

contents:

SPIRIT WEEK & PEP RALLY	4
INTRODUCING DEWOLFE	7
DON'T WORRY DARLING	8
FALL FASHION	10
HOW TO WRITE FOR AN AUTISTIC AUDIENCE	12
CANDID CANDY	14
THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM	18
UNSETTLINGLY HUMAN-LIKE DOLPHINS	20
THE BACHELOR IN HELL	22
SUDOKU	17

EDITOR'S NOTE



Hello reader!

Hope you've had a great summer, and welcome back to the 12th Edition of Runestone! (If you're new here, you made the right choice picking up this paper.)

Unfortunately, Piper went off to bigger and better things in Maine, and left me to fend for myself, but our new co-editor-in-chief **London** and layout leader **Jisu** are keeping me from exceeding my mental breakdown quota every week.

We have some really cool articles in store for you this edition, from Autism representation in media to the history of M&M's (the superior Halloween candy, of course), to the next big trends in fashion for this fall! (I also bet you didn't know that dolphins molested pufferfish—now that's a read, let me tell you).

Happy reading!

● **angel tang '23**
london lindley '24

by London Lindley

Spirit Week & Pep Rally: A Review



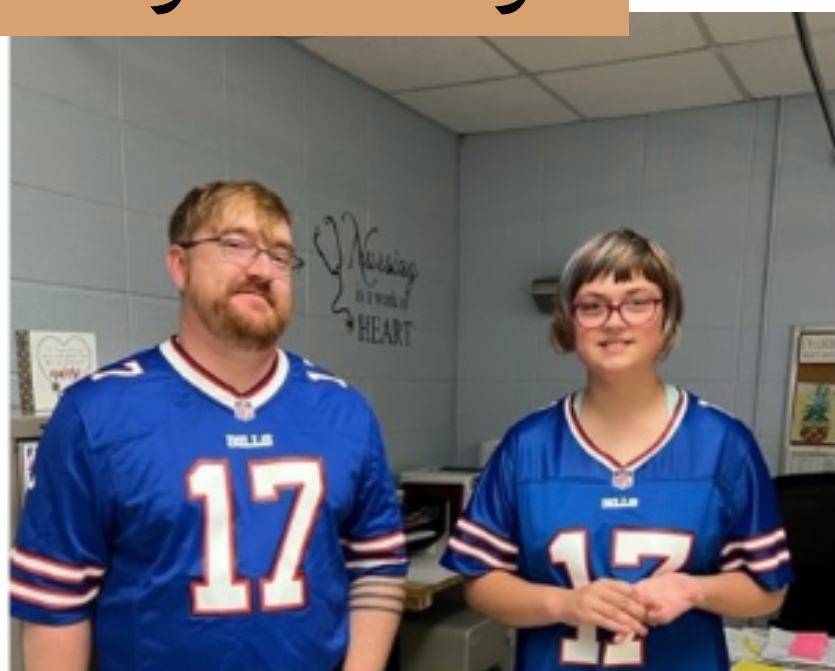
spirit week & pep rally: a review

TUESDAY:

blanket day



jersey day



WEDNESDAY:



THURSDAY:

anything but a backpack day

- People did not hold back and had the most creative non-backpacks!



ANYTHING BUT

A BACKPACK



FRIDAY: COLOR WARS

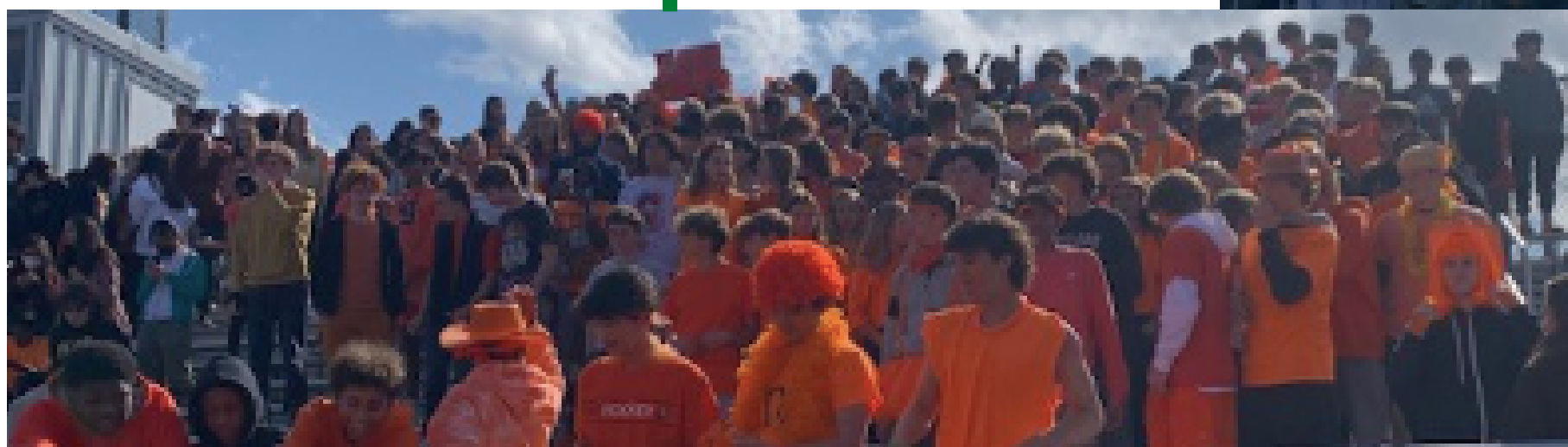
seniors



juniors



sophomores



freshmen



pep band



staff sack race

Freshmen Rep: Mr. Rumley
Sophomore Rep: Mr. Mauks
Junior Rep: Ms. Nazarian
Senior Rep: Mr. Kennell

Introducing DeWolfe

by Careena Sondhi

How long have you been teaching? This is my 16th year teaching, and I taught at Geneva before this. I've only taught at Geneva, so I was teaching straight out of college at 21, so this is my first non-Geneva school.

What classes do you teach now? Senior Creative Writing and 10 Honors. I've almost always taught sophomores and seniors, and I usually prefer sophomores. I feel like I can still have an impact on how they write, whereas with seniors, a lot of it is "you're just the transition between this and my next English class" and they're usually more set in their writing style.

The biggest difference between Geneva and Mendon? Staff, students, curriculum...? I feel very welcomed here at Mendon by the staff. Student wise, it's wonderful that people aren't punching each other and swearing at each other and refusing to get off their phones. One of the biggest surprises is that students say thank you after class. At Geneva when I said I was going to Pittsford, I was told about the "Pittsford reputation" and that the students would be arrogant and stuck up, but I haven't really faced any of that here.

Many of our teachers didn't know that teaching was what they wanted to do; were you planning on being an English teacher? I always knew that I wanted to be a teacher, but the subject I wanted to teach kept changing. In middle school, it went from social studies, to chemistry, and I never wanted to teach math. As I went through high school, I really liked my English teachers and by senior year, I felt that English was the direction I wanted to go in. I started straight away with education courses and declared myself as an English major.

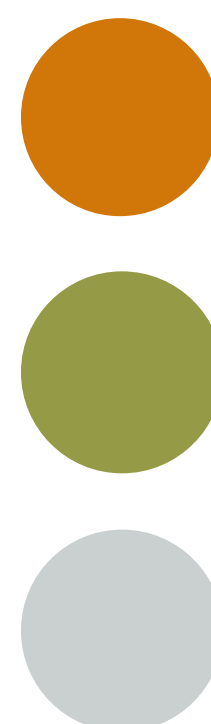
What were your favorite subjects while in high school/college? In college, I liked different English classes. We had classes where we focused on different authors each semester, so my favorite one was the Dante class. From that class, Hell was fun, Purgatory too, Heaven was boring. Outside of English, I enjoyed band. I played trumpet - I didn't practice too often; I wasn't going to school for music, and I wasn't first chair, but I wasn't last.

What are some of your hobbies? Currently, I'm attending the Rochester Gay Film Festival: Image Out. I have to see around 30 films in 10 days, and I'm currently at 15 films. I feel that it's very important because of the representation and showing how people love. International films are also included, and there are movies from China, Brazil, Mexico, Norway, Sweden, Germany, and more. I've been reading a lot of subtitles.

As one of your students, I know you like Starbucks; do you have a favorite fall drink? I like regular coffee with pumpkin flavoring, cream, and Splenda, specifically. I will do pumpkin flavoring until they stop doing pumpkin. Even if its not on the menu but they still have some left over, the baristas know to give it to me. As for the Pumpkin Spice Latte, I like pumpkin spice, but I don't care for the latte part. A latte is mostly cream and 2 shots of espresso, so it's literally 90% hot milk. I don't want that, I want actual coffee, so I'm not really a latte person.

Many students would like to know where the term "good puppies" came from. Is it a literature/movie reference, something someone always said? It's just for fun to say, it's not a reference. Part of it is that I'm telling students to remain seated, and when you train a puppy to sit, you say "good puppy". It's like a conditioning kind of playfulness.

Any words to say to the Mendon readers? I'm excited to be here! Part of this year will also involve me renewing my national board certification, unfortunately, but I'm excited to learn a new environment and have a shorter commute. A seven-minute drive is much nicer than a forty-seven-minute drive.



Along with *Don't Worry Darling* being an incredibly well-done psychological thriller that had everyone gasping in their seats, we can't forget about all that happened before we even stepped foot in the theater. Fans of the movie and the cast devoured any sort of drama possible that came from interviews, press conferences, and premiers. From drama between costars and even smooches given during the premier, *Don't Worry Darling* had people hooked before we even knew about Jack and Alice's story. But is all publicity good publicity?

Don't Worry Darling

by Casey Dapshi (p.8) and Sarah Dailey (p.9)

The first time the film was introduced to us, director Olivia Wilde posted a picture on her Instagram revealing the chosen actors for the three main characters: Florence Pugh, Chris Pine, and Shia Labeouf. When Shia Labeouf left the cast, rumored to have been fired by Olivia Wilde, Mr. Harry Styles stepped in for Jack's character and left the internet crumbling to their knees. It wasn't until later that Shia Labeouf responded to the rumors of having been fired as a result of Florence Pugh stating to Olivia Wilde that she was afraid Labeouf might create an unsafe environment around costars. He then came out and stated in a thread of emails and texts that he was not fired, but rather left on his own. No one 100% knows exactly who made who leave, but there are many points to justify each side.

Throughout filming, it was very out of character for Florence Pugh to be so quiet on social media about promoting her film and showing her excitement for her work – all the while Olivia Wilde continued to praise Florence on her socials. It was a strange occurrence since Florence Pugh stated many times how she sees Olivia Wilde as an idol. But how can we be so sure of that when Florence continues to stay quiet while Olivia promotes the concept of female empowerment and pleasure for a film that is far beyond the theme she is trying to push?

But truly, we can't forget about all that happened during the Venice premiere. From Chris Pine's dissociation during press conferences and Harry and Olivia not even batting an eye at each other, Venice was packed with all types of drama that had us burning our tongues on hot, piping tea. Fans watched as the cast members walked the red carpet and the absolute mic drop moment Florence Pugh had with her Instagram post captioned "Miss Flo", practically clapping back at Olivia's snarky comments towards the actress.

I can't talk about the premiere and not mention the famous interaction that happened between Harry Styles and Chris Pine. Nick Kroll had said during an interview on the *Tonight Show*. "[Harry], when you walk into the premiere in Venice, spit on Chris pine." Now of course Nick Kroll didn't mean it in a 'be mean to your co-star because he has wronged us' way, Nick Kroll mostly just wanted to create buzz around the film without that buzz being about the film at all, and I really can't blame him for that.

Many people were left wondering if Harry Styles really did spit on Chris Pine as we all rewatched the clip repeatedly, analyzing every facial feature and body movement. Nick Kroll also stated in that same interview, "If that doesn't work", referring to Harry being asked to spit on Chris, "maybe you should just give me a kiss". It was at this moment where we were blessed with the beloved photo of the two men sharing a very special kiss with each other, leaving fans applauding all over the internet for all the unhinged events that they had just watched take place.

Don't Worry Darling was a stupendous film that had me and everyone in the theater on the edge of their seat. From acting, to editing, and even to directing, everything about it was perfect. And I'm sure all the buzz was totally worth it, even if a lot of it wasn't about the film at all.

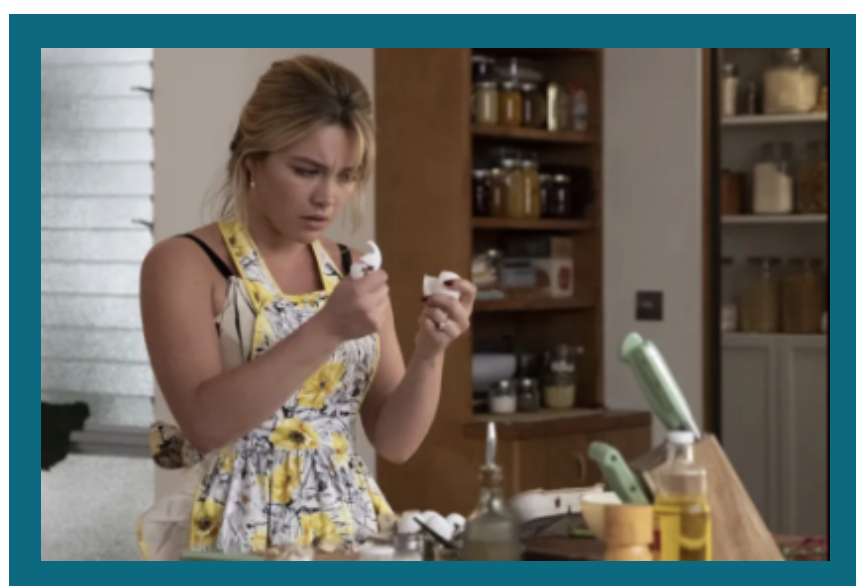


The famous "Spitgate" at the Venice premiere that left fans debating whether or not Harry Style spat on Chris Pine

Writers Casey Dapshi and Sarah Dailey pose with the movie poster for *Don't Worry Darling*



is it worth the watch? | Sarah Dailey



Alice (Pugh) unearths cracks in her idyllic life within Victory Village



The power dynamic between Alice (Pugh) and Jack (Styles) shifts as Alice becomes more conscious of their sinister world.

With a star-studded cast, thrilling trailers, and more than enough tea to sustain the world's population, *Don't Worry Darling's* release marks a new era of cinematic viewing: watching because of the drama. Amongst all the drama and rumors, I did not know what to expect once entering the theater. I am glad to say I surprisingly enjoyed this film, with every inch of film delicately crafted and it was easy to get drawn into the story. Everything, from the music to the acting, creates this excellent psychological thriller.

The soundtrack creates the perfect atmosphere for the story, with the perfect mixture of 1950's tunes and suspenseful music. The division between the two is perfectly balanced, easily sucking you into this world. The simple 1950's music allows you to feel the forced perfection of the setting, while the suspenseful music makes you question the true motives of the village. Not to mention, the moments of silence amplify the intense fear of the unknowing, something few movies can do so perfectly. You can tell that the team behind the movie knew exactly what they wanted you to feel at every moment.

The contrast of the bright, airy setting and the darker themes is so spectacular that you can't help but feel as if you are in this world alongside the main characters. Once again, the crew perfectly balanced these contrasting ideas with a skill that I have rarely seen before. The cinematography in general is excellent. The precision of every camera angle enhances the overall plot and message of the story. The few jump scares that happen are perfectly done. And the symbols littered throughout every part of this film are more than enough for any movie analyst. From the colors to the food, everything has a hidden meaning. Few movies can capture symbols the same way books do, but *Don't Worry Darling* does it almost effortlessly.

Now you can't talk about *Don't Worry Darling* without mentioning the talented cast. Florence Pugh rocks every aspect of this movie and puts her heart and soul in every scene. Pugh's raw emotion resonates in the hearts of every viewer. She is a powerhouse in this movie, and she deserves every bit of recognition for making this film so great. She clearly put her all into this film, and *Don't Worry Darling* truly would not be so great without her. Her co-star, Harry Styles, brings his all in this film. This film easily marks the beginning of an amazing acting career in his future, and Styles' and Pugh's on-screen chemistry so immaculate that it shines through the screen.

There are little things I can criticize about this film, but that doesn't mean it's perfect. The beginning of the film can feel rushed to some, with the movie immediately jumping into the plot with little set up. While I can understand this as a creative choice, for me personally it has a few setbacks; for example, the viewer must figure out this new world they have just been put in while also focusing on the plot, which is hard to do. Even if they simply added two minutes' worth of some context of Victory Village, it would have lifted this movie to a whole new level.

One main criticism I have, however, is that the movie broadly talks about one of its major themes: toxic masculinity. While it is certainly alluded to, conversations about it are void in the film. Instead, the viewer must put the pieces together in order to see that this piece is a criticism of toxic masculinity. This starkly contrasts the ultimate goal of the movies, which was the outright criticize the harms of toxic masculinity. No amount of music, talented actors, or cinematography can replace the intention of a movie, which is exactly what this film does.

In all, I would give this film an 8.5 out of 10. The acting, cinematography, and writing are spectacular and leave you at the edge of your seat. The themes explored are beautifully handled along with the symbolism of the film. It sets up the suspense beautifully and draws in the viewer right from the beginning. Each time you see the movie, you find even more to love about the movie, something few movies can do. Although some of the writing is slightly awkward, the overall film is beyond phenomenal. This is definitely a must-see film.

FALL FASHION:

by Elena Lesniak

Consumerism and the Contemporary Styles of 22-23

Consumerism is defined as “the preoccupation of society with the acquisition of consumer goods” (Oxford). The influence that consumerism has on fall fashion, trend cycles, and even trends themselves is apparent. Moreover, consumerism can be represented by microtrends: a short-lived trend. Often it can be challenging for fashion designers and companies to predict and accurately influence the fashion industry as it changes so instantaneously.

Within the last month or so, fashion weeks have begun internationally, and designers have showcased their newest pieces. American designers returned to New York Fashion Week in September 2022. Globally, brands have showcased recent designs such as: Alexander McQueen, Miu Miu, Stella McCartney, and more. As editorial fashion steps away from functionality, wearability, and ready to wear pieces—it’s captivating to see how fashion trends are predicted through the lens of an average consumer.

—LOAFERS—

For one, I am personally a massive fan of loafers, having owned multiple pairs, they have proven to be a solid wardrobe element. A staple of menswear, the classiness of the shoe has been elevated with contemporary changes to the design itself. Inspired by the wildly unaffordable Prada “brushed leather loafers” many fast fashion brands have added eccentric and charming designs to their own products.

Over time, my sweet spot for Doc Marten’s and particularly their loafers has grown immensely. In terms of this season, I’ve noticed a surplus of preppy attire styled with loafers. In line with the 90s influence of loafers, this comes as no surprise to me. Frequently, the pairing of a professional and crisp white button up shirt is balanced through the playfulness of even a simple black loafer. While loafers have emerged in popularity since the summer and into the fall; confidently I can say that loafers are not going away anytime soon!!! Loafers are absolutely here to stay, and I cannot wait to see how people continue to play around and style this unique shoe. Lucky for me, I cannot resist a good loafer, so I cannot complain!!!!

To vamp up your shoe game this season here are some loafers I recommend ranging from inexpensive to expensive:

\$25



Amazon:
Essentials Loafer

\$140



Dr. Martens: Adrian Loafer



Madewell:
Frances Loafer



\$148

BLAZERS



A major fan favorite between the late 1970s-1980s, blazers have made a massive comeback in recent years. As the power suit emerged in the 80s for women in the workplace, the blazer became a revolutionary means to manipulate an outfit. The revival of this timeless piece embraced classy silhouettes and shape. While blazers are timeless, the color, sizing, and construction of them has developed significantly. This fall we see influences of puffy sleeves, bright colors, and more. While the blazers now may lack shoulder pads, they are still as geometric and boxy as ever! A popular blazer that took the runway this past year is the Proenza Schouler blazer; yet one (left) by Mina Binebine takes a unique yet colorful attempt on the traditional color scheme. In the FW22-23 season, blazers will rise in popularity, continuing to showcase their bright colors and bold patterns.

Personally, I'm super pleased that blazers are coming back in style. They are such a powerful yet simple way to alter an outfit on the go. Juggling professionalism and creativity is a challenging feat. If you're wearing a blazer, and dressing it down, this gives the chance to dabble with accessories and other statement pieces. Oppositely, pairing a bold blazer with a statement necklace provides a contrast, and shows a side of adventurousness and creativity.

While the thousand-dollar NYFW blazers catches my eyes, not everyone—including myself—is interested in overtly unaffordable prices. Below are some of my personal favorites along with some more expensive options to give a feel for the designs of this Fall/Winter season.

Zara | Fitted Plaid Blazer

\$100



Everlane | The '80s Blazer

\$185



H&M | Long Jacket

\$50



KNITWEAR

What comes to mind when we envision knitwear? In my case I picture someone physically knitting, creating each piece by hand. But much knitwear in the fashion industry is done via a loom or with a knitting machine. This labor-intensive process for individuals who knit themselves or companies utilizing knitting machines can be quite pricy. Often people are shocked at the price of knitwear (which I can absolutely understand), but the craft that goes into them is impeccable. But knitwear adds character and flare to a once rather boring outfit.



Following the fad of fiber arts, many clothing designers such as Net-A-Porter and Gucci have brought mohair, wool sweaters, and cardigans to the runway. Comparatively, traditional knitwear designers like Lulu Tan-Gan continue to practice their own styles independently.

Unfortunately, while the style and craftsmanship of Gan is one to die for; it seems the fashion industry is moving away from this idea of traditional beauty and confinement. With the ability to buy something with only the touch of your fingers, obtainability has become an important scope of fashion and trends alike.

Net-a-Porter: Marni knit sweater with mohair, and synthetic fiber

Add a little this season, knitwear has evolved to have bright colors, quirky patterns, and eye-catching stitch-work. More importantly, the majority of them have mohair or wool. Now what is mohair? Mohair is a long, smooth fiber taken from angora goats. Subsequently, while wool is expensive, mohair is even more so due to the production process. Regardless, whether you make your own knitwear or buy it; these gaudy sweaters will certainly keep you warm all winter long!!

Unlike blazers and loafers this trend of bright colors is more futuristic than anything. The utilization and manipulation of so many astounding textures, textiles, and materials has advanced the fashion industry immensely. The only tributes to the knitwear of the the present is the 1970s. Like current day, crochet and knitting was an integral part of pop culture. While it may seem ugly to us, the craftsmanship and beauty was admired (right image). Past this season, I have reason to believe that while the knitwear trend may slowly fizzle out, it will certainly stick around for a little while longer.

Now, I leave you, the reader, with this: what fashion trends do you believe will stick around this season into the next? Keep being curious!!!



1970s magazine for knitting patterns features men's hand knit sweater

How to Write for an Autistic Audience

by R. Colfer

Autistic people have always existed. Despite what anyone might say, we're no new phenomenon caused by technology, vaccines, or pharmacies looking to make a quick buck. But since we've been here since the dawn of humanity, why is it so rare to see representation in books? When an autistic character does show up, they often look a lot like Christopher Boone; the main character of Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*.

Curious Incident focuses on the story of Christopher, a 15 year old autistic boy living in England, trying to solve the mystery of a murdered dog. The author, Mark Haddon, is neurotypical, meaning he doesn't have any disorder such as autism, ADHD, etc. The way Haddon characterizes Christopher is in an extremely stereotypical way, narrowing the public view of autistics.

In *Hell Followed With Us* by Andrew Joseph White, a group of queer teenagers battling an all-consuming evangelical cult, while the main character, Benji, slowly transforms into a holy monster. One of the other main characters is Nick, another teenage autistic boy, framed in a drastically different light than Christopher, and written by an autistic author, unlike *Curious Incident*. Through Nick, White explores common signs of autism, but twists them in a unique way to create a rounded character.

A major contrast between Nick and Christopher is their approach to truth and lies. A common trait of autism is difficulty with concepts such as lies, and this is taken to the extreme with Christopher. He states that "I can't tell lies... if I think about something which didn't happen I start thinking about all the other things which didn't happen" (Haddon 19). While this is certainly an interesting explanation for a distaste for dishonesty, it doesn't really come across as an autistic trait when put this way. The trouble with lies is that they require a mastery of social situations. One must combine body language, eye contact, tone, and word choice, all things autistic people tend to struggle with. Complete avoidance of lying is also a major stereotype of autistic people, and Christopher only enforces that idea.



The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time features Christopher's endeavor to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog.

Nick, on the other hand, has a very different approach to lying. Instead of just hating lies, he learned how to do it, and "once Nick learned to lie, he became disturbingly good at it" (White 98). White takes a refreshingly new stance with Nick, and reflects how many autistics had to learn and perfect common social strategies, and "[memorize] the rules of interacting with people" (White 98). As an autistic person reading this characteristic, it brought me a lot of comfort and relation that I never had with Christopher.

Another strong difference between Nick and Christopher are their opinions on physical touch. It's common to assume autistics hate affection, especially hugs. This is true of Christopher, stating that "I do not like hugging people" (Haddon 16). Instead of exploring the possibilities of Christopher's relationship with touch, like enjoying pressure or certain textures, Haddon jumps straight to the easy, expected trope, making Christopher barely a character, more a caricature.

Nick's experience with affection is more fleshed out. While he "[doesn't] like kissing" (White 286), he can enjoy touch and "holds [Benji] tighter just to keep [Benji] still" (White 398). His selectivity with affection is much more thought out than simply all or nothing, and adds much more to his character as a whole.



Book cover for *Hell Followed with Us* by Andrew Joseph White

A final variation between Nick and Christopher is how they are written in meltdowns and shutdowns, and how they recover from them. Christopher is shown having a shutdown after a large shock, and describes it as "hardly [feeling] his hand at all" (Haddon 114), and he doesn't speak. To recover, Christopher "doubled 2's in my head because it made me feel calmer" (Haddon 120). Yet again, an overused trope of autism is used, doing math to calm down. Math is seen as the typical special interest for autistics because of this trope, despite the wide range of topics people usually invest themselves in. His shutdown is nothing special, and isn't discussed enough for more analyzing.

While Nick doesn't fully enter a shutdown, he pulls himself away from "the threat of a shutdown" (White 101). Unlike Haddon, White puts a clear name to the situation. To pull himself together, Nick stims and "digs his palms into the rough carpet until his skin stops trying to crawl off his body" (White 101). The rich detail helps the reader understand the physical aspect of the shutdown. Stimming is also an extremely common feature of neurodivergence that Haddon never touches on with Christopher, but White includes thoroughly. The portrayal of Nick's shutdown is much more in depth, captivating, and imaginable than Christopher's vague collapse.

Tyler Lea as Christopher Boone on the Broadway production of the play adapted from the novel.



Andrew Joseph White, author of *Hell Followed with Us*

While Christopher Boone and Nick are two different characters from different stories, they are both autistic, and the way they are characterized is important because it is representation for a community often misunderstood and stereotyped. Christopher is a basic, slightly mixed-up version of that stereotype, while Nick is a fully fleshed out and three-dimensional character, due to the fact that he was written by an autistic author. The detail and unique qualities included when discussing his ability to lie, opinion on physical affection, and how he experiences and copes with shutdowns makes him an excellent source of representation for autistic people.

Candid Candy:

History of Your Favorite Sweet Treats

by Careena Sondhi

You're picking through your Trick-or-Treat Bag after trading your delicious goodies with your friends: Kit-Kat, Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, an assortment of Hershey's chocolates and a sprinkling of Snickers; all the familiar favorites. You sneak some bites before you get home, and your parents confiscate the candy you worked so hard for. But have you ever wondered who worked hard to make the candy that you're working hard to hide from your parents? In case you are, I've got some sweet little histories about the candy in your bag.

First up, **Kit-Kats**! In my opinion, Kit-Kats are some of the most popular but also rare candies, especially on Halloween. The candy was first introduced in 1935, despite its name stemming from the 17th century! Christopher Catling used to have political and literary debates at his pie shop in London, and he nicknamed this discussion group the "Kit Kat Club" because nothing says politics like chocolate. Remaining in its home country, the candy was first introduced in England, but has since been sold to Nestle, giving it global popularity.

Speaking of popularity, nothing is more iconic than the red wrapper, white lettering, and one of our favorite jingles, "Have a break, have a Kit-Kat!" Surprisingly, the red wrapper has actually been there since the 1930's and there is only one documented change during WWII, when the famous red was changed to blue to let consumers know that the candy was made differently in response to shortage in milk. As the world started to recover from mass destruction, the Kit-Kat made its way around the world, and was an international favorite treat by the 1950's.

As I'm sure many of you know, there are some variations in Kit-Kat flavors, but many of the interesting ones are to be found from Japan. Here's a list of some flavors: **United States** – Milk Chocolate, White Chocolate, Dark Chocolate, Mint Chocolate Chip. **Japan** – Green Tea, Cherry, Miso, Bakeable with Pudding.

India – Rich Chocolate Fudge, Truffle, Choco Pudding.

Australia – Reimagined Aussie Lamington, Raspberry Rose and Hibiscus, Espresso Cookie and Hazelnut (all three listed as special editions). So, as you savor your Kit-Kat now and throughout the year, think of everyone else across the world, having a break, having a Kit-Kat.



Kit-Kat! It's got alliteration and chocolate, all wrapped up in four little pieces. Delicious.

A second favorite treat of ours is **M&M's** ! Isn't it funny that it's a candy and a wrapper? Whoops I meant rapper - guess I've had too much candy. Those mini-M&Ms in that little tube are just too good. So, in case you've wondered what this candy's story is as you pour a whole packet of M&Ms in your mouth, these were actually started in the U.S. They were created in our neighbor state of New Jersey by Forrest E. Mars, Sr. in 1941, and they were only sold in Newark!

Once again by the 1950's, the popularity of M&Ms was off the charts, and many competitor companies tried to create fake ones and sell them. Because customers deserved only the real deal, the Mars company started stamping their product with the signature "m" that you see on every piece of candy. Next time you see candy you think is an M&M, but it doesn't have that little "m" on it, just know you're eating a faux pas. And with their widespread fame came the creation of another new and beloved flavor: Peanut M&Ms. These were created and sold in 1954.



An 80s M&M ad: one small step for M&Ms, one giant leap for candy

That's right, the original chocolate M&Ms were the first candy in space

This next history fact is shocking, so you may need to sit down, because maybe you're not an M&M person, maybe you're a Starburst person. Well guess what? Starburst were originally marketed as "M&M Fruit Chews" in the 1960's and have since developed into the mysteriously juicy candy stuck between your braces. To think that

from a wonderful chocolate, came fruit candy! Truly an idea out of Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory. Fast forward to the 1980's, with scrunchies and legwarmers, neon, and a historical achievement for the Mars Company. They've never made it to Mars, but they've made it to space. That's right, the original chocolate M&Ms were the first candy in space, chosen by the first space shuttle astronauts! I guess you can say they're out of this world. By the early 80's, these candies were on a roll, and their fame would continue to grow. In 1984, M&Ms were designated the "Official Snack Foods of the Olympic Games". With the end of the Cold War fast approaching, the candy spread worldwide, as far as the Asian Pacific, Australia, and Russia. They'd come out with only their 3rd flavor (including the original chocolate) in 1989, that being the Peanut Butter flavor. Interestingly, I only recently discovered that the Peanut Butter M&M exists, but it's actually been made since AP World Unit 7!



One of the first Starburst ads in the late 1960s. I wonder if they were as "unexplainably juicy" as they are now

While the 1980's were known to be the colorful decade, it was the 1990's when 21 new colors of M&Ms were added for the original candy, and the color change came to the peanut candies in 1998. And my personal favorite, the mini version, was created in 1997; there's just something about pouring a load of miniature candy in your mouth. We move forward into the decade in which we were born, the 2000's, and arguably, one of the best for the company. They were named "The Official Candy of the New Millenium" and that's why the roman numeral for 2000 is MM! Our decade is clearly superior, with a slew of fun surprises. "My M&Ms" was launched to customize the candy, they made an appearance at the Super Bowl, people were even allowed to put their faces on the candy! With the new millennium came so many new activities. The candy may not seem special sitting in your Halloween bag, but there's so much history packed in that little chocolate.

We're halfway through folks! This next is a commercial classic, with quite the arrogant spokesperson. You know 'em, you love 'em, its **Reese's Peanut Butter Cups!** Following the trend, this candy was created in 1928 by H.B Reese, and, like all good experiments, they were created in his basement in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Unsurprisingly, Reese was also an employee of The Hershey Company. The fabulous combination of chocolate and peanut butter became a hit, and the cups became one of his bestselling candies, so much so that he founded the Reese's Company with the peanut butter cups as the main product. His employee benefits didn't just include the usual ones, as he was able to use Hershey resources to make the outside coating for the candy. The business became so profitable that his six sons took over the company in 1956, but eventually had to sell it to the Hershey Company in 1963.

As with the previous two candies, these also come with a little variation. Of course, they have minis, but they also have white chocolate, dark chocolate, wafer bars, crispy crunch bars, and Reese's Pieces as is, and stuffed into the peanut butter cups. Unfortunately, peanut butter cups can't be eaten by anyone with a peanut/nut allergy, so maybe the company should think about that before they arrogantly rattle off about how *everyone* loves peanut butter cups.



Chocolate and peanut butter is an ingenious combo. Reese deserves an award.

Last but certainly not least — it's one of my favorites — **Snickers!** This beloved candy is caramel, peanuts, nougat all covered in chocolate, and is a perfect combination of flavors. It is a true tragedy when one gets braces and has to refrain from eating these for a year and a half. Surprise surprise, the candy comes from the Mars Company and was introduced in 1930. What is it about the Great Depression that screams chocolate?

Anyways, Snickers was the name of the family's favorite horse, and was sold for a whopping 5 cents. It started in Chicago but was introduced into the UK in 1967 as the "Marathon Bar". Due to its popularity, the following year the "Fun Size" bar was created to keep up with satisfaction levels, and happiness increased worldwide. Just like its favorite friend the M&Ms, Snickers became the official sponsor of the 1984 LA Olympic Games, and in 1989, the famous Snickers Ice Cream bar was introduced! As the Cold War ended, the cold business of candy-themed ice cream was just getting started. Once again, I've only discovered Snickers ice cream very recently, but they've existed longer than I have!

Since we're already talking about older decades, I'm assuming you're familiar with the Brady Bunch? What do they have to do with Snickers? Well, just like Reese's, there's a commercial—it should be famous— where Marsha Brady is "hangry" and turns into an angry Danny Trejo. Her family throws her a Snickers bar which she eats, and then transforms back into a petite teenage girl, and the slogan of "You're Not You When You're Hungry" is slapped across the screen. While the Brady Bunch is decades old, this slogan was created in 2010.



Snickers Ice Cream Bars are one of the most perfect summer treats. Cold ice cream, chocolate, and the caramel — despite being frozen — is still chewable

Snickers has continued to grow and explore new flavors, ones you may not have tried yet. Last year, they released the Snickers Brownie flavors, marketed to have a brownie stuffed inside. I have tried one before, and they taste like a more chocolate-y Snickers, with the chewier texture of a brownie. I enjoyed the candy, but all I've heard from others is criticism. I guess it's up to you to decide where it ranks on the list of famous Halloween candy. Perhaps your ranking could give it another historical achievement.

It's been a long list of little candy histories, so be comforted that you now know the effort so many people put in to making your candy, just you could hide it from your parents. And hey, your parents do a lot, so give them a break. Give them a Kit- Kat.



Everyone deserves a Kit-Kat. It's self-care.

SUDOKU

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از لرستان تا سیستان
از خوزستان تا گلستان

آزادی

The Fight for Freedom: Everything You Need to Know About the Protests in Iran

by Yasmeen Rifai

“Woman, Life, Freedom” erupts from the mouths of young women. Signs are held high, headscarves burned, and people pour into the streets to march. This is just a piece of the calamity that broke out in early September of 2022 in Iran. Now, Iran is no stranger to protests, but they rarely make headlines in our American news. So why should we all be paying attention to these chants heard ‘round the world?

To even begin to understand this movement, we must first look at its catalyst. 22-year-old Mahsa (Zhin) Amini died in the hospital after suffering injuries during arrest at the hands of Tehran’s police. The reason cited for her detainment? An “improperly worn” headdress.

Sadly, she is not the only victim of violence and discrimination enacted by the police regarding Iran’s veil laws. The pent-up outrage at this tragedy finally gave way, and protests broke out all across Iran. And rallies are not their only display of discontent. Young people, specifically young women and students have shown their anger through sit-ins, walkouts, and even going on strike.

continued on 19



While the protests are centered around the injustice of the veil laws, there is an even greater call to action by the people. At the root of this fight for women's freedom, it seems to come down to one man. Iran's supreme leader- Ali Khamenei. To them, Khamenei is a symbol of the old ways, of repressive authoritarian regimes and theocratic rule. So, they are calling for a total do-away of the government, and it's supreme leader along with it. Images of Khamenei are being ripped down from schools, "Death to the Dictator" "Death to the Oppressor" being cried out in protests. Of course, the government-serving police weren't going to let this slide, brutally cracking down on the dissidents with tear gas, batons, and even bullets, killing many protesters. But behind their loaded gun, a quaking fear can be seen in the eyes of regime. The foundation of the Iranian government has never been quite so shaken as it is being by this earthquake of young women.

Amidst all the media reports and news, it is easy for the wrong message to be conveyed. We are already seeing strong opinions coming from the American perspective, citing this as just another example of the oppressive nature of Islam as a whole, and the way the religion and its practices (specifically hijabs) restricts women. However, this point of view ignores the real messaging of the protesters and instead pushes Islamophobic agendas. We must focus on criticizing the regimes that commit these atrocities and not on hurting the victims of them. If there is anything to take away from this push for change, it is that the problem is not the religion or its practices. It is the people in power who twist and manipulate the religion to use it as a method of control. Without them, people would be free to practice or not practice religion as they choose, in a manner that aligns with their faith. And that is the true goal.



Women holding flags with images of Mahsa Amini

So, what should we ultimately take away from all this? Well, first, that the scale and power of these protests are completely unprecedented, and the bravery of all these young women (and men) to lead such a movement should be respected and commended. Most of the arrests made during these protests are teenage girls. Imagine that! The youth of Iran is leading a revolution of political dissent so unyielding, that even after all the pushback, they still haven't lost any steam.

From our side of things, it is most important to stand in support, and not muddy the significance of their outcry with Islamophobic rhetoric. Overall, the determination and hope of this movement seems to be carrying them forward. And even if the tree of this rebellion is chopped down by the government, these protesters have planted the grassroots for Iran's future.



Iranian students unveil in protest of the country's regime



Protestors displaying #FreeIran

Unsettlingly Human-like Dolphins

By Jisu Oh

How do we constitute “human” behavior? We could look at personality using the “Big Five,” represented by the acronym OCEAN: Openness, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness, and Neuroticism. It’s not the only way, but OCEAN is a pretty reliable set of traits to compare humans with intelligent animals. Dolphins were found to align with humans through traits of curiosity and sociability – they have a specific blend of extraversion and agreeableness that create their seemingly friendly composure. Paired with an always-grinning face, dolphins put on a very convincing image as the ocean’s sweethearts. Puppy dogs and kitty cats and cute dolphins! Whee! No.

Dolphins are highly intelligent creatures, having the largest brain mass per body size of any animal besides humans. They can use tools and are found to live in societies, which reflect their social abilities and existence of individual personalities. Bottlenose dolphins are among the most common and intelligent kind of dolphin. Their brains contain a very complex neocortex, which is responsible for problem-solving, sensory perception, and self-awareness. The complex grooves and ridges of a dolphin neocortex allow these marine mammals to function with high sensory and emotional perception – dolphins can recognize themselves in a mirror while most animals fail, reflecting their sense of self-awareness.

Their high intelligence may act as an explanation for their rather brutal actions. Dolphins are among the few animals that will kill for sport, exhibiting a sense to maim and hunt for the sheer purpose of killing, rather than to satisfy their need for food. They’ve been observed killing porpoises (smaller, rounder, dolphin-looking marine mammals) by beating them to death, then playing with the dead body.

continued on 21

It's certainly not pleasing to see (or read, in this case) nature's most brutal moments, but dolphins do make up a significant proportion of nasty animals. Male dolphins often gang rape female dolphins, isolating a single female from the pod and forcibly mating with her for even weeks at a time. They make aggressive noises and threatening movements with their tails when she struggles, even chasing her down when the female attempts to escape.

Pods are composed of groups of dolphins, contributing to their sociability and working as a defense from predators. Pods themselves can act as predators towards dolphin prey; coordinated hunts are common, using extremely creative attacks to hunt down fish and squid. Dolphins were seen to hunt on land on occasion: a pod coordinates an attack by driving fish towards the inches-deep water bank, then suddenly throw themselves onto the shore with impressive unison. Their momentum onto land creates a wave that flushes masses of fish onto the banks.

How much more human-like can they get, right? They'll start smoking pot and taking LSD tablets any day now. Dolphins have done that too, actually – groups of two or three dolphins bully pufferfish to use their defensive chemical effusions as a form of hallucinogen. They literally play around with the pufferfish and bounce it around like a beach ball until it emits toxin. These dolphins are observed floating upside down, fascinated by their own reflection under the water's surface and absolutely high off their fins.



Dolphins coordinate a land attack by driving fish onto the shallow bank.

The cunning nature and dangerous intellect of these creatures can reflect human nature: highly intelligent beings, thinking of ourselves as top of our food chain. What can kill us that hasn't been destroyed by one of us at least once? Intelligence may be fruitful for evolution but we know by experience that it inevitably contributes to ethical dilemmas. We become too smart at times, and create things with a catastrophic impact – things that maybe weren't meant to be made. We see animalistic, beastly, uncontrolled acts of violence in our lives – through human actions and words and everything that we wish could be different.

Do we like dolphins because they're so charmingly similar to who we are? Because they encompass all the violent natures that erupt from creative thought, encompass all the horrid things we do? Probably not. These dolphins have a hell of a publicist who works painstakingly hard to make a good image for them (mainly created by Dolphin Tale (the one about the dolphin with a prosthetic tail, if you remember), Dolphin Tale 2 (the one about the other dolphin with a prosthetic tail), and all the Barbie movies with dolphin sidekicks). Of course it's jarring to see nature in its highest brutality after being used to the friendly, sweet, neighborhood dolphin-man. To see a harsh world in which intelligent animals find out awful ways to do awful things because of their colossal brains.



Dolphin Tale (2011) that everyone and their reluctant parents saw. Dolphins' publicists were hard at work that year. Evidently.

I guess it's nature's way of projecting its most brutal, bizarre, bohemian children onto the world and saying, Here. Isn't this exactly what you need? We take the dolphins because they were given to us. We adore them and see them for what they are: deadly smart, fairly cute, outrageously high-pitched, and a creature deserving of equal footing (swimming? fin-ing?) of our planet.

The Bachelor in Hell:

College Admissions Purgatory

by Angel Tang

Hello. I'm back from a summer of hell because colleges have decided that a 35-word sentence now constitutes as an essay when that's not even enough for a 2-star yelp review. Hopefully, everyone else's summer was not completely dominated by trying to squeeze a 1500-word essay into a 650-word limit like my 10-year-old self was trying to squeeze a rectangle cube down a triangle hole (shapes are hard, ok).

So...can someone tell me what I'm supposed to write in a 35-word essay (since 35 words isn't enough for a thorough scathing review about how the cow taser I bought from Amazon did not come with a cow nor AA batteries)? Also, never in my life have I gone back through an essay to purposefully look for places where I can use a contraction. The worst feeling is when you've run out of words to contract, and you're at 201 words and the word limit is 200.



What's the point if they all fit in the square hole?!

At that point I get so desperate I start contracting things that I'nt (I + shouldn't). That and I'ght (I + might) are now proper contractions.

And never have I talked so much about myself. I feel like I'm on The Bachelor where each college is the bachelor and there are like 500,000 contestants all vying for his love--I know I'll be eliminated in the first round. At this point, I'm just here for the food, champagne, and experience.

Also, pro tip from Angel: don't go on 8 college tours in a week. By the end of it, you will be able to give those college tour speeches yourself. "Not sure if you guys have heard about it, but our school uses a blue light system." Honey, let me tell you about your blue light system. There is light at every building, but you will never have to use them because our campus is so safe, but you can use them if you ever need a ride back from a party, but shhh, I wasn't the one to tell you that.

Can some college out there go make a green light system; these light systems need some diversification.

The one good thing that has happened this past month is the fact I was able to bring a rice cooker to school and represent for my fellow Asians (ahem, and everyone else thought I brought in an Instant Pot —here's a little education for you, rice cookers look like: (left image).

I don't know what type of mac and cheese rice they're cooking in that cooker, but my Asian mom definitely would not approve (no sliced oranges for you tonight).

And Instant Pots look like: (right image).



Look how many unnecessary buttons. One needs 2 buttons in life: white rice, brown rice. And maybe the yogurt button. Never mind, every Asian just felt some strong bowel movement when I said that.

Now you know. Learning the difference between a rice cooker and an Instant Pot is the most effective thing you can do for the Stop Asian Hate movement. Actually, 2nd most effective. Foremost would be getting a rice cooker.

Actually, another good thing happened. I read Brave New World in AP Lit and learned the word orgy-porgy. My vocab bank has peaked, there is no other word that can be added to my diction to improve it. Also, instead of cancel culture, I feel like we should start investing in Epsilon culture, used when one person acts or speak in a similar way to another person who has acted unacceptably. Oh, and in purgatory, I will definitely be asking Huxley for his soma (the superior drug out there—a mix between psychedelics and crack) recipe.

SUDOKU KEY

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7	1	3	2	5	8	6	9	4
8	9	2	4	1	6	3	7	5
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