes that we did while we stayed at home. Clothes like sweatpants and hoodies became the uniform of the American people. No matter where you go, it looks like everyone is about to hit the gym. The clothes people are wearing today, post-covid, aren't inherently bad; however, they lack self-expression and interest—and that's what fashion is all about.

During the pandemic, it was okay that we lived in pajama pants and sweatshirts because all we did was haphazardly attend Google Meets and inevitably spend eight hours per day on our phones. The one thing that was in our control was the clothes we were wearing, and maybe when everything was unpredictable, we looked to hold onto routines, things that assured us that it would be alright. Maybe people clung on to their athleisure and plaid sweatpants because coming back to school was yet another change. However, these clothes don't really give us any clue as to who a

person is and what their interests are.

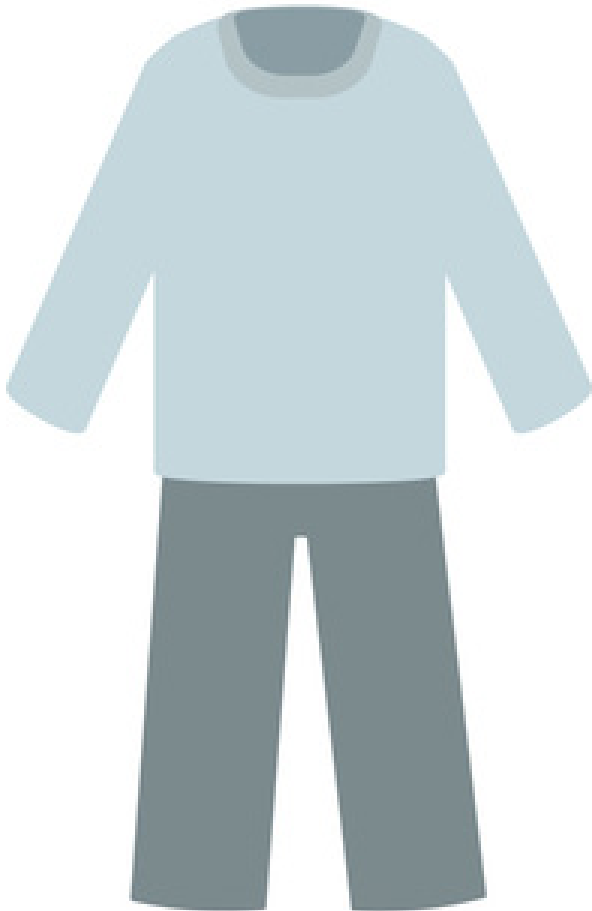
Dressing well isn't an act of vanity; instead, it's

something that shows you care. The clothes you wear can influence your confidence. For example, think about how much your posture differs when you wear pajamas versus when you wear your nicest clothes. Feeling confident and comfortable in how you dress can make the mundane tasks of everyday life just a little more enjoyable.

When dressing the same as everyone else, it's hard to show your individuality. When you wear clothes that are unique to you, people are able to understand a little more about who you are. Clothes are amazing because they can spark conversations with strangers that you may never have talked to otherwise.

Style doesn't need to be expensive, and it shouldn't feel constricting. It's a way we can express who we are to the world, from our family and friends to the strangers we walk past on

the street. We take parts of other people's style to create our own, and that's why style is so individualistic yet collaborative.



Courtesy of Creative Commons

Quarterly Letter from Your President

Dear Constituents,

I am happy to report that we have broken ground on our outdoor classroom. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make this happen! We will continue to diligently work on this project. In fact, we have even ordered a test bench (we need to make sure it's comfortable, of course). Our goal is to have one classroom completed and ready for use by the spring and another available next school year. Additionally, we want to fill the white spaces on the walls of the school with new artwork. As always, we are open to student suggestions!

Your sovereign,
Sophia Odato



Courtesy of The Talon Staff

The Talon Staff



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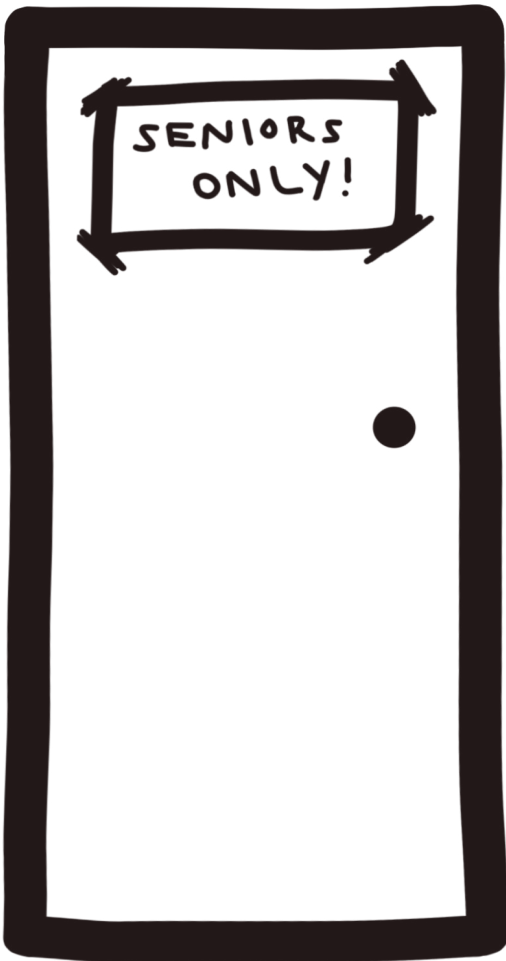


The Yellowed Pages: Current Seniors Call for a Return of Former Privileges

By Abigail Elliot, Sophomore

The following was published in an October 1980 publication of Onteora's former newspaper *The Bull*. Current seniors might find this article pertinent, as it is January, and no senior privileges have been implemented.

When asked about this issue, Class President Sophia Odato stated, "I think it is clear that rules have become infinitely stricter. While this is easy to pin solely on administration, I understand that their caution is reflective of a change in society, where we are generally more fearful and aware of risks associated with our actions. That being said, our lack of freedom is frustrating. The senior class officers have met with Mr. Edelman, trying to understand all of the rules and regulations that prevent us from having certain privileges. He said he will



Courtesy of Virginia Potter

work with us during the second half of the year to get senior lanyards that allow us to use our phones in the library and have better access to the cafeteria."

Seniors have expressed that they would like to have more freedom and privileges within the school. Senior Ada Helm says "I know the big thing people are pushing for is phones in the library, and I think that would be great to have!"



SENIORS GRANTED NEW ROOM AND OUTSIDE PRIVILEGES

Seniors have a new room and are allowed to sit on the outside steps adjacent to the cafeteria during periods 5 and 6 this year as a result of their recently concluded negotiations for senior privileges.

The new senior room is located across from room 125, a former exit hallway that has been enclosed. The room may be used as a social area during free periods.

Along with these privileges, seniors will have two more outside areas. One is the area between the front walkway and the entrance to

the east parking lot. This area may be used only during periods 5 and 6. The other is the area between the Bennett parking lot and the business education section of the high school.

The administration has distributed ID cards that will allow seniors access to the library and lavatories during their free periods. The photo ID cards will serve as passes for senior privileges but may not be used as late passes or for loitering in the halls.

Littering in any of the

areas given to the seniors will not be tolerated. There will be senior monitors in both outside and inside areas who will be responsible for the enforcement of the rules.

If you have any questions about senior privileges, you may get in touch with Barbara Burg, Jill Carrucci, Treyce Knee, Doral Berleth, Alyssa Barnes, Tina Barrera, Bob Buscher, Ginny Coonradt, John Giacalone, Sondra Holly, Debbie Kroenke, Mary Tentnowski, Chris Seymour, Tim Moses, Gwen Lapo or Jay Rossitz.

What's That Smell? Strange Odors Waft Through the Halls of Onteora

If you have walked the halls of Onteora High School at all in the last month, chances are you have encountered a number of putrid odors. Everyday the smell seems to migrate, recently concentrating around the math, art, and science hallways. As far as the students and teachers are aware, the origins of these malodors are unknown. Could it be problems with the sewage, or possibly a backdoor science experiment gone terribly wrong? One can only guess.

Onteora Science Olympiad [C]ompetitIONS

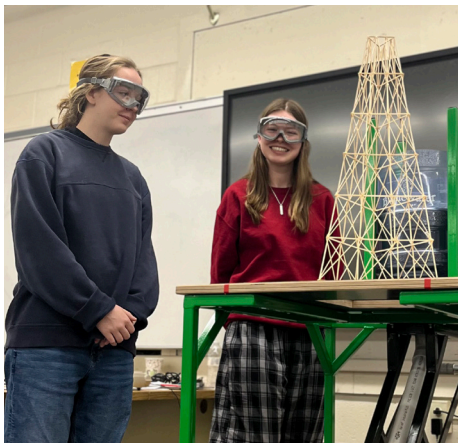


The Science Olympiad team, courtesy of Mr. Keenan

On January 6th, the Science Olympiad attended an invitational competition at Columbia High School along with 34 other schools. Members of the team competed in a multitude of science and engineering events and left with a total of nine medals. And just this month, they competed at the Mid-Hudson Regional at John Jay High School. There, students took home a total of 12 medals in events ranging from Chem to Robot Tour.

The team members had a great time during the events. One student even accidentally chilled himself down to absolute zero. He's OK now.

Congratulations Science Olympians!



Madeline Mills and Olivia McHugh competing in a tower engineering event, courtesy of Mr. Keenan

Without Social Media for a Year

By Fiona Green, Sophomore

Spending five to six hours on my phone just scrolling through social media used to be a daily occurrence for me. My days felt short. I had less time to do the things I wanted and more time to procrastinate. I was constantly entertained and barely ever bored. I had less time to think and sit with my feelings. I isolated myself using my phone to avoid situations I was uncomfortable with instead of dealing with them. But on December 31, 2022, I deleted all of my social media. Since then, I have had far more time to do what I want, make more connections with other people, and create new ideas. I feel less stressed.

Social media is designed to keep you wanting more. As more and more meaningless information goes in one ear and out the other, the ability to remember the actually meaningful things that are important decreases. Today, we are constantly entertained, which leaves us little time to think and be bored. Being bored is one of the best things you can do for your brain to spark creativity and new ideas. If you never have any time to think, you never have any time to grow.

Checking your phone and scrolling is one of the best ways to avoid social interaction. But once you finally put your phone down, you realize that talking with the people around you feels far better than looking at Tiktok. During 2023, I made more friends than I did in years past just because I became more open to talking with people that I didn't know as well. I felt more socially connected and comfortable being with other people who weren't in my inner circle.

Without social media my days feel longer. They went from being 18 hours long to a full 24. I don't look up from my phone and realize that half the day is gone like I used to. My sleep schedule has gotten better, and I feel more well-rested. I procrastinate less and get around to doing what I am supposed to do much faster. Instead of checking my phone for an hour after waking up, I get up and start my day. Social media has

stopped eating up my time.

I am not telling you to delete social media, but I am just sharing my experience and how it has altered my life. There are lots of great aspects of social media. You can talk to people you wouldn't have been able to. You can make new friends, get new ideas, and learn more about the world. However, it didn't work out for me. I had trouble putting my phone down and living in the real world. During 2023, I went outside more. I spent more time with people that mattered to me. I worked faster. Most importantly, I had more time to live my life.



Courtesy of Creative Commons

Attention Swifties!

By Lucia McDonagh, Sophomore

In 2019, record label Big Machine was sold to Scooter Braun. As a result, Scooter Braun became the owner of Taylor Swift's masters—the official recordings of her songs. These masters included her debut album *Taylor Swift*, *Fearless*, *Speak Now*, *Red*, *1989*, and *Reputation*.

Braun bought them for \$330 million, but Taylor was never involved in any of these calls or transactions. No one reached out to her. No one asked her what she wanted to do with them. Braun then sold them to Shamrock Capital, an investment firm, for \$405 million and demanded that Shamrock Capital not notify Taylor until the deal was completed.

He also ensured that he and his company, Ithaca Holdings, would still earn royalties off of her music for many years to come.

When her albums were sold to Scooter Braun, she did make an attempt to buy them from him. However, she would have had to sign an NDA that stated she would only

speak positively about Braun. She refused. While Braun owned her albums, he denied her the right to use her own songs in her movie *Miss Americana* (2020) and in the 2019 American Music Awards.

She was told that she could only use her songs if she agreed not to re-record "copycat" versions of her work. In 2020, they released *Live From Clear Channel Stripped*, a previously unreleased work written in 2008, without her consent.

Her ex-label also owed her \$7.9 million from record sales, which they claimed to have forgotten about. Despite Braun's belief that she wasn't serious about re-recording, Taylor proved him wrong. She re-recorded her entire masters.

She then proceeded to name them "**name of the album** (Taylor's Version)." Now, when you see "(Taylor's Version)" next to an album or song, it means Taylor owns them. To date, she has re-recorded *Fearless*, *Speak Now*, *Red*, and *1989*. She still has to re-record *Taylor Swift* and *Reputation*.

This whole situation has sparked much controversy. However, many artists have backed Taylor up, including Katy Perry, Cher, Lily Allen, HAIM, and many, many more.



Courtesy of Creative Commons

A Modern Classic Reimagined for TV: *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*

By Harsimran Kaur, Sophomore

“Look, I didn’t want to be a half-blood.” When I tell you I screamed as I heard this opening line in the new *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* adaption, I mean it. It took me back years to when I first opened the book.

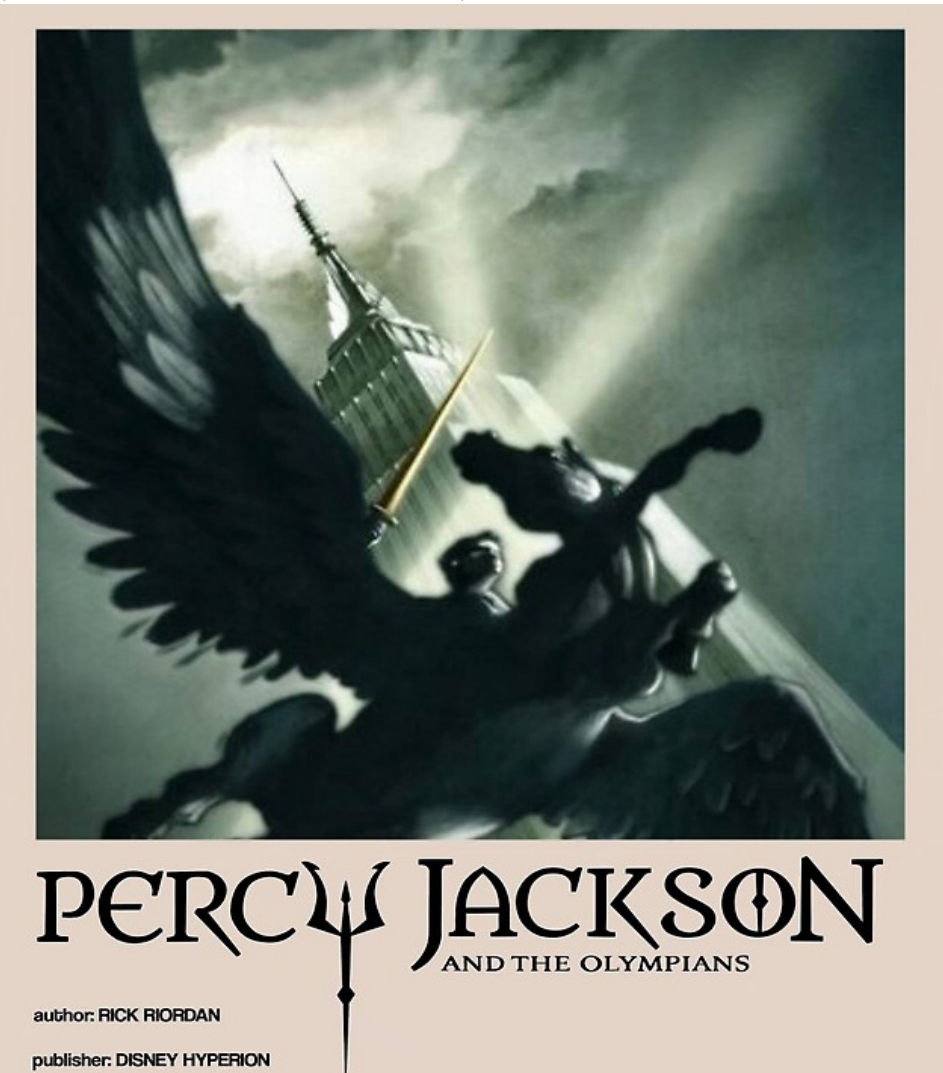
If you don’t know about the Percy Jackson TV show, what have you been doing? Have you been living under a rock? *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* is a popular book series from author Rick Riordan, which came out on June 28, 2005. A film adaptation was released prior to the 2023 TV show, consisting of two movies based on the first two novels. The movies didn’t do too well, and in turn, the third movie in the sequence was canceled. Many have been saying that this new show is much better than the movies, so I guess to do it right, they had to do it twice.

The story follows Percy Jackson, a 12-year-old from New York City, who has always felt different than others around him. He later finds out that he’s a demi-god, and it turns out that his absent father isn’t a deadbeat but rather a Greek god. Percy goes to Camp Half-Blood, a camp full of other demi-gods, where he’s safe from the mythological creatures attacking him. There, he finds out who his father is—someone no one would’ve expected. Percy and two other campers, Annabeth and Grover, embark on a quest to find and return Zeus’s lightning bolt—which had just been stolen—before havoc is released on Mount Olympus.

The new Disney Plus show stars Walker Scobell as Percy Jackson, Leah Jeffries as Annabeth Chase, and Aryan Simhadri as Grover Underwood. The casting is spot on, and these three completely embody the characters. Walker’s portrayal of Percy’s sass is exactly what I needed. He is Percy Jackson, and Percy Jackson is him. I couldn’t imagine a more perfect casting for him, even though I’m a fan of the dark-haired Percy in the books.

The chemistry between Leah and Walker is very present, and I cannot wait until more seasons are released and the slowburn of “Percabeth” is unraveled. The friendship between Grover and Percy is demonstrated so well that I can feel myself going back to the days when I first read the book.

Needless to say, I think I'm in love with this adaptation. I may be biased because these are the kids that practically raised me. Once a bunch of words mushed together on a page, they’ve now come to life on a TV screen. I would recommend this a thousand times over to anyone, even if you haven’t read the books. It is truly a fantastic piece of work.



Courtesy of Creative Commons

Is *Jane Eyre* Worth Reading in the 21st Century?

By Kylie Osterhoudt, Junior

SUMMARY

Jane Eyre is a well-known classic British novel written by Charlotte Brontë and published in 1847. The story revolves around the main character Jane. An orphan, Jane faces mistreatment from her aunt and cousins and later attends Lowood School, where she befriends Helen Burns. She then becomes a governess at Thornfield Hall and meets Mr. Rochester, with whom she develops a complicated romance. Their engagement is interrupted by a shocking revelation about Rochester's past, prompting Jane to flee Thornfield and find solace and independence with the Rivers family.

Despite inheriting a fortune, Jane prioritizes love over wealth. When she returns to Thornfield, she finds Mr. Rochester blind and injured. In the face of all these barriers, their love ultimately triumphs. The novel explores themes of social class, morality, and the pursuit of genuine love, depicting a compelling story of resilience and self-discovery in challenging circumstances.

SOCIAL ISSUES REPRESENTED

Jane Eyre delves into important societal issues of the 19th century, providing a critical viewpoint on the disparities in class and gender

roles. Jane's early experiences at Gateshead Hall highlight the mistreatment of orphans, emphasizing the vulnerability of those without social status. Lowood School's harsh conditions and inadequate education shed light on the struggles of impoverished girls in

the limitations imposed by societal norms. Ultimately, *Jane Eyre* is a poignant exploration of social injustices and the resilience needed to navigate a world constrained by rigid expectations.



Courtesy of Creative Commons

society. The novel also challenges traditional gender expectations through Jane's strong, independent character. She defies the norms imposed on women at that time. Additionally, the complex relationships between characters, such as the power dynamics between Jane and Mr. Rochester, serve as a commentary on

create the female protagonist with her key trait being her great beauty, often as a moral lesson for women. Instead, Jane’s looks are not a driving force in the book; it is her diligence, kindness, and sense of right and wrong that rise to the fore.

REVIEW

Jane Eyre remains an engaging story of the love and hope of a young woman rising above difficult circumstances to find her place in the world. It is interesting to read a novel written so long ago but with a female protagonist who is far from the submissive woman that was often portrayed in the fiction and preferences of the time. Yet, there are some parts of the book that might not sit so well with the modern feminist, including Jane’s fierce belief in the importance of a woman’s modesty, as well as some of Mr. Rochester’s actions.

I appreciated that the story emphasized Jane’s inner self, rather than her appearance. Writers have a tendency to



Clawsnaps



The recent inclement weather has us asking:
How do you spend your snow day?

Ruby Gahagan - "I sleep! Duh!?"

Keegan Burkhart - "I do homework all day."

Sophia Wall - "I like to play with my husky in the snow."



Jade Belfiore - "I'll study if there's a test coming up, or I like to invite friends over and do puzzles."



Julian Roeckl - "Going snowboarding."



Andrew Umhey - "I like to bake and do work!"



Connor Gierloff - "Snowboarding at Belleayre, sometimes with my friends."



Vincent Christofora - "My dad will probably make me shovel the driveway. Or I'll be working."



Jonny Davis - "I sleep and play video games."



Noah Makowski - "I'm either skiing or sleeping."



Abilene Adelman - "Watching movies and procrastinating doing homework."

Landry Mack - "Sleeping A LOT!"

Shaun Bonan - "I go skiing if there's actually snow; or see my friends."

Mr. Epstein - "I prefer to spend my snowdays making delicious warm soup and baking!"

Sara Metawee - "Skiing with pals!"

The Sweet Spot, Savory Edition: Mac 'n' Cheese!

By Talula Kirschner, Sophomore

Mac 'n' Cheese: a universal comfort food, beloved by many, and a common staple in homes. It originated in Italy but has deep roots in American soul food. It can be enjoyed anytime of the year, and there have been many different renditions of it. There's no right or wrong way to make your Mac, however you like it. Here's mine:

First, cook a pound of pasta. This can serve about six people. For more, double the recipe. Save about a cup of the pasta water for later.

Then, in a large pot melt the butter on low heat, and then add the garlic. Stir it, and don't let it burn. Then whisk in the flour, mustard powder, lots of salt and pepper, and any seasoning you like. Next, add the milk gradually and the reserved water, and whisk. Turn the heat up to medium, and continue to stir it once and a while. Once that boils, turn the heat down again and add your cheeses. I like to use a variety of flavorful, and specifically strong, cheeses for the best results. If you want to get really fancy, add some peas and diced-up bacon.



Courtesy of Creative Commons

INGREDIENTS

- For the pasta:
1 lb pasta (shells, elbows, or spirals are best)
Pasta water
- For the roux:
1 stick butter
2 cloves of garlic; minced
6 tbsp flour
1 ½ tsp mustard powder
5 cups milk
- About 6 cups cheese (like monterey jack, sharp cheddar, asiago, mozzarella, parmesan, and pecorino)
Seasoned breadcrumbs
Lots of salt and pepper

Troeger's Take on 2024

By David Troeger, Junior

When you're reading this, it'll be around NFL draft day.

While I'm writing this, it's week 15, and the Bills are whooping the Cowboys.

Who's ready for some way too early offseason projections? I'll go through the teams and what I think they need to do. Then I'll make fun of all of them.

So where do we start?

You're probably already sick of hearing people say how good Aaron Rodgers is going to play next year. I am, and the season hasn't ended yet. But if he's going to do well, the Jets are going to need an O-line. And an offense.

The Jets might also decide they want their Hall-Of-Fame quarterback for more than four snaps this time around, although no amount of trades can fix the turf situation at Metlife. They only have him for two more years until he goes to Minnesota, and they'll have to wait another five or so for Jordan Love. And what New Yorker doesn't like to take a swing at the Cowboys?

Now, prepare for a rant:

Okay Chiefs, while I hate to say it, Kelce's up



there in age for a tight end, and there may not be much time left before he and Taylor Swift go running off into the sunset of retirement, and by the way Mahomes needs more than Rashee Rice at receiver.

The Texans made a great jump this year, and while I despise Ohio State from the bottom of my heart, I will admit that I like C.J. Stroud. DeMico Ryans is a great coach with an incredibly defensive mind. They need to continue rebuilding and picking up a couple more skill guys, but they will be a good team for years to come. The almost unbroken 20-year era of top-five picks seems to be over, and I'm rooting for them to make the playoffs.

Dallas will always be above average and will always choke in the playoffs. It's an NFL tradition. However, I had the Cowboys going far this year in the preseason, and I'm gonna stand by it. Every team has had a bad game this year. Everyone remember the '9ers three-game losing streak to the Browns, Vikings, and Bengals? Just get younger and fix the defensive holes. This team can make the Super Bowl—but won't win it. They don't know how to win in big situations, and

that calls for McCarthy to get replaced.

The Eagles' roster is great. Not much to worry about. Just need to draft a few younger guys. Word of advice though: I get that UGA is good for NFL players, but you are actually



allowed to draft players that didn't play college in the state of Georgia. There's no need to be the Philadelphia Bulldogs.

The 49ers have nothing to worry about and are still my pick to win the Super Bowl—hasn't changed since preseason. My grandpa could be the quarterback, and they'd go to the playoffs. They may be the perfect roster.

Giants: get a new GM.

Steelers: stop losing to 2–10 teams, let Pickett throw for more than three, stop pretending George Pickens and Dionte Johnson are above average, and GET A REAL OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR!

Jets #2: DON'T TAKE MATT CANADA WHEN THE STEELERS FIRE HIM AS OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR. I shouldn't have to say it, but I keep seeing it in my head. I also keep seeing them miss the playoffs next year. NY Jets, 9–8.

Broncos Country, let's cry. Broncos Country, you tried. Broncos Country, there goes your pride. Broncos Country, your bank account is fried. Broncos Country, this is why your first request for a quarterback got denied. I could keep going for a while, but I don't think anybody wants to read it.

My guess is that you missed the playoffs as the eight or ninth seed. In preseason, I actually had them making it at the seventh seed, but the defense has not held. Tua says thanks for his MVP votes. Seventy points in one game tends to do that. But Russ is looking better, and the team should trend upward, with a possible



wild card berth depending on the schedule next season.

New England. I see a lot of people saying Bill Belichick is going to get fired. Unless he leaves of his own accord, I highly doubt it.

A lot of work to be done here. To start, high draft pick, good QB draft, bad quarterbacks. Follow it up with another corner, a linebacker, and a wideout. Tough to tell who will be available at this point, and the Patriots aren't known for trading up. Another Tee Higgins and Michael Pittman candidate. Stop drafting third round projections in the first.

Listen Green Bay, I know the Jets sort of look like you, but they're actually a different franchise. So you might want to stop shipping every player you have over there because with the Sauce-Reed-Whitehead trio, Jaire Alexander might not even be a starter when he goes to the Big Apple. Keep letting Jordan Love do his thing.



Girls Junior Varsity Basketball Dominates League 16–1

By Melanie Milla, Junior



The Girls Junior Varsity team, courtesy of Nigel Barker

Congratulations to the Girls Junior Varsity Basketball team for a 16–1 Season!

With their 16th win on Monday, February 12, the Girls JV Basketball team stands 16–1 at the close of the 2024 season. Team captains Lucia McDonagh, Ellie Kothe, and Sophia Somerstein attribute their successful season to “good coaching by Mark Wilens, a good team dynamic, and many supportive attitudes both on and off the court.” Somerstein added, “After losing our strong starters to varsity at the end of last year, no one expected this strong of a season. It really has been a surprise.” McDonagh chimed in, “This year's varsity is really supportive of us—they're always at our games cheering us on.”

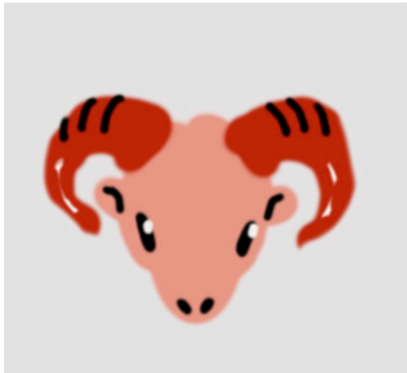
“One notable highlight of this season was the win against Wallkill in overtime. At the end of the first quarter we were down 3–10; then, at the end of the second quarter we were down 13–15. When we won in overtime, 50–48, it was a thrilling victory!” recounts Ellie Kothe.



Jasmine Barker and Alexa Hull, courtesy of Nigel Barker

Horoscopes

By Delilah Lieberman, Sophomore



ARIES (Mar. 21–Apr. 19)
You will experience a month of fortune;
As a person, you'll flourish and bloom.
You'll find a sense of peace and kindness,
So let's put the bad vibes of 2023 behind us.



LEO (Jul. 23–Aug. 22)
Stay away from wearing dark colors in any way;
You are in for some dark times, so it might
brighten your day!
Be optimistic.
But don't try too many new things, be ritualistic!



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21)
Make your decisions with care and trust.
Create a pros and cons list if you must.
One wrong move and you will see,
How fast things can be interpreted negatively.



TAURUS (Apr. 20–May 20)
If someone is walking behind, they may be
following you;
Keeping an eye out will certainly help get you
through.
If you turn your head for just a second,
You will be surprised, and surely regret it.



VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sep. 22)
Although the months have gotten colder,
Don't be afraid to become bolder.
Buy that shirt you've had your eyes on,
Or those new pants, before they're long gone.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19)
Be ready for the new year!
But keep your eyes on the road for bears and
deer.
The snow may cause you to swivel on the road,
But the animals will cause more trouble, beware
of the toads.



GEMINI (May 21–Jun. 20)
If you think your 2023 was bad, buckle up for
the new year.
It will be a time of change and of facing your
fears.
Just be careful with your decisions,
And approach the new year with precision.



LIBRA (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)
Send the text you've been wanting to send.
Act on the memories you have yet to spend.
Read that book. Paint a painting.
Watch that movie, and stop your waiting!



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18)
As the cold winter weather progresses and
intensifies,
Beware of who you chose to keep you warm,
look out for the geminis.
They have a reputation for being backstabbers,
And they may gossip about you, and become
blabbers.



CANCER (Jun. 21–Jul. 22)
Stay away from open flames for a while;
Your clumsiness might get in the way of a smile!
Instead of baking, put your creativity into
making art;
Focus on color and maybe not your amazon
cart.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21)
Keep your eyes out for all things green.
Embrace its nature and the scene.
Get outside more, rain or shine.
And take more pictures, regardless of the time.

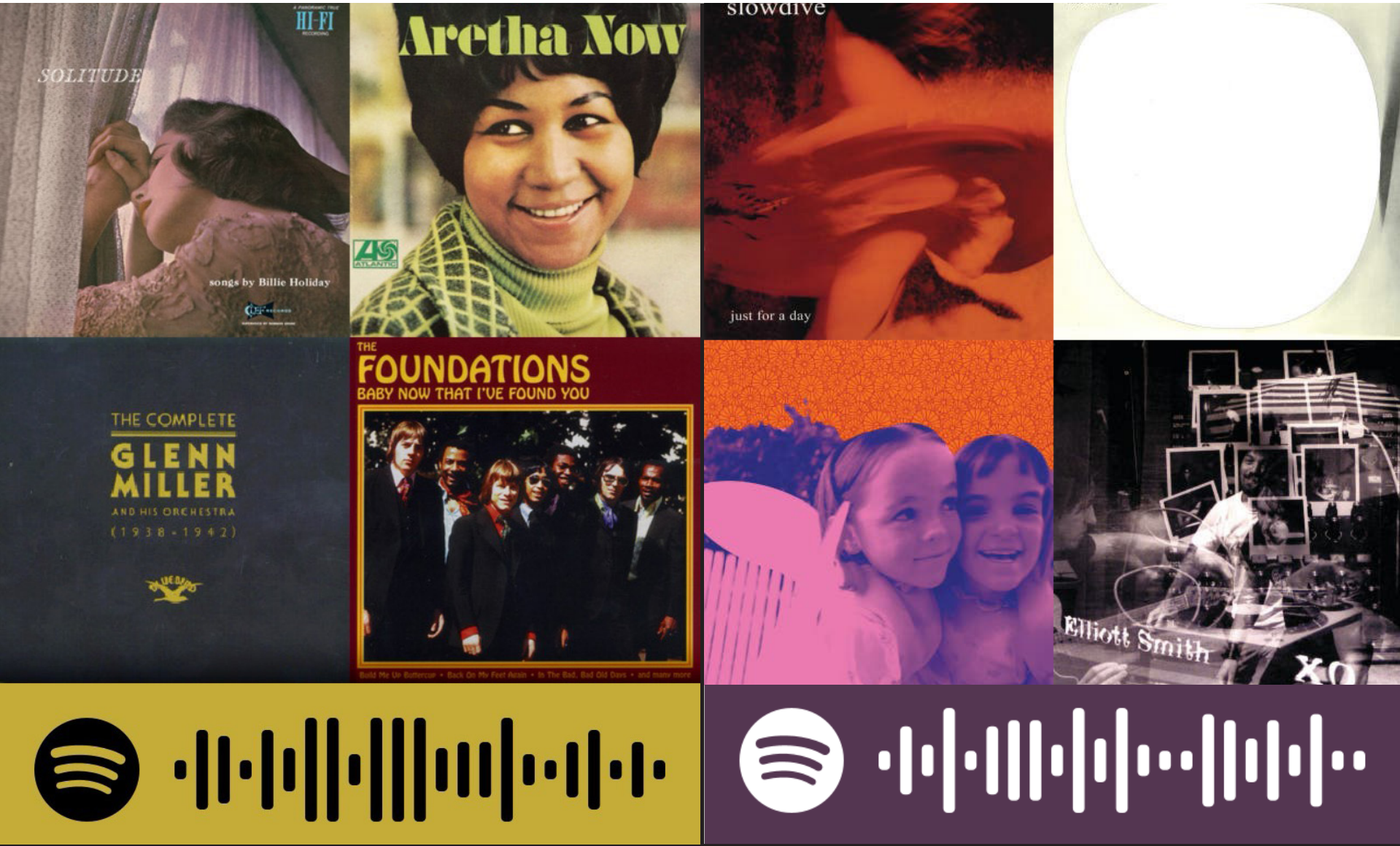


PISCES (Feb. 19–Mar. 20)
Pisces, oh pisces. Beware of the storms.
Be afraid of the fruit and of the swarms.
Keep your friends close and your enemies
closer.
You'll never know when you will need a toaster.

Playlists

By Ada Helm, Senior

By Shelby Buryk, Sophomore



Crossword: Brrr-ains Required

By Samantha Navarro, Sophomore

Clues

ACROSS

4. The invisible banana peel of winter streets
5. Winter's unique little star, falling just for you
9. The sky's way of dropping in uninvited
11. A flurry of snowflakes having a party in the sky
13. When the sky decides to throw a frozen pea shooting contest
14. Nature's way of saying, "Nope, you're not going anywhere."
15. When snow plays hide and seek with the world
16. A snowstorm that's trying way too hard
17. Nature's freezer burn on your car window

DOWN

1. The East Coast's winter alarm clock
2. What you get when snow has an identity crisis
3. Rain's colder, more annoying cousin
6. Rain that forgot to bring its coat
7. What happens when snow gets tired of sitting still
8. When the wind goes on a spinning spree
10. Check the weather here if you want a snow day
11. When the temperatures go as low as your grades during the third quarter
12. Mother Nature's recipe for "I can't decide what weather I want."

