

Winter 2020

Chalfont, PA



The Unami Times

Unami Middle School

Newspaper

"The liberty of the press is essential to the security of the state."

The Addams Family: A COVID-Style Production

Laura Brady

Though the effects of COVID-19 have been various in effects, one of the many things our school has been fortunate enough to, still, produce is our school musical, *The Addams Family*.

Originally, when preparing for what may come of this year's production, the directors were unsure if a show would even be possible, considering all the necessary safety precautions. Yet, over many weeks of discussion and planning, a thorough outline for what this year's show would be like has been set. Sadly, the precautions that are required to keep the program possible, in these times, greatly effects the style of the program. Casting limitations are set, social distancing requirements placed, and many other mandates, that regularly wouldn't be necessary in a musical, are being enforced.

As mentioned before with the previously set plan, the major concern for such a production is the many changes that may come, with COVID-19, from now until the spring. Luckily, with some creative planning, the directors have come up with the idea to film the show, rather than just stick to a limited, in-building audience! This being said, the directors have mentioned that, if the in-person performance were to be fully cancelled, the filmed production would still be available. But, for the in-person shows, the dates have, currently, been set for April 30th, May 1st, and May 2nd of 2021, with rain dates set for the following weekend.

Though time will tell what is to come with this year's performance of *The Addams Family*, one thing is certain, for both the performers and audience alike: this year is sure going to be different!

Photos from @CBUnamiEncores on Twitter, of the first read-through with the cast.



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Unami Times

2020-2021

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World News

COVID-19 Comeback

Anna Duffy

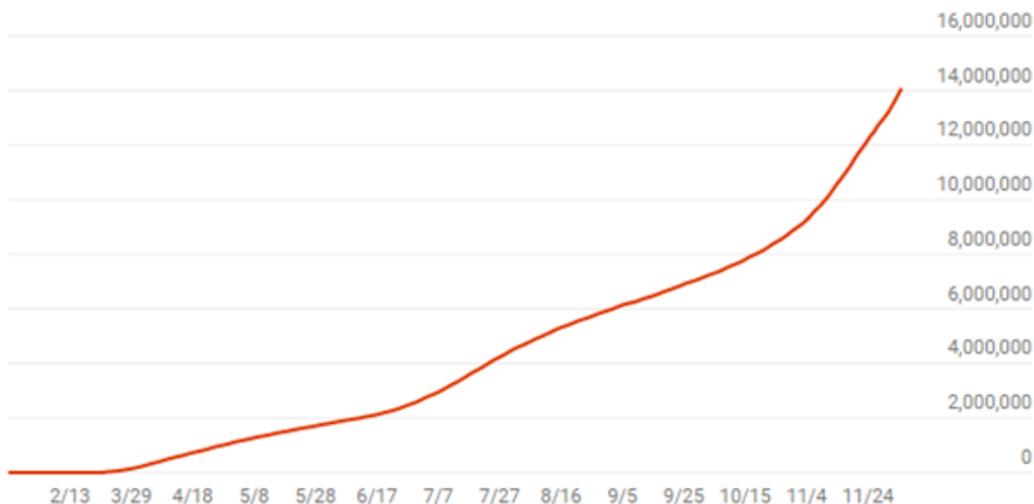
In the past several months, the United States has been leading in covid-19 cases. Over 14 million cases have occurred in this country alone. Thanksgiving didn't help either--- despite the CDC's warnings, thousands of people traveled to have dinner with their families for the holidays. Airports were much busier than they had been in months since the lockdown.

Fortunately, there are plans for a COVID-19 vaccine in the coming month. The company Pfizer plans to release their vaccine after they gain the approval of the FDA. Moderna, another company with a vaccine, is not far behind. Their approval meeting is set for December 17.

Pfizer's vaccine must be stored in remarkably cold temperatures, -94 degrees. Due to this, they require dry ice to keep it at the right temperature. Dry ice is the solid form of carbon dioxide. Interestingly, it has no liquid form, so it gives off cold steam as it melts. Due to its coldness (much colder than regular ice), it's unsafe to touch without gloves.

Source: Google

Cumulative cases



World News

What's Happening with the Coronavirus Vaccine?

Saba Mahmud

The search for finding a fast and effective treatment for Covid-19 continues as we enter the fall of 2020. As scientists around the world work to understand this virus, it can be hard to keep up. Here is why the coronavirus vaccine is important and where we are now.

To date, about 7.95 million cases and 2.17 thousand deaths have been recorded around the world. It is a common misconception that children and young adults aren't likely to get sick. The numbers say otherwise, as 697,633 total child COVID cases have been reported. In the last two weeks alone, there has been a 13% increase in cases with children. Although you may contract COVID-19 and be asymptomatic, you can still spread the serious virus to those around you.

The virus is expected to get worse as we enter winter as well, so for public health, and our safety, a vaccine is critical to protect lives and try to get back to a somewhat normal lifestyle.

Vaccines usually require years of research and testing before reaching the clinic, but scientists are racing to produce an effective and safe coronavirus vaccine by next year. Researchers are testing 45 vaccines in clinical trials on humans, and 91 preclinical vaccines are under active investigation in animals. Currently, we are in phase three trials, which means that the vaccines are in large scale efficiency tests.

There have been some setbacks when it comes to testing. For example, the world needs multiple vaccines against the coronavirus. This is because some may work better than others. Factors like cost and side effects mean some vaccines might offer benefits to specific groups, like the elderly, pregnant women, or those in low-income countries.

Overall, it is important to understand that we will get new information and updates over time. And although several COVID-19 vaccines will likely be shown to be safe and effective by the end of 2020, it's far too early to take off our masks. Remember to social distance, wear your mask, and be safe.



Source: ScienceMag.com

BLM in the USA

Megha Rao

The Black Lives Matter Movement started in late May after the death of George Floyd. After the video was released of when and how he died, the country erupted in protests. Social media joined the argument soon after, with influencers and regular users voicing their opinions about BLM. The news soon became covered in interviews, protests, and articles about the BLM movement. People gathered closely and some didn't wear masks which led to an increase in COVID-19 cases. Soon after the first set of protests, the death of Breonna Taylor was brought to light and the country began more protests and riots. YouTube videos, websites, donations were all rising to support BLM. Arguments began over supporting either ALM or BLM. Riots took over the cities and burned down. The police monitored protests to make sure none of them turned into riots. Some protesters stuck to online arguments.



Source: Google Images



Source: Google Images

According to Statesman.com, the protests and riots injured 1,000 police officers, killed 36, and did 8 billion dollars in damage. After the death of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, Jacob Blake was shot by the police. After the shooting he was declared as "in a stable condition". From June, protests and riots have continued throughout the country and they will not end until the people believe that racism isn't a problem anymore.

World News

An Election to Remember

Natalie Horvath

Amidst all the craziness of this pandemic, everyone has been on edge, and even more so with the presidential election.

Most everyone knows the names of the two biggest candidates. President Donald J. Trump, who had won in 2016 against Hillary Clinton, and his vice-president Mike Pence were running for re-election. Former Vice-President Joe Biden and Kamala Harris were running as well.

During debates, speeches and gatherings held by the candidates, several pressing topics were discussed. The current COVID-19 pandemic was a main focus of these talks. The problems that have seemed to have gotten worse over the past few months, including racial injustice and police brutality, were topics of interest as well. The increasing threat of global warming, health care, immigration, the faltering economy, and a divided nation gave the politicians many subjects to dispute over. Even the debates themselves posed problems. President Trump held large rallies in promotion of his campaign, which resulted in many of the attendees contracting coronavirus. Though having smaller, socially distanced gatherings might not have been as effective to excite the people, they were definitely safer.



Source: New York Times

Due to the coronavirus, the voting process was a little different this year. Many citizens participated in the election by mailing in ballots. Though this alternative was better than not voting at all because of COVID-19 regulations, the ballots came with their own set of problems. For instance, in Pennsylvania, the ballots were still allowed to come in as long as they were postmarked before November 3rd, so they were still arriving even after Election Day. Although most states started the counting of ballots before Election Day, some states were not permitted to, specifically our own state, Wisconsin, Alabama, and Mississippi. All these drawbacks caused the votes to be counted much after November 3rd, prolonging the wait for our new president.

The actual election was very tight at first, fluctuating rapidly as more votes came in. Poll workers worked tirelessly counting ballots many days after Election Day. The entire country sat on edge, waiting for the results. Citizens watched as swing states took their time to pick a side. These battleground states, including Pennsylvania, were crucial for the outcome of the election.

Finally, on November 7th, President-Elect Joe Biden surpassed 270 electoral votes, winning the election. It was our own state of Pennsylvania that pushed the Vice-President over the end line.

Biden, when sworn in in January, will be the oldest active president at 78. He won against President Trump by a landslide, gaining 306 electoral votes and 81,284,062, breaking records of popular vote that Presidents Obama and Trump had set. His vice-president, Kamala Harris, has shattered three gender and racial barriers, becoming the first black, South Asian female ever in office.

President Trump's accusations of election fraud and refusal to concede have caused a lot of controversy. Currently he is continuing to pursue these claims with several lawsuits.

Most of the election hype has faded, but the world and COVID-19 are still moving fast. No matter who you support or what you believe, it's important to come together as a nation and mend our divided nation. What does the future hold come January 20th? We can't really know. Stay safe.

Mail-In Ballots: How Are They Counted?

Cassidy Fisher

This year's election an unprecedented number of mail-in ballots were cast. Over 90 million have voted by mail due to the current global pandemic. It has left many wondering how exactly they are counted.

Processing

Mail-in ballots are secured by two envelopes. The first envelope holds the privacy envelope that stores the ballot. Once ballots are received, they are first recorded. Most ballots have barcodes and once scanned this allows the voter to see the status of their ballot. Once received/on a specific day weeks before the actual election signatures and addresses of the ballots are checked. Signatures are very important to the mail-in ballot process. If signatures are missing or don't match county records ballots are immediately rejected. Fortunately, most states contact voters and fix the error. All who work to count votes want to be sure that everyone is able to exercise their right to vote.

World News

Mail-In Ballots: How are they Counted? (cont.)

Cassidy Fisher

Counting

After being processed, mail-in ballots are opened and prepared to be counted on Election day (differing from state to state). In Pennsylvania, it took several days after the election for all mail-in votes to be counted, but why? This was because there were so much more mail-in votes compared to the 2016 election. The counting went smoothly according to government officials overseeing the counting process. Ballots are either counted by a voting machine or counted by hand. At 7:00 in the morning on election day, ballots in Pennsylvania were opened. Relating to voting machines, ballots are removed from their second envelope and flattened after being processed, then the real counting begins. Flattened ballots are then taken to a scanner that counts the vote and stores the information, which is released after polls close. In some cases in this election, we have seen recounts of votes by hand, specifically in Georgia. State law requires ballots to be recounted when the leading candidate is only ahead by a certain small percentage. There is nothing dishonest about this process. Government officials from both parties are allowed to watch the process and some states even live stream the counting.



Source: New York Times

It is important that votes are counted legally when voting through mail. Every person involved in the process is there to make sure that every voter's voice is heard. Any concerns about fraudulent votes can be challenged through the court system and with state governments. Several challenges were made in this year's election.

Christmas and Coronavirus: How COVID-19 is Changing the Holidays

Roshni Srikant

The holidays have always been a time for family to get together and share adventures, experiences, and memories. It's always been a time to make cookies together, cook Thanksgiving dinner, watch the Thanksgiving football game in the entertainment room, or wrap presents for the Christmas tree. However, the 2020 holidays might look a bit out of the ordinary. There's less people and more FaceTime or Zoom calls. Less food for the less people. And no family wrapping of Christmas presents. The CDC has even posted guidelines for a safe Thanksgiving. These include calling each other virtually where possible, wearing masks except to eat, and practicing social distancing throughout. Presents may be harder to find because of the limited stock of items. For example, our Diwali celebration in early November was comprised of my family and one close friend, and we lit sparklers on the driveway. And then we left. To compare, normally we have a huge party with as many friends as we can fit in our house, and there is dinner included for about 20 to 30 people. So, yes, there have been a *lot* of changes.

Depending on the weather, you might spend more time outside than in to help prevent the spread of COVID. Oh, and something else? Some schools are planning to employ virtual learning for days where in-person learning isn't possible (snow days). This is a bit of a disappointment for some, because we don't get snow days, but it's also a good thing, because then we don't have to make up those days before summer break! Okay, back to the holidays. So we've determined that it will be different—the lack of people, the lack of food, the masks, the social distancing, the possibility of being outside, all that. But this all means a lot! It means people are more likely to call their relatives that live abroad for the holidays. It makes us more grateful for what we have (Happy Thanksgiving!). It might even make you more in the holiday spirit, because some of us (also known as me) would stop at *nothing* to make this holiday as amazing as possible, especially because we're in the middle of a pandemic. So, while the winter of 2020 will be fairly different, let's strive to make it one we'll never forget (in a *good* way, of course).



Source: McConnell Air Force Base

What is Diwali? How and Why is it Celebrated?

Keshav Bhoovaragan & Aaman Sheth

What is Diwali?

Diwali is an Indian holiday, and it is celebrated all around the globe. It is known as the festival of lights. Diwali is normally celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar month. Therefore, Diwali is not always on the same day of the year unlike Thanksgiving and Christmas. For example, last year 2019, Diwali was celebrated on the 27th of October. This year, Diwali was celebrated on the 14th of November.

How is Diwali Celebrated?

Diwali is celebrated in many ways. The Festival of Lights is recognized over the course of 5 days. Diwali is shown celebrated by hanging lights and putting up decorations. People also do an artwork called Rangoli. This is normally portrayed at the front hallway of the house. Rangoli is a design done with a chalk like powder called Rangoli powder.



Source: Google Images



Source: Google Images

Why is Diwali Celebrated?

Diwali is one of India's biggest and most important holiday. Diwali is celebrated differently in every culture. Diwali is celebrated as a significance of triumph of good over evil after a god named Krishna's Victory over a demon named Narakasura. Day 1 is called Dhanteras; this is when people perform rituals, also known as poojas, and place lights around the entry ways of their homes. Day two is called Narak Chaturdashi; on this day people exchange sweets with their friends and families. The Third day is the most important day; it is where people take an oil bath in the morning, wear new clothes, and light fireworks. Day four is called Govardhan Puja. People prepare food offerings for their poojas. The last day, called as Bhaiya Dooj, is dedicated to sibling bonds. Brothers visit and bring gifts to their sisters, who gives sweets to honor him.

What is Thanksgiving and Why is it Celebrated?

Saba Mahmud

Thanksgiving is an annual national holiday, celebrated in the United States and Canada. This holiday is typically believed to be modeled after a 1612 harvest feast, shared by the Wampanoag people and the English Colonists (pilgrims) of Plymouth, and established as a national holiday by President Roosevelt on December 26, 1941. The feasts eaten on Thanksgiving usually include turkey, bread stuffing, cranberries, potatoes, and pumpkin pie. And with family members traveling to join together it is often the busiest holiday of the year.

But why do we join family and friends, on the fourth Thursday of each November, just to have a meal? Well, as the United States became more urban and family members began to live farther apart, Thanksgiving became a time to rejoice together. Since the 1610's, Thanksgiving Day football games and parades became common, like the annual Macy's parade in New York City, that has continued their tradition since 1927. And Thanksgiving remains important because it is seen as a positive time to give thanks and celebrate gratitude, which we don't always get to do often enough.



Reproduction of The First Thanksgiving by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris, early 20th century. Found on Google Images.

World News

What is Christmas and Why is it Celebrated?

Ritvik Sindia

Throughout the month of December, people start putting up lights, decorating their homes, and planning events with family for the 25th, which is Christmas day. It is celebrated by billions of people all over the world.

Christmas is in celebration of the birth time of Jesus Christ (who is known to be the son of god in Christianity). However, there isn't a clear birth date of Jesus in the bible, so it is therefore unknown to pinpoint the exact date. Although there isn't a clear date written, people estimate that it fell around the date after the winter solstice on the 21st of December. It is believed that Christmas is celebrated specifically on the 25th because that was the date when the mother of Jesus, Mary, found out that she was pregnant nine months prior.

During a normal year in Christmas, both Christians and non-Christians put up holiday lights, inflatables, and large Christmas trees outside. Inside, there are mistletoes, stockings, and Christmas trees with presents underneath. As each day passes in December, people start having fairs, festivals, and parties with family and friends. Throughout they sing songs, play holiday-related games, and exchange gifts to one another. Some families have the tradition of going caroling. This would mean they go door to door singing different Christmas songs to families in order raise joy.

The common Christmas icon known by many young children is Santa Claus. This figure is said to bring gifts to the homes of children on the night of Christmas Eve. He is said to be fat, have a cherry nose, have a white beard, and wear a red suit and hat. Little kids are said to make wish lists on what they want from him, and mail it to where he supposedly lives; the North Pole. On the morning of Christmas day, children will find what they wished for wrapped underneath their tree.

During the time of Covid-19, some people are finding alternate ways to celebrate this holiday without increasing the risk of the deadly coronavirus. This includes having virtual family and friend gatherings, reading Christmas books, baking cookies, mailing gifts, cooking festive meals, watching Christmas movies, and improving decorations around the house. Even though this year will be different, families will do their best to enjoy the holidays.



Source: Wikimedia.org

Oscars Best Picture Diversity Requirement

Ashlee Ranese

For the Academy Awards, the bar for diversity in films has been raised in order to be nominated for Best Picture. It is long overdue for the Oscars to recognize the need to be more inclusive in giving awards and appreciation in movies, and this is how they are doing it.

There are four major standards that should embody diversity: on screen, production team, industry access and opportunities, and audience development. The third standard refers to the need to involve diverse groups in paid internships, apprenticeships, and training opportunities. The fourth standard involves inclusion of underrepresented groups in marketing, publicity, and distribution. Two of the four categories must be met in order to qualify.

Underrepresented groups can include many different diverse categories. They could be women, people of color, disabilities, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. This is to ensure that all groups will be represented in the nominees.

Another requirement is that a film must either have a significant character from a racial or ethnic group, or at least thirty percent of secondary roles must be from underrepresented groups. If not one of those, the main story line and theme should focus on underrepresented groups.

Although these changes will not apply to the pushed-back hopeful 93rd awards ceremony, they will be in place going forward. This important new requirement will help the success in diverse films and shine a light on the underrepresented and appreciated films which celebrate diversity.



Source: Google Advanced Image Search

Sports

The LA Laker's Success

Ryan Bin

The Lakers won the NBA Finals of 2020 with a strong finish, concluding the Lakers' 17th finals win. How did the Lakers win against the Miami Heat in the NBA finals?

First off, in a Finals, a team must win 4 games to advance to the next round. The 2020 playoffs were a mismatch. The Lakers beat the Portland Trailblazers, Houston Rockets, and the Denver Nuggets. The Miami Heat had a similar performance, beating the other competition: The Indiana Pacers, Milwaukee Bucks, and the Boston Celtics. The biggest challenge for the Lakers was Jimmy Butler and Bam Adebayo, despite them not being recognized as Superstars. With the Miami Heat's main offensive strategy revolving around the duo, the Lakers needed a way to shutdown Butler and Adebayo, crippling the Heat's offensive ability.

In the first games, the Lakers prevailed thanks to their immense defensive strategy. They had decided to use Anthony Davis's skill to augment their strategy and nullify both Jimmy Butler and Bam Adebayo's utility. The Lakers' strategy was so effective that the Heat had to pass the ball to other shooters like Tyler Herro but with little to no avail. However, in game 2, Lakers had lost to the Heat with a score of 115-104. The main reason for this loss was because Jimmy Butler had been able to rack up 40 points, while the Lakers had struggled with their shot success. The Lakers won games 3 and 4. The Lakers understood that Jimmy Butler's main goal was to drive and get easy layups. So, the Lakers let Jimmy Butler have a little bit more space to shoot a 3 pointer and Jimmy Butler didn't try shooting and drove into the paint like the Lakers suspected. The Heat ended up losing those 2 games.

The Miami Heat was in big trouble. If they lost game 5, the NBA finals would be over. This game was very close 111-108 but the Miami Heat won. The Lakers might have had a chance at winning that game but during the final seconds of the game, Danny Green (Lakers player) missed a 3 and they lost their chance at winning game 5.

After game 5, The Los Angeles Lakers were determined to win game 6 of the 2020 NBA finals. During game 6, The Lakers defense was better, and Anthony Davis blocked many shots. Most of the shots the Miami Heat took missed. The Lakers overwhelmed the Heat and the final score was 106-93, a crushing defeat for the Miami Heat. With this finals win, LeBron James got his 4th NBA finals win.



Source: MSN.com

Technology and Entertainment

Galaxy Note20 vs. iPhone 12 Pro Max

Keshav Bhoovaragan

This Thanksgiving, both Samsung and Apple released phones that would change our world. That is the iPhone 12 Pro Max, from Apple, and the Galaxy Note20 Ultra, from Samsung. Today we will be comparing these two phones. The Samsung Galaxy Note20 Ultra is a well-designed phone. On the front is a 6.9-inch Dynamic OLED display with curved edges and minimal bezels. Its variable refresh rate can go all the way up to 120Hz at Full HD. The resolution can be bumped up to Quad HD as well. The front-facing camera is housed in a small punch-hole notch, and the fingerprint scanner is under the display, making for an impressive looking all-screen front. The iPhone 12 Pro Max follows a similar pattern. It borrows and further refines elements from previous generations. Key upgrades across the board make the 12 Pro Max even more compelling. It packs the largest display on any iPhone yet at 6.7-inches, and the Super Retina XDR OLED display which is very impressive. Apple uses a new Ceramic Shield panel to keep the display safe. It is said to be four times more protective when compared to older iPhones. The Samsung Galaxy Note20 Ultra comes with the fastest processor you can get in the Android world right now. On the other hand, the iPhone 12 Pro Max comes with the company's latest processor, the A14 Bionic. Apple also bumped the RAM up to 6GB with the 12 Pro Max. While that spec is decidedly mid-tier in the Android space, Apple's optimization ensures that it's more than enough. Now let's look at the specs.

There is not a lot in common between the two phones, but both devices offer storage variants going up to 512GB. However, the Galaxy Note20 Ultra lets you add even more with a Micro SD card. The iPhone 12 Pro Max on the other hand has a 18W fast charging, 15W wireless charging with an Apple charger, and 7W charging with standard Qi chargers. The standout feature of the Galaxy Note series remains the S Pen.



The new S Pen provides an even better experience than previous generations. Samsung says the stylus has “more lifelike precision” that recognizes greater levels of pressure. It claims that this will feel like you are writing on actual paper. There are also four new gestures you can make with the S Pen to interact with various apps and content on the Note20. In the case of the iPhone 12 models, the MagSafe features magnets to attach a variety of accessories, from cases to wireless chargers, to the back of the phone. The most important hardware on most modern smartphones is the camera. The iPhone 12 Pro Max comes with a 12MP wide sensor, a 12MP ultra-wide camera, and a 12MP telephoto shooter with 2.5x optical zoom. The phone also includes a LiDAR scanner to record depth information. The 12 Pro Max also uses a sensor-shift stabilization that Apple says will do a better job than OIS. On the other hand, the Galaxy Note20 Ultra wins the megapixel battle with its 108MP primary shooter. That is backed by an ultra-wide 12MP sensor and a 12MP telephoto lens with 5x optical zoom and 50x hybrid zoom. Both Samsung and Apple have impressive cameras. The iPhone 12 pro max starts at \$1,099, and the Samsung Note20 Ultra starts at \$1,299. They are both amazing phones that are unique in their own ways.



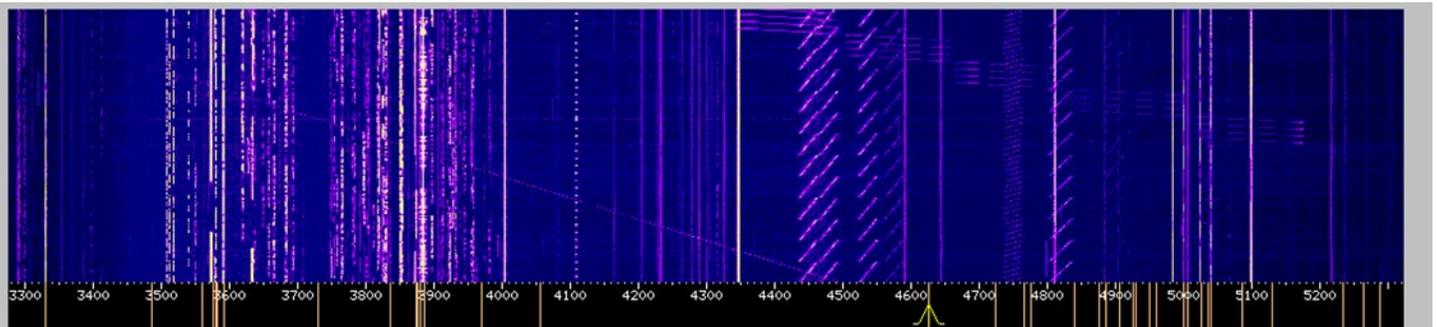
	iPhone 12 Pro Max	Samsung Galaxy Note 20 Ultra
Display	6.7-inch Super Retina XDR OLED 2,778 x 1,284 resolution	6.9-inch Dynamic OLED 2X 3,088 x 1,440 resolution 120Hz @ Full HD 60Hz @ Quad HD
Processor	Apple A14 Bionic	Qualcomm Snapdragon 865 Plus Samsung Exynos 990
Storage	128 / 256 / 512GB	128 / 256 / 512GB
RAM	6GB	12GB
Cameras	Rear: - wide-angle 12MP, f/1.6, sensor-shift OIS - telephoto 12MP, f/2.2, 2.5x optical zoom - ultrawide 12MP, f/2.4 - TOF 3D LiDAR scanner Front: 12MP, f/2.2	Rear: - wide-angle 108MP, f/1.8, OIS - Telephoto 12MP, f/3.0, 5x optical zoom, 50x hybrid zoom - ultrawide 12MP, f/2.2 Front: 10MP, f/2.2
Software	iOS 14	Android 10
Durability	IP68	IP68
Battery	Li-ion 20W fast charging 7.5W Qi wireless charging 15W with Apple wireless charger	4,500mAh 25W fast charging 15W wireless charging 4.5W reverse charging
Dimensions and weight	160.8 x 78.1 x 7.4mm 228g	164.8 x 77.2 x 8.1mm 208g
Colors	Silver, Graphite, Gold, Pacific Blue	Mystic Bronze, Mystic White, Mystic Black

Technology and Entertainment

Shortwave Radio: The World's Connection before the Internet

Anders Jacobson

Today's youth is growing up with their face behind a screen, surfing the web. The internet has provided people all over with a way to connect and share, but in the days before computer networks, there was another way to interact: shortwave radio. Shortwave radio waves are like the waves heard on regular AM and FM radios, except they're on a different portion of the wave spectrum. Since the invention of radio, shortwave has been a popular method of communicating and listening. Music, talk shows, ham operators, and more filled the air. All one needed to tune in was a shortwave, or world band, radio. Because these waves traveled using the ionosphere, global correspondence was possible. For decades, shortwave was a top spot to learn about international topics and find entertainment. Since the rise of the internet, however, many broadcasters have moved to the web or dissolved altogether. Lots of longtime listeners have left the hobby or are too old to listen. This most certainly does not mean shortwave is dead, though. Even tech-tipped teens in present times can listen without a radio or antenna. Websdr.org provides a list of global shortwave receivers and their software-defined radio (sdr) sites, meaning anyone with an internet connection can listen to shortwave. Though the web has largely replaced radio, there are still reasons to use it today. Number stations (stations that broadcast codes, speculatively to spies or government agents) are found on the air, even though the internet is easy to communicate with. This is due to the fact that shortwave signals don't leave any real traces like the internet does, so they are favored by these furtive correspondents. People living in countries with no internet or censored internet use shortwave to stay informed. Some amateur radio enthusiasts can broadcast on the shortwave range, and even non-ham radio listeners can monitor the conversations without a license. Shortwave listeners may also be the first people informed during a crisis when the internet and phone lines are down. Even popular internet personalities support shortwave radio. Famous YouTuber "Report of the Week" runs a radio show on shortwave called "VORW" (Voice of Report of the Week), which, though available on the internet as well, still catches listeners on the radio. In a world of social media scrolling, and in 2020's isolated spirit, shortwave listening could be a great hobby to pick up. Entry-level radios and antennas aren't too expensive, and it's easy to just use websdr servers as well. Dedicated fans can DX, or record communications sent by distant stations to obtain a QSL card verifying that they received the signal, and it's popular to collect them. In addition, this activity can be educational, providing a self-guided, hands-on way to learn about radio waves and electricity. So, even in the modern times of Wi-Fi and apps, shortwave continues to be a great escape to the simpler ways of communication.



A screenshot of a shortwave frequency waterfall showing activity. (Taken from a websdr server.)

Dancing with the Stars Season 29: The Show Must Go On

Gianna Grumer

A lot of changes came along with the start of Season 29 of ABC's Dancing with the Stars. For starters, the dancers could not perform in front of a live audience and were socially distanced from everyone except their partners.

This season, there were major changes to the casting. Six-time Mirrorball Champion, Derek Hough, joined Bruno Tonioli and Carrie Ann Inaba in the judge's panel. In mid-July, Dancing with the Stars announced hosts Erin Andrews and Tom Bergeron would not be returning to the show. Actress and model, Tyra Banks, took over as both host, and executive producer. Although she has received a lot of backlash and had even had a mistake during elimination, she has gained the support of many. There were also changes with this season's professional dancers. Pros Lindsay Arnold Cusick and Witney Carson McAllister announced their pregnancies recently, resulting in not returning to the show for the season. Because of this, previous dance troupe members Britt Stewart and Daniella Karagach Pashkova joined the show as Pros. In addition, Emma Slater, Pasha Pashkov, Keo Motsepe, Sharna Burgess, Peta Murgatroyd, Valentin Chmerkovskiy, Brandon Armstrong, Gleb Savchenko, Cheryl Burke, Alan Bersten, Sasha Farber, Jenna Johnson Chmerkovskiy, and Artem Chigvintsev returned. *a Time* actress Justina Machado, Grammy-winning rapper Nelly, *Catfish* host Nev Schulman, and *The Bachelorette* star Kaitlyn Bristowe.

Technology and Entertainment

Dancing with the Stars Season 29: The Show Must Go On (continued)

Gianna Grumer

At the start of the finale, the Pros performed what would be their first and final routine as a group this season. Shortly after, Chigvintsev and Bristowe continue the episode with their Week 9 redemption dance, doing the Argentine Tango to Britney Spears' "Toxic." They finished strong with their freestyle to "Sparkling Diamonds".

Johnson and Schulman then stunned the audience by dancing to their Week 7 Paso Doble of Swan Lake, receiving their second perfect score for the dance, the first of the evening. To top off their time on the show, Johnson and Schulman danced to "Singing in the Rain", getting, yet another, perfect score.

Karagach Pashkova and Nelly proved their position in the finale with their Samba to "Rhythm of the Night" and freestyle to "Savage" and "Hypnotize", ending the night with a total score of 57/60.

Farber and Machado performed their Week 1 Cha Cha to "Respect." Justina wowed fans with her vocals, receiving perfect scores for both of their routines that night. They finished the season with an incredible performance to "Let's Get Loud."

The finale also had some special performances. Derek Hough stunned the audience with his tap number to Finneas's "Let's Fall in Love for the Night." Contestant Nelly sang some of his top hits, including "Ride Wit Me" and "Hot in Herre." His partner, Daniella, danced back up with Pro Pasha Pashkov.

The three-way tie between Bristowe, Machado, and Schulman left it up to the fans to decide their final fate. When all votes were counted, Banks announced their placement. Justina and Sasha placed fourth, Nelly and Daniella in third, Nev and Jenna in second, and Kaitlyn and Artem placing first! Winner of Season 29, Bristowe, became the second *The Bachelorette* star to win in a row. Judge Carrie Ann Inaba was especially tough on Bristowe, as she consistently mentioned her desire for more from the reality star. In the end, however, Bristowe claimed the show was a dream and was extremely passionate about dancing.

In all, the Covid-19 virus could not stop *Dancing with the Stars* from having a successful season.



Source: Dancing with the Stars' Instagram

Among Us

Shruthi Ravishankar

Among Us is an active and intense multiplayer game which is played in different settings such as Mira HQ, Skied, and Polus. The players either take the role of a crewmate or an imposter. The crewmates' objective is to finish their task and not get killed. The objective of an imposter is to kill all the crewmates and try not to be suspicious. As a crewmate, if you find a body, you report it and say if you are suspicious of any one in the chat. Then you all decide who to vote out. If you vote out the right imposter, you win unless there are more than one imposter. When you are an imposter, you or you and your imposter(s) try to kill all the crewmates without any other crewmates seeing you. As an imposter, you can vent and sabotage. When you vent, you can hide from crewmates and travel to other rooms easier. When you sabotage, you can distract the crewmates to go fix the thing you sabotaged. The different sabotages are the ones that have a timer and if it runs out, the imposter(s) win and the other kind is visual sabotages like lights going out.



Source: Bing

Reviews

Summer and Destinations

Roshni Srikant

It's winter. Winter is a time for being wrapped in a blanket and sipping on hot cocoa topped with marshmallows and whipped cream and a candy cane. It's a time for eating tomato soup with a grilled cheese in front of the fire. We're transitioning into the holiday season, which is awesome and all, but I want to wrap up fall nicely. So, I was thinking, "What better way to do that than to recap everywhere I went?" Usually, such a thing would have never bothered me, but when coronavirus struck, I suddenly despised my little cove where I hung out all day. It's when you're forced to be somewhere you usually love that you start to hate it. Well, it happened to me. And therefore, I went to way too many places this fall (mostly outside because, you know, corona and everything), and I thought I'd share my favorites with you. Feel free to ignore me, but as a person who typically hates being outside, I think you should give them a try.

3) Hickory Run State Park

When it comes to top choices for me, this one is good, but not top-notch. It has a stream and you can dip your legs in, and it makes for somewhat intense hiking, but in my opinion not intense enough. Also, my favorite part about hiking is color contrast, and this just didn't seem to cut it. All the greens were rather faded than some other parks I've been to, and there isn't much other foliage. (Granted, it was partly cloudy when we went, so the sky was gray. If it was clear and the sky was a gorgeous blue as it usually is, I'd probably be happier.) There is a waterfall, which is always a plus in my book!



Source: Hawk Mountain Sanctuary website

2) Ricketts Glen State Park

This has fantastic foliage. Like, a photographer's dream foliage. Exquisite. Excellent. Magnificent. Brilliant. Okay, I'll stop. I've emphasized enough. The colors are very vibrant and just fantastic. A sight for sore eyes. It also offers several waterfalls. If you want to know how many, you have to do the drumroll. 3... 2... 1... thirty-one. That is a lot of waterfalls, which is why I rank it my second favorite. I suppose the only drawback is while it was gorgeous and intense, it was boring in the fact that there wasn't anything quite exciting.

1) Hawk Mountain Sanctuary

Okay. No waterfalls, but the fact that we're on a mountain makes up for it. The ride to the mountain is almost as perfect as the actual mountain. And you had better come in October because, in fall, the colors over the mountainside are killer. There's a blend of shocking reds, bold oranges, blazing yellows, and popping greens. All that, against a crystal-clear blue sky? Everything I could ask for. There are lookouts along the way which show you the landscape below and make you feel like you're 50—no, 100—no, probably around 500—feet above the ground. Then again, I might be underestimating how long 500 feet is, but let's not concern ourselves with that. Point is, you had better go in the fall if you want to see nature when it's looking best.

SPECIAL MENTION: Kinzua Bridge State Park

So why is this in special mentions? Because it's 6 hours away. In Pittsburgh. But say I lived in Pittsburgh. In that case, this one would go home with the gold. Stunning colors, a roller coaster of debris from a bridge crash during an F-1 tornado in 2003, and a skyline walk. This one is about 300 feet tall, and you can walk on the railroad tracks. (Seems less dangerous than it is—but there are those little gaps between tracks which are open gaps, so if you slip your foot, you could potentially get really hurt or fall off the trail and crash 300 feet down where you'll get severely injured. Don't let that scare you. If you're careful, it's a thrilling experience. So yes, if you are a daredevil, go.) At the end, there is a glass floor that you can look through to see 300 feet down *without* risking your neck. And the trail down below is also really wonderful. There's a pair of binoculars to see the bridge in all its glory, and an interior visitor center which also has an exhibit for you to learn about the bridge and its history. Seems boring at first, but it's all interactive and moderately interesting! So definitely check it out if you plan to go to Pittsburgh.

And that, everyone, is my collection of awesome parks. And again, if you normally hate being outside with a burning passion, you still should check these out. Or whichever one sounds most appealing. Because I was forced to go to these spots. And if I possess the capability to enjoy myself in a place that I was forced to go to, you do too.

Reviews

Grey's Anatomy and Covid-19: A Frontline Healthcare Worker's Thoughts

Cassidy Fisher

Warning: There are Grey's Anatomy Season 17 spoilers!

Despite the ongoing global coronavirus pandemic, season 17 of Grey's Anatomy began to be filmed on September 8th, 2020, and was premiered this November 12th. So far, this season is set in April of 2020, shortly after the virus started to get out of hand in the United States. Grey's Anatomy has been known to touch on current events in the past such as police brutality, school shootings, etc., so of course they had to talk about what has been affecting not only those working in the medical field, but those around the world. What are actual healthcare workers' reactions to the way the newest season has depicted this pandemic?

Taylor Meyer, a nurse practitioner and frontline worker during these awful times has weighed in on the show's efforts. Although she herself has not watched the newest season, as it is "too soon" for her to watch what she is still living through, Meyer still gave her input on the show. Taylor says, "So I would hope they show that we all have a role in this, that we're all affected by this, and we can all help save each other by just wearing a mask, washing our hands, socially distancing, all the things that doctors and research are proving to be effective." In fact, they have. In a recently released episode of Grey's Anatomy, young adults have been together at a party where there was an accidental fire, and this is what brings them to the hospital. Throughout the episode the importance of staying home and staying socially distanced is mentioned. All episodes feature cast members wearing masks when near each other and socially distanced when no masks are present. Meyer also says, "I can only imagine that they're showing the stress of

This, too, is true to the new season. In many cases, the main character Meredith Grey (who has been shown working in the coronavirus ward) and other doctors have been shown to be under tremendous amounts of stress. Some aspects of this stress have been dramatized, such as a few of the doctors lashing out in a more outward way, but this is the show's way of displaying just how taxing this situation is for those working in the medical field. Meyer finally says, "I think they've always been very sensitive about whatever medical topic they're covering in the moment, and I think their portrayal can help people that don't understand the severity of [the pandemic] or what it really looks like. So, yeah, I'm thankful [for] how sensitive I'm sure they're being with how they portray it because this is hitting differently for everybody." The show has shown the virus from many perspectives as Taylor said. Meredith Grey herself ends up contracting coronavirus after working alongside patients with the sickness and is currently severely sick in the show. Through this, the show has shed light on another aspect of the virus, the fact that many workers helping those who are sick end up sick themselves. This also gives us the perspective of a severe patient. Death has been very common in this season, but the cast has been acting out how frustrating and upsetting this is from the perspective of doctors, patients, and especially loved ones of those who are sick.



Source-Nine Network

Grey's Anatomy has worked very hard to correctly depict these unfortunate events with the help of actual healthcare workers and so many others. This will hopefully send a message to the general public about just how real this pandemic is.

Interviews

Mr. Beal - Addams Family

Gianna Grumer

What musical do the Unami Encores plan on performing this year?
The Addams Family

What staff members will be contributing to this year's show?

Ms. Katie Gornick, Director; Mr. Daniel Beal, Vocal Director/Producer; Ms. Danielle Fairweather, Choreographer; Mr. Daniel Myers, Technical Director

How do you like working on this production so far?

It's been tons of fun! The Addams Family is such a crazy show with really unique characters, so the students have really had a great opportunity to develop some new acting skills already. The songs are catchy, the characters are multi-faceted, and the jokes are hilarious!

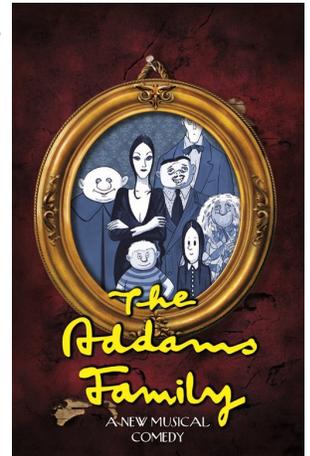
What is your favorite part and the most difficult part?

My favorite part about this show is the unique characters. Characters like "Lurch" who only communicates by grunting in different ways, or Fester – who is in love with... the moon, or one of the dead Addams Family Ancestors – all of which come from different time periods in history such as the Disco Era, or Egyptian Times. The most difficult part is most certainly the rhythms and vocal harmonies. This show is full of all sorts of tricky rhythms in the songs, and the vocal harmonies are quite challenging!

Is there anything else about you that you would like Unami students and staff to know about the show?

The dates for the show are Friday Apr 30th, Saturday May 1st, and Sunday May 2nd. Due to Covid-19 and our district/state health/safety guidelines, the future of the show is not for certain! But

don't worry... we have planned for all scenarios this year! Worst case scenario? We FILM the musical and sell it as a DVD to anyone that wants to see it! Best case scenario? We have SOME people attend live in the auditorium (currently, 54 people is the maximum in the Unami Auditorium), SOME people watch at home by purchasing a live-stream ticket, and all of those people can STILL purchase a DVD of the show if they wish. Regardless of what happens, the show will go on!



Source: Google

Mr. Fox

Ritvik Sindia

Where did you first grow up? **Bradford County**

Where did you attend middle/high school? **Wyalusing Valley**

Where did you attend college? **Lock Haven University & Gwynedd Mercy University for grad school.**

What were your hobbies as a child? **Sports, Hunting, Fishing and Racing**

What age did you begin to choose to be a teacher and why? **I realized I wanted to become a teacher around the age of 25. I enjoy working with kids and wanted to make a difference on how to help them learn.**

Have you taught or had job anywhere else before coming to Unami? **Tamanend, East and Tohickon**

If you were to pick one subject to teach besides engineering, what would it be and why? **Phys Ed: I'm an active person and really like sports.**

Do you lead any other clubs inside or outside of Unami? **Mock Trial Team (Unami)**

What part of engineering really sparks your interest in the subject? **Solving problems and building things. It's amazing to see how creative students can be when they think outside of the box.**

This year has been the king of biggest challenges for everybody. In your opinion, what's the biggest challenge teaching an engineering class virtually and in hybrid? **The biggest challenge for me was creating lessons to teach engineering virtually. Engineering is a hands on course, so virtual/hybrid presented many challenges along the way.**

What trait do you immediately think you have mastered as a teacher? **I wouldn't say that I have mastered any trait as a teacher. Being a teacher means you are a life-long learner and continue to grow. There is always room for improvement.**

What goals will you set for yourself as a teacher? **To never give up on a student. To continue to learn each and every day.**

How has being an engineering teacher changed you? **It has showed me that students are more capable than they believe they are. It has also showed me that letting students fail at something isn't always a bad thing, good things can come from failure.**

If there is anything in your life you would change? **No**

Do have any club ideas you wish Unami would have? **Robotics Club**

Thank you so much for letting me interview you!



Games/Riddles/Comics

Holiday Themed Word Search

Shruthi Ravishankar

Holiday Word Search

C H K H B T L S R U N W S N O W J
K H P K S O F A E R T Y F W K R H
A H R U Y Y K N W Y T R E E Q O Q
N F N I K S W T J K D W W R T O P
G J H D S W R A K R T A T C I O R
E K S D G T M W O U T J H H W E E
L J C T Y S M A F J E O U W E O S
O U A T A H J A S E C F Y U D B E
J K R D S R R Y S O H A J H R Y N
E H O D E D S A L S S K E K S W T
L U L E U S E A Y L I G H T S Z S
F J I F E T T I W E K Q Z X S D L
H H N N D E T Y G I V I N G R Y I
Y H G P O L A R E X P R E S S O L

Santa

Christmas

Lights

Giving

Caroling

Elf

Polar Express

Presents

Toys

Angel

Snow

Stars

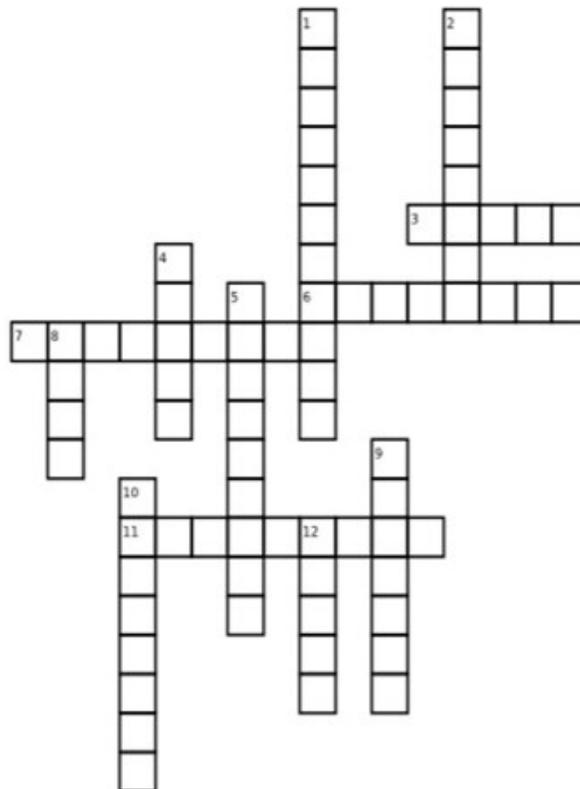
Tree

Hot Chocolate

Christmas Crossword Puzzle

Ashlee Ranes

Christmas Crossword Puzzle



Down:

1. Used to make edible houses and people
2. Snow storm
4. Items put under a Christmas tree
5. Red and white peppermint candy
8. Santa's list tells if you're naughty or __
9. Worn on your hands in the cold
10. Warm winter drink
12. Santa's jolly helpers

Across:

3. Delivers presents on Christmas Eve
6. Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen
7. Unique precipitation that falls during winter
11. Hung on a Christmas tree

Games/Riddles/Comics

Among Us Comic

Leanne Mathew

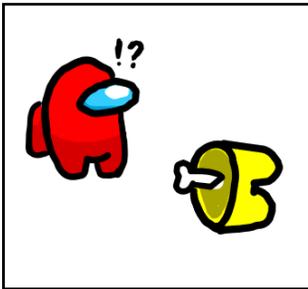
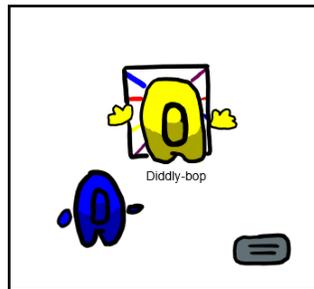
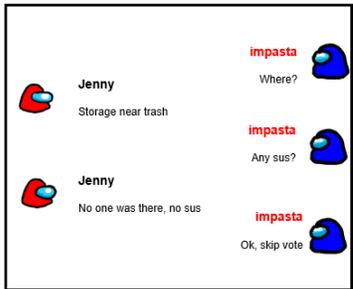
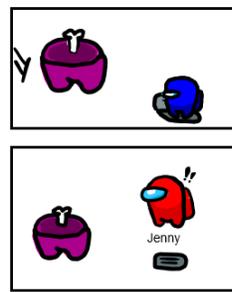
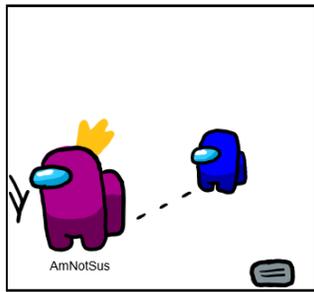
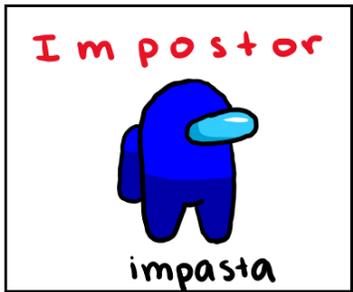


Among Us Comic 2

Roshni Srikant

Bad Timing

by Roshni S.



Among Us Comic 3

Shruthi Ravishankar

Electrical

