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THE ANCHOR

The Student Newspaper of Hendrick Hudson High School

VOL. 6-7 MMXXV | MONTROSE, NEW YORK | MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH 2025 | FREE

HEN HUD'S NEW PRINCIPAL: MS. MARTINO ALVES

By NOAH EICHENHOLTZ & EMMA ROCHELLE



PHOTO CREDIT: MAY BAR, 2025

This school year, Hendrick Hudson High School welcomes Ms. Martino Alves as the new principal, superseding Ms. Scollins.

She graduated from SUNY Purchase and got her master's degree at Columbia University's Teachers College.

After serving as an assistant principal in the New York City Department of Education, she worked at two different international schools in Brazil, afterwards working as an assistant principal in the Greenburgh Central School District.

"I've had a very unique experience learning and becoming a school leader in different settings," she says, explaining that her involvement in larger schools has taught her how to keep everyone connected.

This year, Ms. Martino Alves leads implementation of the PLAN Pilot program at Hen Hud; this plan will emphasise performance-based curriculum over standardized testing in schools to prepare students for professional and civic success. Under Ms. Martino Alves' leadership, Hen Hud will be exploring these new methods.

Regarding the new state-mandated phone ban, Ms. Martino Alves is "very impressed" with how the students have adjusted to school without phones. She has seen more social interactions, even at times when phones are permitted. For example, at homecoming, she remarks that they were being used "appropriately." She believes that phones easily influence students. Since the ban, students can not only think for themselves but also improve dialogue, create better discussions, debate, and learn more.

As part of her onboarding process, she expressed that she is gaining insights about Hen Hud politics and culture from existing faculty; she finds these staff members to be "real assets to the community."

She is not only ready and willing to learn from the faculty but also excited to blend her prior experience with the new knowledge gained from our community. Ms. Martino Alves states that she hopes to "bring us in new directions but also be thoughtful of where we came from."

LOSING FOCUS: WHAT'S BEHIND THE DROP IN STUDENT MOTIVATION?

By XAVIER HENDERSON

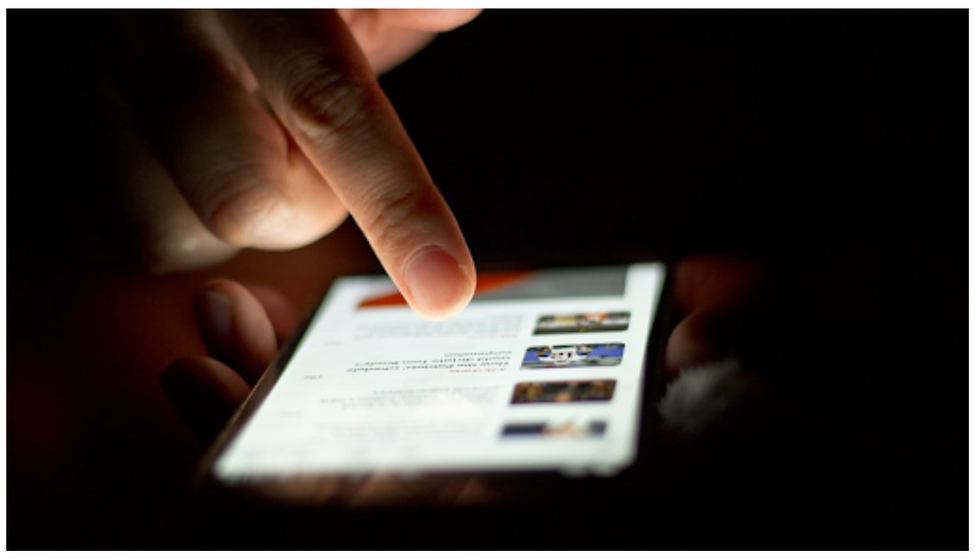


PHOTO CREDIT: Japanexperterna.se, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons, 2015

Throughout American High Schools in 2024, the average math and reading scores fell to the lowest levels in two decades, according to data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

The report found that 65% of seniors performed below the NAEP's "proficient" level in reading, and 78% below that level in math.

But test scores only reveal part of the story. Teachers, students, and parents alike have noticed a deeper issue: it's becoming increasingly difficult for teens to stay focused and engaged in school.

A Teacher's Perspective

At Hendrick Hudson High School, Mr. Rogulski, an English teacher with years of experience working closely with students, sees how motivation can shift based on who students spend their time with.

"I believe that the most important influences on a student are their friends," he said. "If you have latched yourself onto people who do not value education, and don't take school seriously, then there is a very good chance you will do that too." Mr. Rogulski says.

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FROM ESSAYS TO ENGINES: THE RACING LIFE OF MS. BARTHELMES

By MAY BAR



PHOTO CREDIT: MAY BAR, 2025

Ms. Barthelmes is very well known in Hen Hud for her energetic and unique personality. Though many may know about her hobby of race car driving, not many have gone into detail with er about it. After talking with Ms. Barthelmes, many interesting facts and advice about her racing and cars came up. After growing up in Peekskill, NY, Ms. Barthelmes attended SUNY New Paltz where she majored in secondary education and minored in English. After, she went back to SUNY New Paltz to earn her master degree in Humanistic Education which taught Ms. Barthelmes to work with the students "not just from an academic lens, but from an individualized perspective through the developmental stages in which people learn and grow at moments in their life", Ms. Barthelmes explained.

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The Advisor's Desk: '90s Nostalgia

By Mr. CODNER

Remember the '90s? That rad decade that started with *Nirvana* and ended with *The Offspring*? The high-culture decade that gave us *Beavis and Butthead*, *The Simpsons*, and *South Park*? Back when news was printed on paper? No? Oh, that's right, you weren't born yet.

While you have this time capsule in your hands, take a moment to check out the reviews on page 11 and immerse yourself in a simpler time when music was made with guitars and movies were directed by Kevin Smith. There's comfort in the 90s, even if you weren't alive back then.

In contrast, the current news feels a bit dystopian. On the cover page, rookie writer Xavier Henderson tackles the vexing issue of declining student literacy, while Emma Rochelle explores how Artificial Intelligence is threatening the entertainment industry with a synthetic actress on page 3.

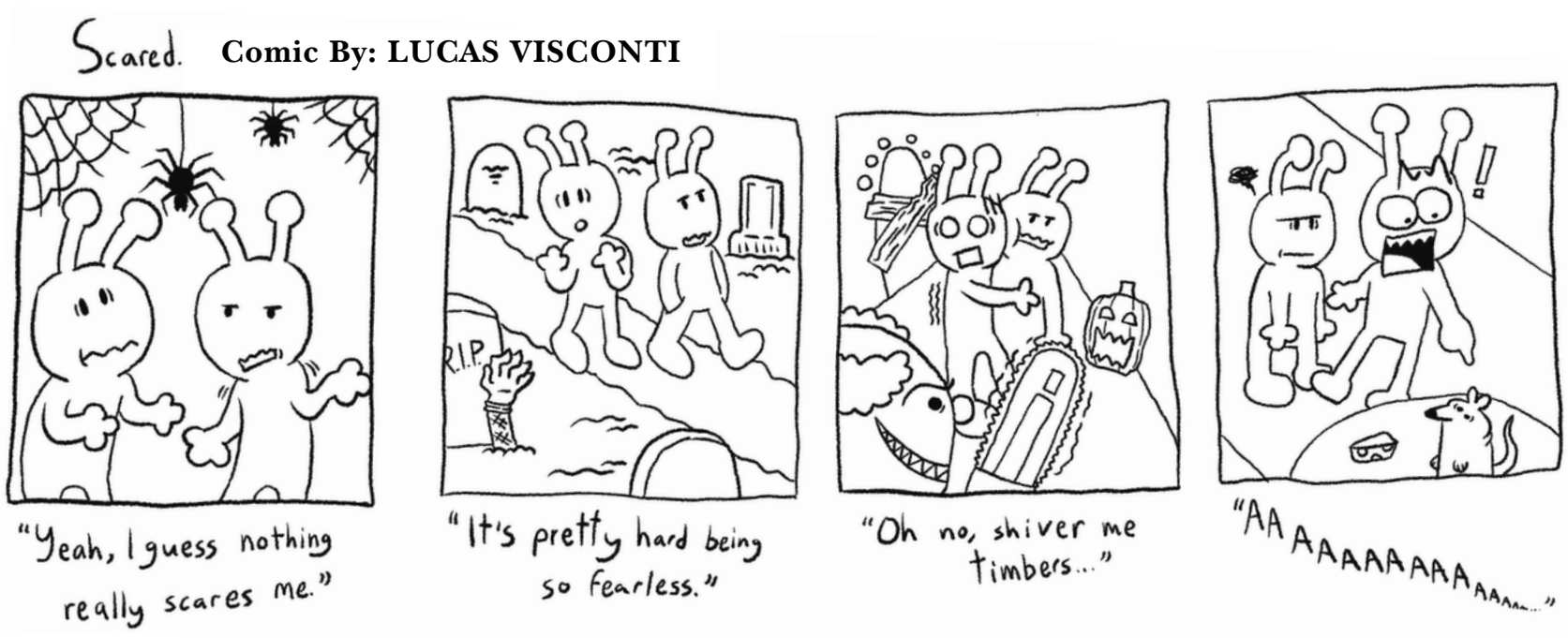
Back in the '90s, I had a full head of hair and people read books. If you were away from home and needed to make a phone call, you needed a quarter and a payphone.


Mr. Codner in the '90s

Can phone-free spaces help students get back to reading? Will they regrow my hair? In the cover story, Noah Eichenholtz details Principal Martino Alves's thoughts on this year's policy while Ava Bartletta provides a student perspective on page 4.

People often look back to the '90s because the technology of this modern world creates stress. To cope with the pressures of technology, Ms. Barthlemes drives fast (front page), Sheccid Lalvay Campos bakes cheesecake (page 10), Sage Faulkner follows fashion (page 5), and you, dear reader, can immerse yourself in some technology-free Fun & Games on the back page.

If you really want to feel like a '90s kid, drop by room 211 on any given Thursday afternoon to meet the staff of The Anchor and borrow a camera that isn't attached to a phone. We've been blessed with some camera donations, thanks to the PTSA, and we need photos taken by students. You'll even get your name in the paper.



Comic By: LUCAS VISCONTI

Check Out Our Website!

Submit a Letter to the Editor

The Anchor staff appreciate a variety of viewpoints and ideas. Readers may respond to any article in *The Anchor* and letters may be published in the next print issue.

To submit a Letter to the Editor for the next edition, send an email of up to 175 words to:

hendrickhudsonanchor@gmail.com

Contact the *Anchor* Staff

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Current Events

LOSING FOCUS: WHAT'S BEHIND THE DROP IN STUDENT MOTIVATION?

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Research by *BioMed Central Psychology* supports Rogulski's views, which found that among high school students, the ones who feel more supported by friends and see motivation in their peer group perform better.

"For junior high school students to achieve academic success, the appropriate interventions should be implemented to improve peer relationships, learning motivation, and learning engagement."

Other teachers see the issue from a different perspective. Mr. Witkowich, who teaches history at Hendrick Hudson, says educators should be trying to engage students.

"As a teacher, you have to look at what you could do better. How could I get this kid engaged in the class?" he said. "Most of the teachers here at Hendrick Hudson will try and engage you into why you should try and learn in a class."

The Student Experience

From a student perspective, staying motivated is a daily challenge. Sage Kato, a student at Hendrick Hudson who balances playing on the Varsity football team and multiple Advanced Placement level classes, said thinking about the future keeps him driven. "I think about the future. If I don't do this now, I will set myself back in the long run."

Like many students, Sage believes the COVID-19 pandemic changed the way teens approach schoolwork. "It took away two key years from kids in school. It was hard to get back on track for some people."

Studies completed by the British Psychological Society back up Kato's idea. A survey of high schoolers in the United Kingdom found that during online learning, "Pupils' learning experiences (concentration, engagement, ability to learn, and self-worth from learning) were significantly lower for online learning compared to the classroom learning."



PHOTO CREDIT: Garcia Arnel, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, 2021

Also, the sense of self worth dropped significantly compared to learning in a classroom.

Matthias Seenjan, another student at Hendrick Hudson, sees some of the reasons behind the drop in effort. When asked why some students don't put much effort into school, he said, "Students will use [AI] to get an easy grade, and not actually learn from the experience.'

For himself, he draws motivation from family. 'I think about how my parents work incredibly hard to keep me in school, and that motivates me to get my work done."

A Parent's View

Parents often are the bridge between expectations and motivation. Zamina Inayet, mother of a Hendrick Hudson student, believes communication plays a big role in keeping kids motivated.

"If the child is failing, many parents don't talk with the teachers, or communicate with the students about what is going on in their life," she said. "That lack of communication can make it even harder for students to turn things around."

Research strongly supports this statement. A large study from students at the *University of Texas*, which involved over 15,000 tenth graders found that both parental involvement with schools, and their expectations, are significantly associated with teens' grades, and the students' academic performance.

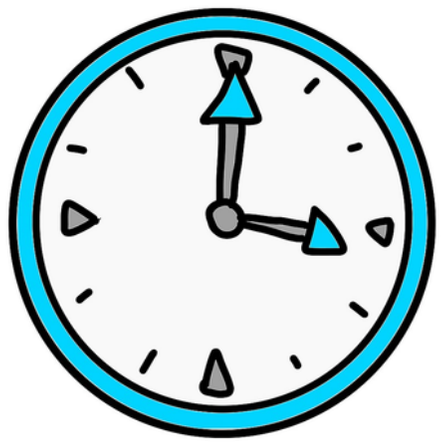
Another study, done by the *Education Research International*, found that when parents have frequent communication about their kid's school plans and progress, the parents' expectations, and a parenting style that supports autonomy while still giving guidance, correlates with academic achievement.

These are exactly the kinds of behaviors Zamina points out; where lack of communication or involvement can lead to lower effort.

Looking Ahead

The drop in effort among students isn't just laziness, but a larger shift on how educational, social, and technological changes affect learning.

Teachers continue to adapt, students are trying to find motivation, and parents are learning how to better support their children. But the real challenge now isn't just boosting grades, it's building a sense of purpose behind learning, where students feel supported by friends, family, and teachers alike.



STAGE FRIGHT: HUMAN PERFORMERS THREATENED BY FIRST SYNTHETIC ACTRESS

By EMMA ROCHELLE



PHOTO CREDIT: Unknown Author, instagram, via Wikimedia Commons, 2025

Zurich Film Festival(ZFF), an annual event in Switzerland known for placing a spotlight on emerging films and filmmakers, revealed the big screen's next biggest innovation: Tilly Norwood, the first actress who is 100% AI-generated.

Eline Van der Veleden, a dutch actress, comedian, and now technologist, presented at the festival's panel to reveal Xiocia, the first production studio to specialize in producing artificial "Characters". Van der Veleden was joined by the head of Luma AI's Studio dream Lab LA, Verena Puhm. The two introduced Tilly Norwood acting abilities in a 2 minute comedy sketch, however Norwood isn't developed enough to do interviews at this time.

Van der Veleden and Puhm reported to the AP news that after the presentation they were surrounded by talent agencies looking to sign Tilly Norwood. A deal has not been made at this time.

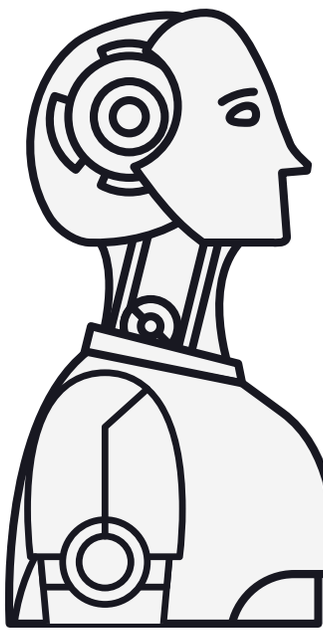
While the reaction at the festival was positive, Hollywood had a completely different response.

Notable actors such as general hospital star Nicholas Alexander Chavez, Scream actress Melissa Barrera, and well-known rom-com actress Toni Colette spoke out via social media to voice their concerns regarding agencies signing on AI created individuals. They all condemned the industry for even being open to utilizing Tilly Norwood, Barrere commenting under the post made by the Deadline entertainment news, that she "Hope all actors repped by the agent that does this, drop their (expletive deleted)," while others such as Colette, demand that SAG-AFTRA(Union/guild) make any statement to address the concerns.

The guild released a statement to the Deadline that "SAG-AFTRA believes creativity is, and should remain, human-centered. The union is opposed to the replacement of human performers by synthetics." Van der Velden responded to the industry's concerns by confirming that Norwood was not created with the intent to replace actors, but to serve as a tool. She went on to explain "...AI offers another way to imagine and build stories. I'm an actor myself, and nothing – certainly not an AI character – can take away the craft or joy of human performance,"



PHOTO CREDIT: Unknown Author, instagram, via Wikimedia Commons, 2025



There is still a lot unknown about the future for Tilly Norwood; She is still in the process of being tested and has no agency. Van der Veleden and Verena Puhm intend to make more AI "Characters" and get an agent for Norwood within the next year. The industry is split on the topic of AI on the big screen, but they agree on one thing: Creativity is not a computer code, it's human.

School & Community

FROM ESSAYS TO ENGINES: THE RACING LIFE OF MS. BARTHELMES

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Post college, Ms. Barthelmes began her Hendrick Hudson career at Blue Mountain Middle school. Since then, she has moved on to teach tenth grade honors in addition to AP literature at Hen Hud high school.

To start off the Interview, Ms. Barthelmes told me about the start of her racing hobby in 2019. She became interested in racing not from the purchase of a race car, but from safety instructions for her Mercedes-AMG. After learning all of the safety features, Ms. Barthelmes was able to drive her Mercedes on a real race track. This led her to "discover that I enjoy the experience of being on an actual track."

Ms. Barthelmes purchased her first race car, a Porsche GT4, Clubs Sport, MR in 2019 but her favorite race car is her Mazda, MX, 5 Global Cup Car. The Mazda has personalized League of Legends Jinx graffiti all around the exterior which gives her car part of her personality painted onto it.



PHOTO CREDIT: MS. BARTHELMES, 2025

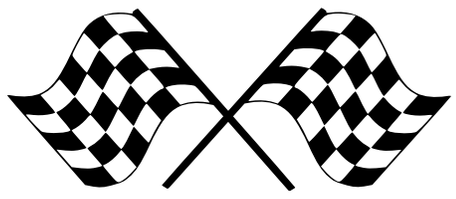
When asked what her favorite racing memory was, Ms. Barthelmes ironically said it was when her car "went around what's called a carousel turn, and the back end of the Miata went out from underneath me." Though this may seem that she wouldn't be able to get control of the car, she actually was able to "get the car controlled and placed in the right direction.." where she then "got back on track and did my fastest time." This memory is very vivid to her and she will never forget it. There are many benefits to racing, one of which being that it makes you a better driver overall. As a result of this, "I'm a safer driver for everyone else, including pedestrians" Ms. Barthelmes explained. Having high control over your car is the fundamentals of racing, so if racing is an interest for someone, they should start with drivers education and take every safety class they can "because you don't necessarily need to be a race car driver or learn how to race to be safe."



PHOTO CREDIT: MS. BARTHELMES, 2025

To people who can't afford a hobby like racing, Ms. Barthelmes recommended that go karting and race-simulating video games can help those understand how to control a vehicle like a race car. Another thing extremely helpful to knowing more about racing is learning physics. "Physics is actually integral to be a better race car driver" Ms. Barthelmes said.

No matter if you can afford to race or not, just remember Ms. Barthelmes came from humble beginnings in Peekskill, but is now able to pursue racing which she never thought she would've beforehand. "Where I am now in life is so different from where I was beforehand."



Opinion

HENDRICK HUDSON'S NEW PHONE POLICY

By AVA BARLETTA



It is a new school year for the Hendrick Hudson School District, and with it came quite a bit of changes: some for the better, and some severely controversial. One of these changes is the brand new state-wide phone/personal device ban in schools. Some have expressed it to be beneficial for various social reasons, while others argue this implementation is unfair.

Just as schools in New York State opened for the 2025-2026 year, governor Kathy Hochul implemented a "bell-to-bell" phone ban in schools in order to get rid of distractions in the classroom as well as trying to promote more social interaction throughout the school day. This policy not only restricts the use of smartphones, but also other internet-enabled devices such as non-school issued computers/laptops, AirPods/Bluetooth headsets, iPods, and smartwatches. When asking a few students about this phone policy, they all expressed the same concerns: acknowledging that there is some underlying good to this ban, but also claiming there are certain safety issues that make it widely disliked. "I believe the phone ban is beneficial for focusing in school," Junior Kasvi Thakor began. "But what I don't understand is why we can't have it during our free periods. Also, I feel like if anything dangerous happens, I want to be able to contact my mother." Her point overall encompasses two major points that are of question: why can't students have their devices during free periods (lunch, study hall, passing periods, etc.), and what if there is an emergency where the student would want/need to send a message to their parents?

Another student also shared her opinions, similarly mirroring the opinions and thoughts of her peers while also delving a little deeper. "In some cases I guess it's alright considering [phones] can be a distraction, especially with the younger group. My little sister says they're taking their phones out in class and hiding it from their teachers, so it is a problem there." Sophomore Nayeli Maya explained. While acknowledging the unhealthy side of smartphones, Nayeli also countered with reasons why they are necessary, especially considering the increase of school shootings in the United States.

"But it does have some safety concerns." She continued. "For example: in a case of an emergency where someone doesn't know if they'll make it out alive, they'll make it out alive, they should be able to call for help and/or give their parents a final goodbye." Although a grim thought, it is an unfortunate reality and a huge issue today. According to Everytown Research, there have been approximately 100 school shootings in America in 2025 alone, resulting in 32 total deaths and 98 injuries. Since 2020, the rate has increased astronomically to 163%.

"Although well-intentioned, I think the phone ban is restrictive by design and limits safety in emergency scenarios. There are other solutions that could be put into place." Says Henry Ridder, a Junior. Taking their statement into account, it poses a question: what other solutions could there be that would benefit the student's participation without taking away personal property? Henry adds on to their statement: "One good solution that I think could be put into place is a phone caddy in each class, and then have attendance be read from said caddy." They explain. "It'd be much less hassle than individual phone trappers, and provides natural incentives to leave your phone there while still letting students use it during passing periods and lunches." On the contrary, when asking teachers their thoughts on this policy, their attitude was overwhelmingly supportive and positive, starkly contrasting the responses of the students.

"I'm sure it's hard for students, but I'm already seeing the difference in attention between this year and last year. I think I think students are more engaged." Says Mr. Lupien, history teacher and administrator of the Hendrick Hudson S.E.E.D club. "I think we're going to see by the end of the year, grades will go up, comprehension will go up, end-of-year tests will be better…but moreso, I just see students talking to each other in ways they weren't before. So, I know that it's hard, but I think this is a good thing. I think this is a very good thing."

Upon surveying 27 of our students and staff, 41% agree with the phone law, whereas 59% disagree. Those who agreed were teachers/staff, and everybody who disagreed were students.

In the eyes of the teachers, they want their students to do the best that they can in class, which is done through paying attention, participating, and not being on their phone, which is respectable.

I n the eyes of the students, they want to have access to their devices not just to devoid their attention, but to be able to stay in contact with parents, family members and/or friends, listen to music, and have the freedom to watch a couple of TikToks when not in the classroom, which is also respectable.

Taking all things into consideration, students should be able to have their phones (in moderation), but at the end of the day it comes down to whether or not they care about their education, and whether they are willing to put in that effort, with or without their phones.

Arts & Entertainment

GOD DOES LIKE UGLY ALBUM REVIEW

By NOAH EICHENHOLTZ



PHOTO CREDIT: JID, *God Does Like Ugly*, Dreamville Records/Interscope Records 2025

On August 8th 2025, JID (Destin Route) released his 4th studio album, God Does Like Ugly. This 15 track album showcases many features that compliment JID's flow, along with story telling, and diverse beats.

On July 4th of this year JID dropped a 4 song prelude to the album. The EP overall was alright but a stand out track was "Animals pt. 1." This track features Eminem, who raps at a very impressive speed, which is nearly matched by JID himself. It seems that despite Eminem's recent dip in his quality of music, JID brings out the best in him.

The opening track for God Does Like Ugly is called "YouUgly." The song is accompanied by Westside Gunn who, rather than giving a real verse, delivers multiple lines of dialogue in the beginning and middle and end, hyping up the album. The rest of the song showcases at first a slower more methodical verse from JID, but after a brief chorus, the track quickly switches beats and JID begins a faster, more laid back delivery.

One of the best songs from the album "Glory," features a gospel inspired production and high energy verses from JID. This makes for a fantastic hype song and an overall good listen. The track also features multiple beat switches, leaving the listener never bored and causing each verse to be very unique.

"Community" is the fourth track off the album and showcases a more angry and serious JID. His belligerent delivery is perfectly matched by a feature from Clipse, the hip hop duo made up of Pusha T and his older brother Malice. Each rapper's verse creates a hard sounding and angry atmosphere that enchants the listener in their fury.

Despite songs like "Community" making a hard angry atmosphere JID also brings a softer but equally as impressive vibe in his song "Of Blue." This song opens with heavenly vocals from Mereba that creates a somber feeling but quickly changes beats and launches into the chorus. From here JID raps like the rent is due for the next 5 minutes with a beat switch halfway through. These two verses are some of the best on the album with a thought provoking chorus throughout.

God Does Like Ugly is the newest addition to JID's catalog and is very consistent with a near flawless tracklist that will leave its songs being played for years to come.



PHOTO CREDIT: Naskademini, Courtesy of Dreamville Records/Interscope Records, 2022

NYFW: A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE OF FASHION

By SAGE FAULKNER



PHOTO CREDIT: MAY BAR, 2025

If there's one event every fashion follower or influencer looks forward to every year, it's New York Fashion Week. Every year, designers, celebrities, models, and style obsessives come together to discuss one burning question: What's next?

NYFW 2025 has come to a close, but the fashion industry is far from it. From futuristic silhouettes to cozy fall comebacks, the trends on the runways this year ranged from classic pieces to bold must-haves. So, if you're wondering what your closet might look like next year (or what everyone on TikTok will probably be wearing), keep reading as we dive into the world of fashion.

But First, What Is New York Fashion Week?

In case you're new to the fashion scene, New York Fashion Week (NYFW) is a biannual event where top fashion designers show off their latest collections for the upcoming season. NYFW began in 1943 and has since become one of the "Big Four" fashion weeks in the world, alongside Paris, Milan, and London. It's kinda like the Super Bowl, only with high heels and haute couture.

Now, let's recap on the latest designs at NYFW Fall 2025 and what trends you'll be eyeing in 2026.

Designers like Marc Jacobs and Collina Strada showed oversized, "cloud-like" coats with puffy sleeves. Serving up part comfort, part statement, like your favorite puffer coat, but fashion-forward.

While labels like Dion Lee leaned hard into cyber and sci-fi vibes. Think metallic fabrics, utility belts, LED accents, and pieces that look like they belong in Blade Runner.

Eco-conscious fashion isn't just a trend anymore; it's a movement, and 2025 was the year designers doubled down. Brands showcased recycled fabrics, plant-based leather, and even 3D-printed shoes. Gabriela Heardt and Studio 189 were big sustainability stars this season.

Fluid fashion also took center stage, with unisex silhouettes, neutral tones, and pieces meant for everyone. Designers like Eckhaus Latta and Theophilio challenged the idea that clothes have to be labeled "men's" or "women's."

Statement accessories are also making a comeback, featuring oversized earrings, chunky boots, and bags shaped like literal objects (because yes, we did see a purse shaped like a fish). Accessories at NYFW were loud, bold, and definitely unconventional.

Fashion Is Expression

NYFW 2025 proved that fashion isn't just about looking good; it's about expressing yourself, pushing boundaries, and, of course, having fun. Whether you're into techwear puffed sleeves or just looking to thrift your next outfit, the message was clear: wear what you feel good in.

So go ahead, try that wild pattern, wear those new shoes, or do whatever you want. After all, the best trend of all is confidence.

Got something to say? Join *The Anchor.*

Sailor Snapshots





















Sailor Snapshots





















Sports

HEN HUD/CROTON/BRIARCLIFF BOYS VOLLEYBALL TEAM WINS 3-0 ON SENIOR NIGHT

By CAILYN ROBINSON

On October third, Hen Hud boys volleyball played against Greensburgh-North Castle for senior night. They won three to zero making this a big win for the team. Anthony Davis, an outside hitter, is one of the Hen Hud seniors on the team along with the libero, Seth DeLeon. Anthony had fifteen kills and three aces, while Seth had fourteen digs. The two sophomore players from Hen Hud are outside hitter William McKinley, as well as setter, Phoenix Hunt. William had eight kills, and Phoenix had fifteen assists, five kills, and four aces.

The Varsity team is led by coach Lisa Rudner, and assistant coach Christine Rudner. This is the first year that Hen Hud has a boys volleyball team. Seniors Anthony and Seth are very grateful for this opportunity that they were given their senior year. “I was super excited when I found out I would be able to play for a high school team. I was worried that Hen Hud wouldn't be able to offer me and Anthony a chance to play for high school, especially because we were seniors” Seth says. He adds, “I was super happy we could play during our final year as seniors, playing the sport we love for our school.”



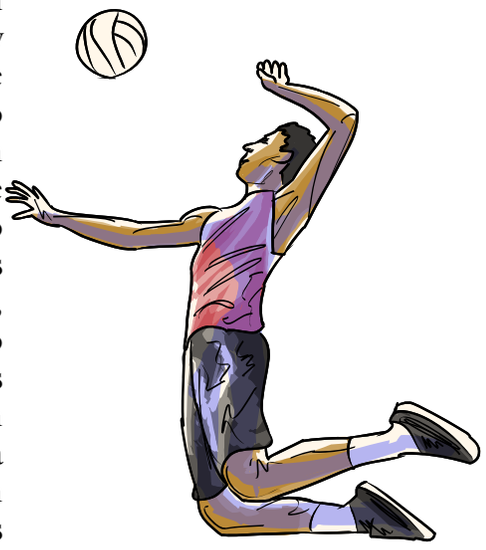
PHOTO CREDIT: LISA RUDNER, 2025

Anthony says, “I was ecstatic when I found out I could play for the high school team. Growing up, I was always watching my sisters play and I loved the way that they played and the excitement around it. I never got that opportunity in high school, so I'm grateful that I’m experiencing it in my final year.”

Since Anthony was seven years old, he’s been playing volleyball and always watched his sisters playing. Anthony says about the croton team, “It was an adjustment. Especially in the beginning.” He adds “When I got to know them outside of volleyball, it became easier. All together we love the sport, so that’s a bond we have.” Anthony says that the development of a boys volleyball team in Hen Hud is very important. “It’s an extremely important development. When I was young, there were no male volleyball players that were really making it big. I'm happy I could be a part of a new movement in this state and especially in this county. I'm excited to see what the future holds for boys volleyball.”

Seth has played volleyball for a year. He went to his brothers rec league practices where he met his coach who offered him a spot on a team at Prodigy Athletic Center. As soon as he heard the news he started to ask his brother to pepper with him, and” fell in love with the sport.” When it comes to Croton, Seth really enjoys playing for the team. He says, “Everybody has something to bring to the table, which makes the team as a whole even stronger.” He also makes a point that having a team with three different schools combined makes the team stronger due to the many different backgrounds and

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NEW JERSEY DEVILS REMAIN UNDEFEATED FOR 8 CONSECUTIVE GAMES

By AVA BARLETTA



JACK HUGHES (LEFT), DOUGIE HAMILTON (MIDDLE LEFT), FORMER DEVIL FABIAN ZETTERLUND (MIDDLE RIGHT), AND NICO HISCHIER (RIGHT)
PHOTO CREDITS: PUCKS AND PITCHFORKS

Going into the 2025-2026 season, expectations for the New Jersey team were not quite high considering their upsetting end to the season back in April. After falling to the Carolina Hurricanes in game 5 of the Stanley Cup Playoffs, it seemed that morale was low and their start to the new season wouldn’t be anything groundbreaking. However, the Devils ultimately defied those expectations and began this season on an unexpectedly high note.

“I’m very excited that it finally happened. It was longer than I thought, but it finally happened and there’s many more ahead,” says an exhilarated Gritsyuk after his goal.

In addition to their win against Minnesota, the Devils have also claimed victory against the Tampa Bay Lightning (5-3), Columbus Blue Jackets (3-2), the 2025 Stanley Cup Champions: the Florida Panthers (3-1), Edmonton Oilers (5-3), the Toronto Maple Leafs (5-2), and most recently the San Jose Sharks (3-1), and the Colorado Avalanche (4-3).



JACK HUGHES FOLLOWING HIS THIRD CAREER HAT TRICK
PHOTO CREDITS: JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI

Entering his sixth season, superstar of the Devils Jack Hughes is currently the team leader in goals with an impressive eight, and points with a total of twelve as well as achieving his third career hat trick in their game against the Toronto Maple Leafs. Additionally, Jesper Bratt is their leader in assists with seven.

It is still quite early in the 2025 NHL season and there is still a long way to go until the Stanley Cup Playoffs in April of 2026, however early impressions of this New Jersey team have been nothing short of satisfactory, and things are definitely looking good for them. With a talented roster of star players, signing new players such as Arseny Gritsyuk and Connor Brown, and resigning returning ones like Luke Hughes and Cody Glass, the team is in good shape thus far and currently have the highest probability out of any team in the NHL to clinch a playoff spot. If the Devils can keep morale up and keep fighting for wins throughout the rest of the season, they might just live up to those playoff expectations and finish with a 100-point season.



NEW JERSEY DEVILS VS. CAROLINA HURRICANES: GAME 5
PHOTO CREDITS: ALL ABOUT THE JERSEY



TIMO MEIER HIGH-FIVING THE TEAM FOLLOWING HIS GOAL AGAINST MINNESOTA
PHOTO CREDITS: ACTION NETWORK

Sports

THE CHAMPIONS OF THE 2025 US OPEN

By ZOOEY SMITH

In Women's singles, Arnya Sabalenka won against Amanda Anisimova after a tiebreaker on September 6th. Utilizing her killer forehand and mental strength, she beat one of her greatest opponents. The match lasted an hour and thirty minutes.

Sabalenka currently holds first place in the women's division. She has 21 titles in singles, and 6 doubles titles.

The prize pool for the event was over $90 million, according to the official US Open website. Both champions received around five million dollars, while the runners up received two and a half million. The rest of the money is divided amongst the other players.

This year was the largest prize pool in all of US Open history. In comparison, last year, the prize pool was around 75 million. This also makes tennis one of the largest sports throughout the world, if ranked through prize money.

On the weekend of September 6th and 7th, the final championship games of the US Open were hosted in Arthur Ashe Stadium, in Queens, New York.

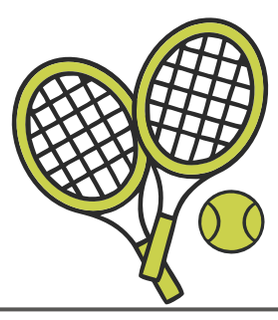
On September 7th, Carlos Alcaraz won the US Open Men's singles championship against Jannik Sinner. The match went on for almost three hours of intense gameplay, Alcaraz's well-placed shots and adaptability won him three out of four sets.

Carlos Alcaraz is currently ranked number one in the world, representing his birth country, Spain. Sinner follows close behind holding the number two title, representing Italy.

This is Alcaraz's second US Open title, with his first in 2022. In total, according to ESPN, Alcaraz holds 23 career titles across the ATP (the official international circuit in tennis, with over 55 different tournaments) men's singles.



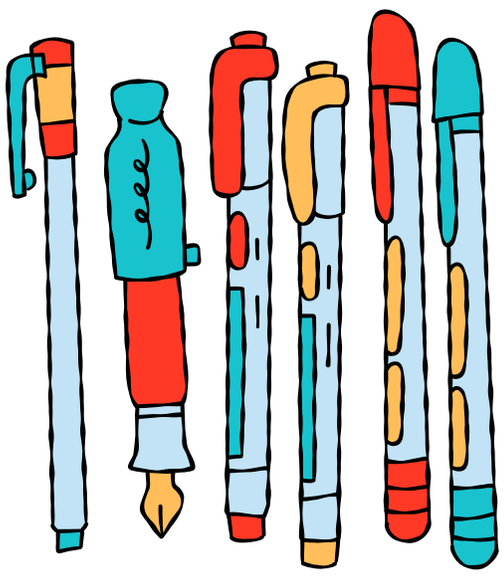
PHOTO CREDIT: FLICKR, 2025





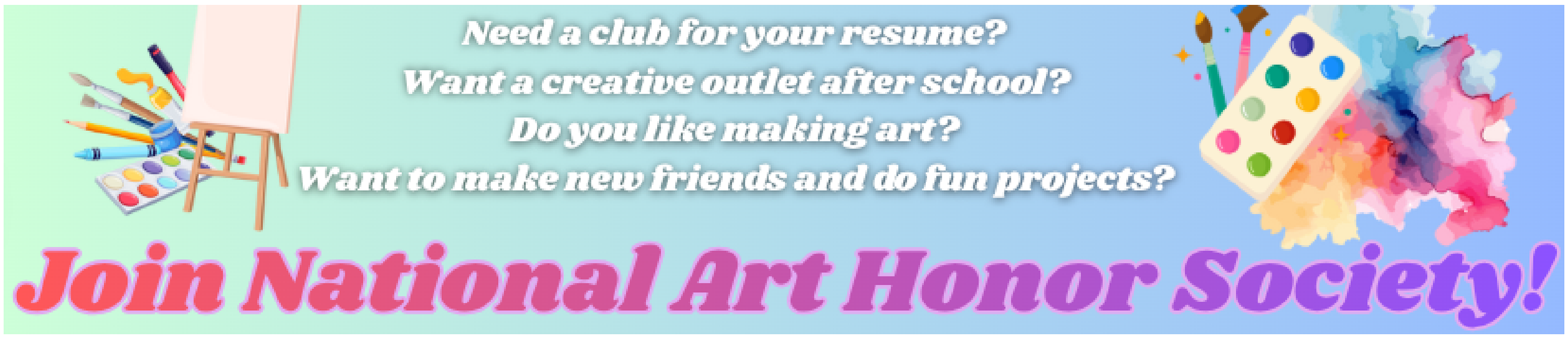












Cooking

BLUEBERRY LEMON ZEST CHEESECAKE

By SHECCID LALVAY-

Today I will be telling you how to make this delicious cheesecake *Make sure to make this the day before you need it* We will start with the crust first as it is relatively easy and fast to make. Now if you do not have a food processor you could use a blender but the result will be your crushed oreos come out clumpier (which we don't want), so just crush the rest with your whisk or something else.

Instructions:

1. For the crust you'll use about 1 row and a half of the golden oreos to make your crust. Once you have the oreos all crushed up,
2. Melt about 1 tablespoon (make sure it's not too hot) of butter in the microwave until 99% melted, meaning you should see like a tiny clump or two of butter, it'll go away when you mix it.
3. You will then slowly add and mix the melted butter with your hands (you can use gloves if you have a texture problem) to your crushed up oreos until you can pick it up with your hands , squeeze it and it will stay in that shape but can still fall apart easily.
4. Now once that's done you're going to transfer it into your spring pan or regular pan, and pat it down to start forming your crust. Make sure it is as even and thin as possible on the bottom, NO HOLES.*
5. Then start making your way to the sides of the pan and push it against the sides of the pan.
6. Pop it in the oven for about 7-9 minutes at 350°F. You're done with your crust!!

Now we move onto making the batter. The reason i recommend using a spring pan is to not use the water bath method It's basically when you're baking the cheesecake in a larger pan filled with hot water to help it bake evenly, it also helps to prevent cracking, and achieve a creamier texture), however if you would like to try it, go ahead!

1. You are going to start by microwaving one 8oz packet of cream cheese for thirty seconds.
2. Once out of the microwave pop the second one in for thirty seconds and start mixing the melted-ish cream cheese until it starts to become softer and less tough.
3. add in about ½ cup of powdered sugar while mixing.
4. When the second one is done, pop in the third one for 30 seconds and start mixing the cream cheese in with the first one
5. Once it's soft add in another ½ of powdered sugar and repeat the process until you have all the sugar and cream cheese incorporated well.
6. Now you MUST taste it, if you think it needs more sugar feel free to add more. But remember the blueberry jam we will be making will make it sweeter!
7. Once you have that done add 2 large eggs and whisk.
8. Now add in ½ a tablespoon of vanilla extract along with half a TEASPOON of salt (or a small pinch).
9. The last three things we will be adding is the ¾ of a cup of flour
10. zest your lemon. zesting means to just use a grater and start grating away at the peel of the lemon or outermost part.
11. Once you have your lemon completely zested you'll cut it in half and squeeze the entire lemon into the batter, and (you guessed it mix!!!)
12. Add that into the crust once the crust is finished. Don't put it away just yet!
13. Once that's done you'll start making your jam. Put a cup of blueberries in a pot (not too big ofc)
14. add lemon juice
15. granulated sugar (not powdered sugar!)
16. Boil it at a medium heat until it starts to thicken up.
17. If you have agar agar powder you can add that it will make it taste better, if you don't, that's fine, I mean I didn't add any.
18. Then make dollops or circle of the jam to the batter
19. with a butter knife make a marbling design. You do this by taking the butter knife, putting it in the batter and just going up and down and once you do all of it switch from left to right till you get the design you like!
20. Now the crumble is relatively easy. All you have to do is in a bowl
21. add about 5 of the crushed up biscoff or Oreo cookies
22. about ½ a tablespoon of softened room temperature butter
23. add 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
24. ½ a teaspoon of salt
25. ¾ of flour.
26. Once it is all incorporated you can put it all around or completely cover it with the crumble.
27. Pop it in the oven for 1 hour at 350° F.
28. Once an hour has passed, turn the oven off and leave it in there for another hour
29. Once that's done, leave it outside on your kitchen counter for another hour and when the hour is up pop it in the fridge overnight and enjoy!

Ingredients:

Batter

- 4 8oz cream cheese packets
- ¾ cup of flour
- ½ a tablespoon of vanilla extract
- ½ a teaspoon of salt (or a pinch)
- 2 eggs
- ½ a cup of powdered sugar **PER!!!** Cream cheese packet
- zest of a lemon
- 1 juice of a lemon

Crust

- 1 packet of golden oreos
- 1 stick of butter (you wont use it all)
- (you'll also need a food processor)
- Spring pan or a regular one
- Biscoff/Golden Oreo Crumble
- Golden oreos or biscoff cookies
- ½ a tablespoon of vanilla extract
- ¾ cup of flour
- ½ a teaspoon of salt
- Blueberry jam
- 1 cup of blueberries
- ½ a cup of granulated sugar
- 1 lemon, juiced
- Agar agar powder (optional, kinda)



Want to see your name in print? Join *The Anchor.*

Recommendations by *The Anchor Staff*

Video Games:

Noah E.:

***Ghost of Yotei* Developed by Sucker punch studios (2025)**

This game, set in 1603 in Japan, follows a woman, Atsu, who returns to her home in order to hunt down the Yotei Six, a gang that killed her family 16 years ago and has now taken over the region. Traverse the large map on a horse, collect and learn different weapons, and hunt down the people who murdered your parents.



PHOTO CREDIT: SUCKER PUNCH STUDIOS, 2025

May B.:

***Hollow Knight Developed* by Team Cherry (2017)**

Hollow Knight follows the story of a nameless knight surrounded by an "infected" abandoned kingdom. As you explore hallownest more is revealed about how this kingdom fell. The bosses in this game are difficult but very rewarding. This game will keep you hooked for hours and there is almost always more to do even when you think you beat the game.



PHOTO CREDIT: TEAM CHERRY, 2017





PHOTO CREDIT: FROMSOFTWARE INC., 2022

Noah E.:

***Elden Ring* Developed by FromSoftware inc. (2022)**

This game of the year winner is a massive open world that is difficult yet extremely rewarding. You play the game as a Tarnished in the lands between. Travel over the different landscapes on your horse, fight bosses and discover allies on your quest to become Elden Lord. This game holds thousands of hours of content that will leave you always wanting more. From compellingly written lore to expertly crafted and polished gameplay to beautiful graphics this game is truly one for the ages.

Movies:

Ava B.:

Captain America: The Winter Soldier directed by Joe & Anthony Russo (2014)

After being frozen for 70 years and fighting against extraterrestrial alien-beings as a part of the Avengers, the World War II hero turned super-soldier Steve Rogers, or Captain America (played by Chris Evans), returns to the Marvel Cinematic Universe for his second solo movie. When head director of the S.H.I.E.L.D organization, Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson), is unexpectedly murdered by the infamous Winter Soldier, the whole agency becomes compromised and Rogers is told to no longer trust anybody. Because of this, he is labelled as a traitor for seemingly not providing any information that would help track down the assassin, and becomes a fugitive. Whilst on the run, he teams up with Russian spy Natasha Romanoff, or the "Black Widow" (Scarlett Johansson), and Sam Wilson, also known as the "Falcon" (Anthony Mackie). Together, the trio discovers that S.H.I.E.L.D has been hijacked by Hydra–a terrorist organization that experiments on enhanced individuals to strive for world domination–and the Winter Soldier is, not only a product of Hydra that had been brainwashed into working for them, but Steve Rogers' closest friend from the 1940s: Bucky Barnes (Sebastian Stan), whom he thought had died. Released in 2014, this film is arguably one of the greatest Marvel movies, and definitely worth the watch!

Ella H.:

***Hacksaw Ridge* directed by Mel Gibson (2016)**

Andrew Garfield's portrayal of Desmond Doss in *Hacksaw Ridge* provides a unique perspective on war. As a result of religious reasons, Doss does not want to serve his country with a rifle in his hand, but rather a tourniquet. This "mostly historically accurate" movie shows Doss's early life, bootcamp and eventually the Battle of Okinawa where Doss is a fearless medic running into a swarm of bullets to save lives. Doss teaches us the importance of bravery and being able to make a contribution even though sometimes it may not be through a traditional lens. The movie is suspenseful and heart wrenching at the same time with compassionate undertones because of Desmond Doss's merciful mentality which is not often associated with protagonists in war movies. *Hacksaw Ridge* is well worth your time!



PHOTO CREDIT: GIBSON, 2016

May B.:

***Dogma* directed by Kevin Smith (1999)**

Dogma was a disputed movie back when it was released in 1999. It was considered to be very gory as well as religiously controversial. This film, directed by Kevin Smith, follows two fallen angels who were rejected by God and punished to earth. They find a loophole to their banishment to heaven through a church in New Jersey, though if they succeed, they will destroy humanity.



PHOTO CREDIT: SMITH, 1999



PHOTO CREDIT: NIRVANA, 1993

Albums:

Cailyn R.:

***In Utero* by Nirvana (1993)**

Nirvana is one of the most popular grunge bands from the 90s. Their 1993 album, *In Utero*, perfectly encapsulates the grunge feeling. With tracks such as "Serve The Servants", and "Heart-Shaped Box", the album has been an important piece in the development of grunge music. *In Utero* was actually considered to be more harsh music, compared to the other albums from the band. Nirvana actually had the producer of the band R.E.M lighten up the tracks so they would be more radio friendly. Nirvana will always be known as one of the pioneers of grunge music, and continues to have an influence on grunge and rock music today.



PHOTO CREDIT: TALKING HEADS, 1983

Zooey S.:

Speaking in Tongues by Talking Heads (1983)

Speaking in Tongues is the Talking Heads' fifth album, released during the summer of 1983. The album blends a unique balance of new wave and art rock, unlike any other album before it. Some of the most popular tracks include "Burning Down the House", "This Must Be the Place", and "Girlfriend is Better". The sound of the album changes from song to song, some slow and mellow, while others can be fast-paced and energetic. Some of the lyrics you may hear may not make sense, but this was the goal of David Byrne, lead singer of the band. Overall, this album is a great listen- it may be different from what you're used to, but it will quickly get stuck in your head and your rotation.

May B.:

***Americana* by The Offspring (1998)**

Americana is The Offspring's fifth studio album and was released November seventeenth, 1998. Though it is not their most popular album, it definitely has many hits. The most popular song on this album by far is, "Pretty Fly (For a White Guy)." This is an iconic song in the punk-rock genre, but there are many more songs with the same type of sound. Americana is not only a great rock album, it also speaks on many American issues as lyrics are very important in music. While you should give every Offspring album a listen, *Americana* should definitely be towards the top of your list.



PHOTO CREDIT: THE OFFSPRING, 1998

May B.:

***Dookie* by Green Day (1994)**

Dookie, by Green Day, is a 90's rock staple. This album has many hits such as "Basket Case" and "Welcome to Paradise" but has many other incredible songs that aren't as popular. Like most of Green Day, *Dookie* has that dad-rock feel to it that will leave you with the kind of nostalgia you weren't alive for. This album can make you feel transported into the 90's with it's classic punk rock sound.

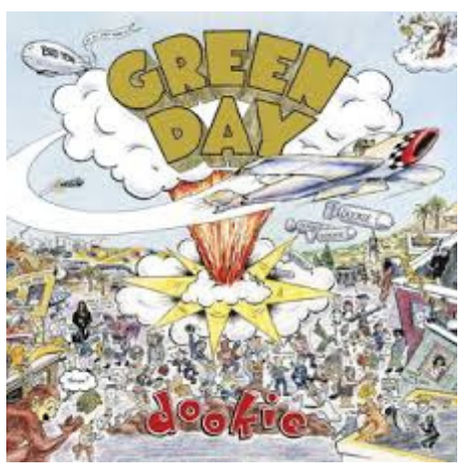
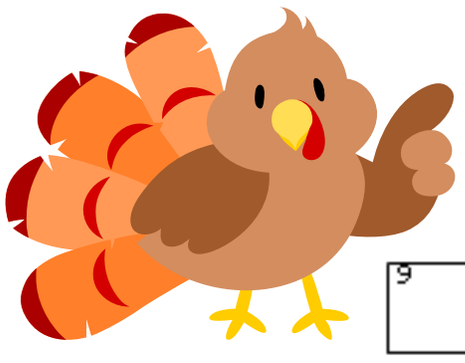
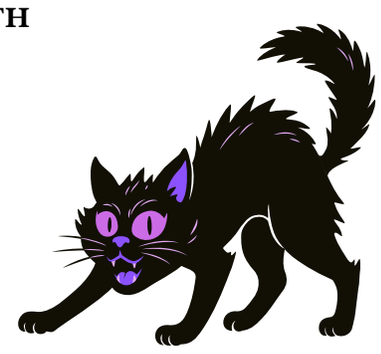


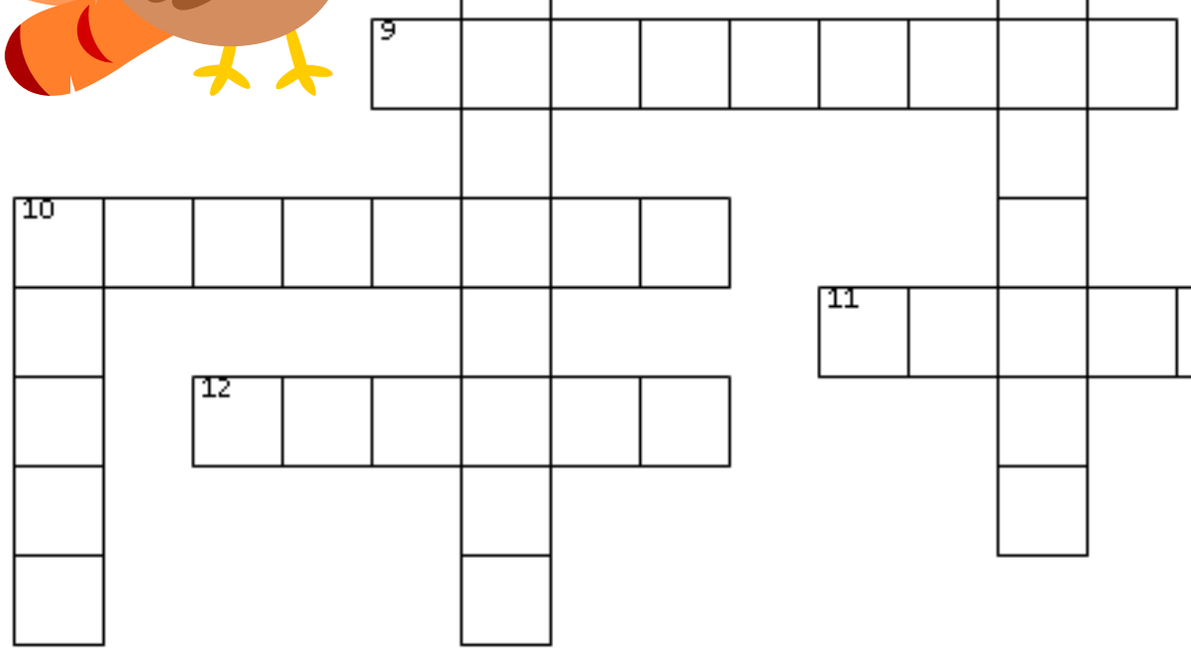
PHOTO CREDIT: GREEN DAY, 1994

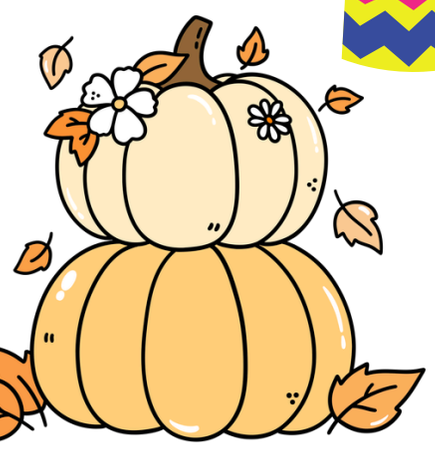
Fun & Games

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER CROSSWORD

By ZOOEY SMITH

ACROSS

2. Composer of Lacrimosa
4. Common fruit used to make all sorts of fall desserts
9. A woodworker, or famous pop singer
10. New york's state bird
11. Mary Shelley's famous novel
12. This word could be used to describe halloween
14. The first star sign of October

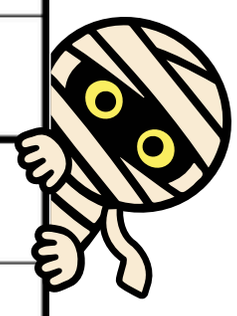
DOWN

1. Another word for a ghost, or evil spirit?
3. Bump, set, spike
5. Delicious fall dessert, typically orange
6. October's flower
7. One of the most famous bands of all time, also an insect
8. _____ Ring, popular video game
10. You have around 206 of these
13. The finishing coat on pottery

SUDOKU

By ZOOEY SMITH

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



WORD SEARCH

BY ZOOEY SMITH

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

Apple Candy Football Ghost
Halloween Homecoming Moon
October Pie Pumpkin Squash
Tennis Track Yam Zombie