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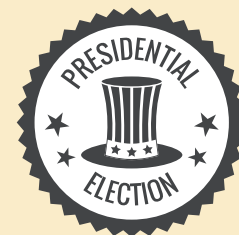
KROB

Fall 2024



THE 2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

By: Maksym Chase



In the wake of the 2024 Presidential Election, it is essential to stand by a factually correct, objective, and data-driven standpoint. Although not all high school students can vote in this election, it is vital for Gen-Z to engage with political and social issues. Here are the facts about this upcoming election and the two primary candidates: the Democratic Party has nominated Vice President Kamala Harris, while the Republican Party has nominated 45th U.S. President Donald Trump. Both candidates have been busy intensifying their campaigns, particularly in "battleground" or swing states like Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, and Minnesota.

Trump's 2024 campaign has focused heavily on key issues like immigration, election integrity, and cultural conservatism, reflecting his ongoing appeal to his base. His platform includes proposals to tighten the U.S.-Mexico border further, finish the border wall, and implement harsher measures for illegal immigration. He has also promised to reinstate policies like "Remain in Mexico" and increase deportations. Additionally, Trump is known for his skepticism regarding climate change, support of anti-LGBTQ+ laws and rhetoric, promotion of fossil fuel use, and calls for an overhaul of the 2020 election.

On the contrary, Kamala Harris has centered her 2024 presidential campaign on a blend of progressive and pragmatic policies, emphasizing her personal story and qualifications for the presidency. Since announcing her candidacy on July 21, 2024, after Joe Biden withdrew from the race, Harris has positioned herself as a champion of key issues such as economic populism, abortion access, pro-LGBTQ+ legislation, gun control, and support for foreign countries like Ukraine and Israel. Harris has also expressed support for a two-state solution in the Holy Land. Over the summer, both Trump and Harris focused on mobilizing their campaigns in swing states, a factor reflected in their selections for Vice President. On July 15, 2024, Donald Trump selected Ohio junior senator J.D. Vance to energize the conservative ideals of his supporters. Conversely, on August 6, 2024, Kamala Harris chose the 41st Governor of Minnesota, Tim Walz, who appeals to the relatability and liberalism of her base. Key pop culture strategies employed by both candidates include Harris's collaboration with esteemed pop figure Charli XCX on her 2024 electronic/pop album, "Brat," and Trump's use of satire and personal insults to undermine Harris.

On Tuesday, September 10, 2024, ABC News hosted the 2024 Presidential Debate. Prior to this debate, President Joe Biden dropped out of the primary race on July 21, 2024. During the discussion, moderators David Muir and Linsey Davis posed various questions about healthcare, the economy, immigration, and climate change. The debate highlighted the existing clash of styles between the candidates: Trump maintained a combative, off-the-cuff approach, often interrupting both Harris and the moderators. According to ABC, Trump made approximately 16 false claims during pivotal topics, while Harris made around 3. These topics included, but were not limited to, abortion, fracking, climate change, the Russo-Ukrainian War, Iran and other foreign issues, gun control, and police brutality. In contrast, Harris opted to focus on policy details and maintain a composed demeanor. At the end of the debate, Trump made the closing statement, describing a return to "American greatness" and framing Harris's policies as threats to the economy and national security. He called for a rejection of "woke culture" and a continued commitment to conservative values. Harris's closing remarks called for healing and unity, envisioning a future where all Americans, regardless of race or background, have the opportunity to thrive. She painted a picture of an inclusive America where progress on climate change, healthcare, and social justice is achievable.

On Tuesday, October 1, 2024, CBS News hosted the 2024 Vice-Presidential Debate. Both candidates, J.D. Vance and Tim Walz, aimed to demoralize their opponent and change the public perception of the rival candidate. Vance employed buzzwords like the "Kamala Harris Administration" instead of the correct phrase, "The Biden-Harris Administration," effectively shifting voter focus from Biden to Harris.

Vance utilized deception and euphemistic language during the debate. Meanwhile, Tim Walz, the Minnesota native, struggled to maintain composure at the beginning but managed to score critical points during the 'social issues' segment. Recently, national polls have indicated that the election is expected to be very close and far from a landslide. Overall, we will see who wins on November 5th. Don't forget to stay conscious and informed while rejecting false news!



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

BY: Valentina DiGiuseppe & Alison Reyes Bueno

MUSIC:

Top 10 Latino Albums

Valentina's Top 5:

Mañana Será Bonito – Karol G

We Broke the Rules – Aventura

Dreaming of You – Selena

Sol Maria – Eladio Carrión

Formula Vol. 2 – Romeo Santos

Alison's Top 5:

Orquídeas – Kali Uchis

Playa Saturno – Rauw Alejandro

Éxodo – Peso Pluma

Madonna – Natanael Cano

Linda – Tito Double P



Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated annually from September 15 to October 15, honors Hispanic and Latino culture. It originally started as a one-week celebration in 1968 under President Lyndon B. Johnson. In 1989, President George H.W. Bush declared it a 31-day observance to allow more time for participation and coordination of events. Hispanic Heritage Month begins with several Latin American nations celebrating their independence days on September 15, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Many other Latin American countries also celebrate their independence during this month-long period.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrations take many forms. Some cities host concerts, organize parades for individual countries or collective events, and hold festivals featuring diverse cuisines and family-friendly games. Museums often open art exhibits highlighting Latino artists. Supporting local Hispanic restaurants and shops can significantly impact our community during this time. It is essential to keep our traditions alive and share them with other cultures around the world.

Another way to celebrate and support is by reading books by Hispanic and Latino authors. Watching movies featuring Hispanic and Latino actors also helps promote their careers. Celebrating with friends and family by sharing music, food, and stories about culture is one of the best ways to enjoy Hispanic Heritage Month. Some of the most popular Hispanic dishes include arroz con pollo, empanadas, pupusas, and elotes.





Epic &/or Wacky Instruments

BY: Josie Attisano



The American Fotoplayer

The American Fotoplayer was created by the American Fotoplayer Company between 1912 and 1925 to accompany silent films. While it resembles a piano, it also features various percussion instruments housed in a large wooden mechanism to the side, which can be activated by pulling different cords, creating a whole circus of sounds! If you'd like to see it in action, check out "One-Man Band!" by DrumTalkTV on YouTube. It's truly fascinating and remarkably special!



Glass Armonica

The Glass Armonica is a type of crystallophone that produces sound by moistening one's fingers and pressing them against spinning glass bowls. Benjamin Franklin is credited with creating this instrument, inspired by the non-mechanized version, which involved rubbing fingers around the rims of glasses filled with different volumes of water. The Glass Armonica has a very ethereal and magical sound. However, it was once believed to cause madness, leading to convulsions, dizziness, muscle spasms, and even a child's death, resulting in its ban in many German states. If you're curious, check out "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy on the Glass Armonica" by GrailHeart on YouTube.



Sharpsichord

The Sharpsichord was created by Henry Dagg and is the most modern instrument in this article, developed in the 21st century (around 2002-2006). It features a system of pegs that can be programmed, similar to how a music box operates, and the sound is amplified through two large horns. Weighing 5,500 pounds, it took four years to build. This instrument was once used live in concert for Björk's performance of her song "Sacrifice." If you're interested in hearing how it sounds, search for "Pin-Barrel Harp with Henry Dagg Long & Winding Road" by Martin Goodsmith on YouTube.



Martinshorns

When you read the name "Martinshorns," you might think, "Horns? Is that a typo?" It's not! This instrument features eight or more bells and is a type of aerophone reed instrument created in 1880 by a company that originally specialized in train and car horns. Each bell contains a metal reed and produces only one note. The Martinshorn is very easy to play, requiring no specific embouchure. It was popular among the German Communist Party, but many were destroyed by the Nazis, who viewed musical instruments as a characteristic of Marxism. Interestingly, in some parts of Germany, it was used by Nazi Youth during rallies due to its simplicity. It has a fascinating history! If you'd like to hear Martinshorns in action, search for "Schalmei band" by Thomas Schulze on YouTube.



The Effort to Return Quails to Long Island



In early 2024, the Brookhaven State Park saw the first release of Northern Bobwhite Quail. This had been the culmination of more than a year's worth of work by the Center of Environmental Education and Discovery, or CEED. Site director of CEED and biologist Eric Powers has been at the forefront of the push to return the quail to Long Island. Because it seems the return of quail to Long Island is an important issue in local biology, it is important to ask: what are the Northern Bobwhite Quail, where did they go, and why do we want them back?

The Northern Bobwhite Quail

The northern bobwhite is a species of New World Quail native to the North American east coast, as well as some parts of the American South, east coast of Mexico, and Cuba; humans have also introduced the Bobwhites to countries in the European Union including Spain, Italy, and France. It is a short, moderately sized bird with a fat, rounded shape. The Northern Bobwhite is a historically popular bird for game hunting, although many places have hunting regulations today. Its status as a game bird has made it one of the most studied birds on Earth.



Where Did They Go?

Quail populations have been declining globally since the 1950s. According to the American Breeding Bird Survey, their population has declined by 85 percent since 1966. So what is happening? Well, there are two main reasons for the disappearance of the Bobwhite, and the second one, might be a tough pill to swallow.

The first main cause of the decline in Bobwhite population is habitat loss. The expansion of housing has removed the temperate woodlands the quails enjoy. The second is hunting, not human hunting however. The most dangerous invasive predator to the Bobwhites are actually domestic cats.



Why do we care?

Like all animals, our environment is indirectly affected by species around us. The most important factor the Bobwhite has on our lives is that they are a natural predator of ticks. The tick population grew because of the decline in quails. We can help too. The CEED organization accepts donations. Additionally, if you own an outdoor cat, remember to have a bell on them so they cannot hunt these very important birds.

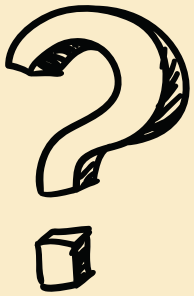
Moral Dilemmas

By: Lucy Chang & Taylor McHugh

You're a parent. Your child asks you if Santa Claus is real. What do you do?

A. Tell them the truth. Also tell them that there's no Easter Bunny or Tooth Fairy either. In fact, most of what they know has been a lie, and further suggest to them that they'll discover more lies as they get older.

B. Ask your children if they really want to know the answer, or if they'd like to keep receiving presents from the magic people.



You are in a class with only a few other people. A loud sound erupts from the desk directly behind you. As the smell starts to creep in, everybody looks toward you with contempt. What do you do?

A. Say nothing, take the fall and save the culprit from embarrassment.

B. Get defensive and point your finger at whomever was sitting behind you, yelling at them for not owning up to their own mistakes and saving your own reputation while irreparably damaging theirs.

You are on a bus home. You ate some oysters that are really clamming up your digestive system. You have food poisoning. You feel sick and something warm is coming up your throat. You are sitting between a pregnant woman with her dog and a small child. There is no stopping the flood that is your vomit.

A. Throw up on the pregnant woman and her dog; unbeknownst to you she has morning sickness and will then begin a chain of vomit

B. Throw up on the child; she is heading to school and does not have a change of clothes

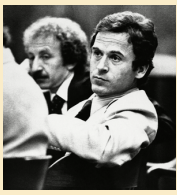


You're a parent, and you get a phone call from the local Target informing you that your 16 year old son has been caught shoplifting and charges will be filed against him and his friends if you consent. Your son has been getting into progressively worse behavior this school year, and has not listened to any consequences you attempt to enforce. What would you do?

A. Allow your son to face court and charges, as the offense is large enough to warrant jail time. He will be extremely unhappy with you and has the potential to retaliate, but also the chance to finally face consequences for his action.

B. Bail him out and shower him with praise; "Oh Johnny! You are such a good criminal! Make sure to steal mommy a big diamond when you're older!". Enable his behavior.





Ted Bundy

By: Jayden DeAngelis



Ted Bundy is one of the most notorious serial killers in American history. His charming demeanor, intelligence, and manipulative skills allowed him to evade capture for years while committing horrific crimes. Bundy's life and crimes continue to fascinate and horrify, serving as a chilling reminder of the darkness that can lurk beneath a charismatic exterior.

Born on November 24, 1946, in Burlington, Vermont, Theodore Robert Bundy had a complicated upbringing. Raised by his mother, Eleanor, Bundy grew up believing that his grandparents were his parents and that his mother was his sister--this convoluted family dynamic left lasting psychological effects. Bundy was an intelligent child, excelling in school, but he also exhibited early signs of antisocial behavior.

Bundy's criminal activities began in the early 1970s. He targeted young women, often luring them with his good looks and charm. His modus operandi involved feigning injury or asking for help, which allowed him to gain the trust of his victims. Once he had them in a vulnerable position, he would abduct, assault, and ultimately murder them. Bundy's victims were primarily college-aged women, many of whom resembled his ex-girlfriend. This pattern led investigators to believe that his crimes were deeply rooted in his personal history. Between 1974 and 1978, Bundy is believed to have killed at least 30 young women, although the true number may be much higher.

Bundy's first arrest came in 1975 when he was pulled over for driving a suspicious vehicle. After a search revealed burglary tools, he was charged and eventually convicted. However, he escaped custody multiple times, using his charm and cunning to manipulate the system. His most notorious escape occurred in 1977 when he jumped out of a courthouse window during his trial for the murder of a 12-year-old girl. After spending time in Colorado, he was apprehended again in 1978. Following a lengthy trial that garnered national attention, Bundy was convicted of multiple murders and sentenced to death.



Top 10 Animated Movies

BY: Aubrey Earle and Hazel Myers



Shrek: An animated comedy about an ogre named Shrek who wants to live in peace in his swamp. When fairy tale creatures invade, he agrees to rescue Princess Fiona from a castle in exchange for the return of his home. Alongside his talkative sidekick, Donkey, Shrek embarks on a humorous adventure that challenges fairy tale norms and explores themes of love and inner beauty. The film's clever humor and memorable characters have made it a beloved classic.

Megamind: Megamind follows a blue supervillain who defeats his rival, Metro Man, only to feel bored without a hero to battle. When he creates a new hero from a reporter, chaos ensues, prompting him to reconsider what it means to be a hero. The film combines humor and heart, offering a unique twist on the superhero genre.

How to Train Your Dragon: How to Train Your Dragon follows Viking Hiccup, who befriends a dragon named Toothless, defying his village's belief that dragons are enemies. Their bond helps Hiccup teach his village to see dragons differently, exploring themes of friendship and bravery.

Hotel Transylvania: An animated comedy about a lavish hotel run by Dracula, who caters to monsters seeking refuge from humans. When a human boy accidentally stumbles into the hotel and falls for Dracula's daughter, Mavis, chaos ensues. The film combines humor and heart, exploring themes of acceptance and family while showcasing a fun mix of classic monster characters.

Despicable Me: This 2010 animated film is about Gru, a supervillain who adopts three orphaned girls as part of a plan to steal the moon. Over time, his bond with the girls softens his heart, turning him from a villain into a caring father. The film is filled with humor, action, and the antics of Gru's Minions.

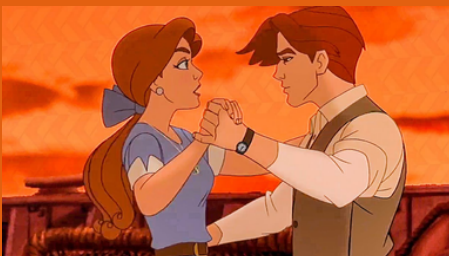
Corpse Bride: This stop-motion animated film directed by Tim Burton follows Victor, a young man who accidentally proposes to Emily, a dead woman, while practicing his wedding vows. Emily, the "corpse bride," takes him to the Land of the Dead, believing they are now married. As Victor tries to return to his true fiancée, Victoria, he learns about Emily's tragic murder and betrayal.

Monsters, Inc.: This film features Sulley and Mike, monsters who generate energy by scaring children. Their lives are disrupted when a human child, Boo, accidentally enters their world. While trying to return her, they uncover a plot by their boss and rival to exploit children's screams. In the end, they expose the scheme and discover that laughter is a more powerful energy source than fear, transforming their company.

Monster High: Boo York, Boo York: This film follows the ghouls of Monster High as they travel to Boo York for a city adventure. Cleo de Nile is invited to a royal gala celebrating the return of a magical comet. While exploring the city, the group uncovers an ancient prophecy connected to the comet, which threatens to impact Cleo's family and her rival, Nefera. Meanwhile, Cleo's romance with Deuce is tested, and Catty Noir discovers her musical destiny. As the comet approaches, the ghouls must work together to stop Nefera's evil plan and ensure that the magical comet brings positive change. The movie blends friendship, romance, and catchy musical numbers.

Zootopia: This animated film is set in a modern city inhabited by anthropomorphic animals. The story follows Judy Hopps, an optimistic rabbit who becomes the first bunny police officer in Zootopia. Eager to prove herself, she teams up with Nick Wilde, a sly fox con artist, to solve a mysterious case involving the disappearance of several predator citizens. As they uncover a conspiracy that threatens to divide the city's predator and prey populations, Judy and Nick learn valuable lessons about prejudice, teamwork, and the complexities of their society. The film blends humor, action, and social commentary on bias and inclusion.

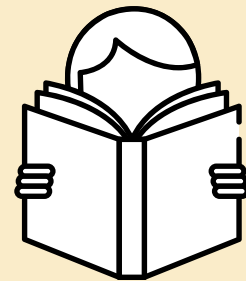
Anastasia: This animated film follows the journey of Anya, an orphan suffering from amnesia, who is believed to be the lost Grand Duchess Anastasia Romanov. Set in post-revolutionary Russia, Anya teams up with conmen Dimitri and Vlad, who hope to pass her off as the real Anastasia to claim a reward from the Dowager Empress in Paris. As Anya uncovers her true identity, she must also face the evil sorcerer Rasputin, who cursed her family. Along the way, she finds love and family, reclaiming her place as the rightful heir to the Romanov legacy. The film blends adventure, romance, and history with a touch of fantasy.



LYNCH'S CORNER

BOOK REVIEW

I LOVED YOU IN ANOTHER LIFE, by: David Arnold



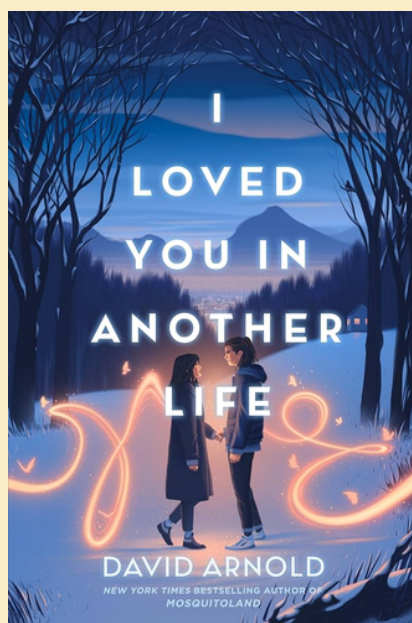
"Silence and sadness are not the same things. And I wish more people understood that, is all." This is just one of the amazing quotes that I highlighted when I was reading, I Loved You in Another Life, by David Arnold. One of the things that makes me love a book is when I feel like I have just gone on a journey with the characters and this book does just that and what a journey it is!

The main characters, Shosh Bell and Evan Taft, are in places in their lives where their futures have been derailed. Shosh was a high school theater star who was headed to a performing arts college in Los Angeles until her sister was killed by a drunk driver and Shosh's life is now in a tailspin. Evan had plans to take a gap year in Alaska where he can enjoy a wilderness like no other until his mom is diagnosed with cancer and everything is turned upside down. What brings Shosh and Evan together is that as their plans begin to fall apart, they are being drawn together by a lyrical and soft musical voice they are both hearing in their heads.

The music brings forth their cosmic connections and we see them in the past and the future. This is a time travel love story that spans from 19th Century Paris to 2109 Oslo. The story shows that these two souls were always destined to meet and we get to witness their love across multiple timelines.

The incredible writing and character development add the right amount of layers to this story. The dialogue, too, is almost as lyrical as the song that runs throughout the story.

This is a love story that is out of this world and I couldn't have been happier to have been a part of it.



MY GYMNASTICS JOURNEY

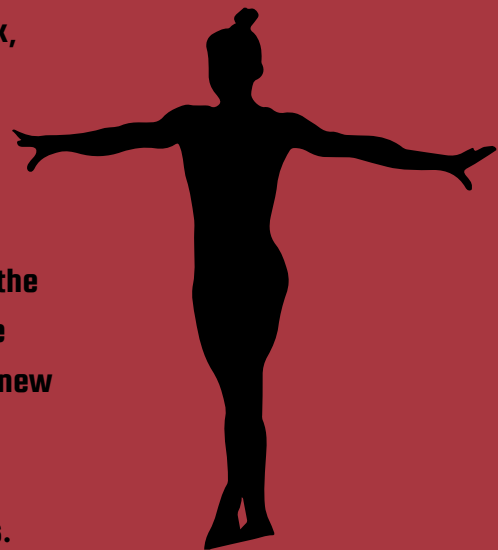
By: Jayden Deangelis

This summer I switched to Apex Gymnastics after 15 years of being faithful to Towers Gymnastics. My whole life feels like it shifted into a different universe, or a different chapter. But, I know myself and I know I would get through it just how I can get through anything I truly put my mind to. When you set your mind to a goal, determination can turn even the toughest challenges into stepping stones. Believe in your strength, and you'll discover that nothing is beyond your reach.

Quitting gymnastics can feel like closing a significant chapter, but it often opens the door to new opportunities and experiences. For many, gymnastics has been a defining part of their identity, filled with countless hours of practice, competition, and camaraderie. Leaving the sport can bring a sense of loss, but it also creates space for personal growth and exploration. Just as one turns the page in a book, stepping away from gymnastics allows individuals to redefine themselves and seek new passions that align more closely with their evolving interests and aspirations.

Transitioning away from gymnastics can lead to a newfound freedom. Without the rigorous training schedule and competitive pressure, former gymnasts have the chance to explore other activities, whether it's joining a different sport, trying new clubs in school, or delving into academic pursuits. This shift often fosters a broader perspective on life, enabling individuals to discover hidden talents and develop skills they might not have pursued while focused solely on gymnastics. It's a time to embrace curiosity and flexibility, reflecting the very qualities that gymnastics instills.

Moreover, quitting gymnastics can strengthen resilience and adaptability. The process of letting go of a long-term commitment encourages introspection and helps individuals confront their fears of change. This newfound strength can be applied to various aspects of life, from navigating relationships to tackling new challenges in education or career paths. By embracing the uncertainty of this transition, former gymnasts can cultivate a sense of empowerment, knowing that their journey is not defined by any one sport but by their ability to embrace change and continually evolve.





THE OLYMPICS

BY: KEVIN KURIAKOSE



The Olympics provided the best two weeks of summer, filled with highs and lows across various events. The U.S. team tied with China for the most medals overall. Here are the events where the U.S. particularly excelled.

TRACK AND FIELD

Team U.S.A. dominated many track and field events, with athletes like Noah Lyles securing gold in the 100-meter dash and Sydney McLaughlin breaking her own record in the 400-meter hurdles. Additionally, several relay teams clinched gold medals in their respective races. The throwing events were also strong, highlighted by Ryan Crouser's impressive performance in the shot put, earning him a gold medal.

SWIMMING

The U.S. swimming team finished strong with a total of 28 medals, thanks to standout performances from swimmers like Katie Ledecky and Tori Huske. The U.S. secured the most gold medals in swimming, narrowly surpassing Australia's seven golds. Despite finishing with 8 gold, 13 silver, and 7 bronze medals, this marked the least number of gold medals the U.S. has won in swimming since the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

BASKETBALL

Both the Men's and Women's basketball teams enjoyed success, winning gold in the 3v3 events. The Women's final was particularly nerve-racking, as the U.S. team won by just one point against France, who nearly clinched victory with a last-minute shot. The back-and-forth scoring throughout the game kept it competitive, but the U.S. ultimately pulled ahead to secure the gold.

