



VALEDICTORIAN AND
SALUTATORIAN ANNOUNCED FOR
CLASS OF 2023

By HAYDEN BOUZA

MONTROSE, New York -- In an eagerly anticipated announcement, Hendrick Hudson High School proudly revealed the names of the valedictorian and salutarian for the graduating class of 2023. The prestigious titles were awarded to two exceptional students, Peter Kochek and Kayla Cohen, who have both demonstrated remarkable academic prowess, leadership skills, and unwavering dedication throughout their high school journey.

Amidst an impressive pool of candidates, Peter, commonly known as PJ, Kochek has emerged as the valedictorian of the class of 2023. With an unparalleled commitment to academic excellence, PJ has not only achieved the highest grade point average in the graduating class but has also excelled in a myriad of extracurricular activities.

Kochek has consistently demonstrated a passion for making a positive impact both within and beyond the school walls. From leading multiple student organizations to excelling in athletics, such as his role as president in both National

Honor Society and Future Business Leaders of America, and leading the Hen Hud Boys Varsity Soccer Team through the season, his dedication is obvious. His exceptional work ethic, coupled with his ability to inspire and lead his peers, has left a lasting mark on the school community. It is safe to say that

this same dedication will continue during his journey at the University of Rochester, where he will be majoring in business analytics.

"I'm honored to be named valedictorian of the class of 2023," expressed PJ. "'The most important thing I've learned is that you always have to make sure what you're doing is truly worthwhile for yourself, not for others' expectations."

The title of salutarian has been awarded to Kayla Cohen, a remarkable student who has consistently demonstrated exceptional academic prowess and leadership capabilities. Kayla's tireless dedication to her studies and active involvement in various clubs and organizations have

solidified her position as one of the most respected students in the class. Beyond her academic achievement, she is president of Student Government, HOSA, Green Team and captain of the Girls Varsity Soccer Team. After graduating, Kayla will go on to attend college at UC Davis with a major in veterinary sciences.

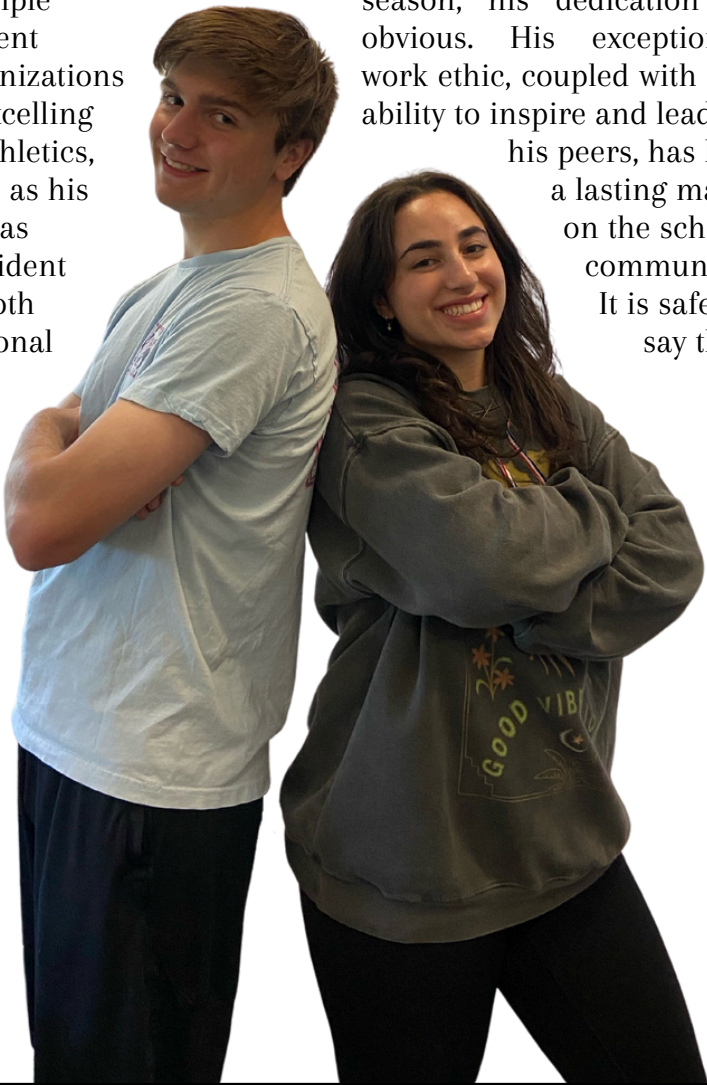
"I am honored to be named as the salutarian of the class of 2023," shared Cohen. "The experience that I had at Hen Hud to reach this accomplishment was not easy, but I think it showed me that hard work does pay off."

The valedictorian and salutarian titles represent not only academic excellence but

also serve as beacons of inspiration for the graduating class. Both students embody the values and virtues that Hendrick Hudson High School strives to instill in its students, setting a high standard for them.

They both will have the honor of addressing their peers and delivering speeches during the upcoming graduation ceremony on June 16th, where they will share their unique reflections and experiences. The entire Hendrick Hudson community eagerly awaits this momentous occasion and looks forward to celebrating the remarkable achievements of the class of 2023.

Congratulations to Peter and Kayla on their exceptional achievements!



National College
Decision Day

By ZACHARY ZALAMEA

As a high school senior, one of the most important decisions you'll make is deciding where you'll attend college. And for some, it becomes a dilemma. As the National College Decision Day approaches, you will feel your heart beating faster, your pupils dilating, and you find yourself breathing deeper. It's okay because these are just the signs of excitement. But the

question you should really ask yourself is....are you prepared for college? Let us explore College Decision Day. What it means and how you can prepare for it.

National College Decision Day, also known as College Signing Day falls on the first day of May each year. It marks the end of the college application process. On this day, high school seniors who applied and were accepted into one or more colleges must

confirm their enrollment with the school of their choice, which is usually attached to an enrollment deposit. However, it's also important to pay attention to the deadlines of schools that you have applied to. Some colleges with rolling admissions usually have different dates and some might just set a different enrollment or deposit deadline for other countless reasons. Each college or university will have its own procedure for submitting an enrollment deposit and confirming your acceptance. So be sure to review the procedure for the school

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Take it or
Leave It:
Hen Hud's
Little Free
Library

By SARAH NABI

WESTCHESTER, New York -- The past few weeks have seen a curious change to the school grounds. This is none other than the newest addition to the high school, the Lit Mag and Reading Club's Little Free Library. Frequented by students pausing to search for a good read or to drop off one of their own, the colorfully painted box sits by the main entrance stairs. Working together to commemorate Read Across America week which occurred in early March, the clubs put up the mini library on March 29th.

The idea behind the mini library is simple: anyone can stop by and take a book as long as they replace it with another book of their own. This creates an environment where books can be shared throughout the school and community without the trouble of spending money or having old books take

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PHOTO CREDIT: DISCOVER NEPA



PHOTO CREDIT: THE STAMFORD ADVOCATE

Indian Point Decommissioning

The plan to dump tritium in the Hudson River threatens surrounding counties. Read more on page 5.

SEED CLUB PRESENTS



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JOIN CHESS CLUB



MEETINGS EVERY MONDAY IN ROOM 126

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ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN LITMAG! KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THIS YEAR'S EDITION.



All Rise!

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Love to argue? Love winning? Then you belong here! Come join us every other Monday in Room 201

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A LOOK BACK ON THE YEAR



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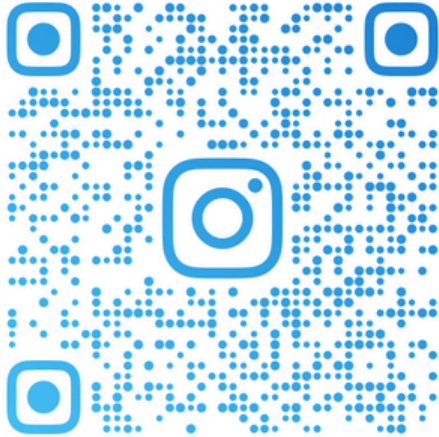
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The *Anchor* staff appreciate a variety of viewpoints and ideas. Readers may respond to any article in *The Anchor* and letters may be published in the next print issue.

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

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Facts of Interest

The Indian Point Decommission Plan will release tirtrium into the Hudson.

Hollywood's best and brightest writers are on strike for better wages.

Reading 7+ books per year increases your chances of becoming a millionaire by 122%.

School & Community

THE ANCHOR

NATIONAL COLLEGE DECISION DAY

CONTINUED FROM
FRONT PAGE

you’re planning to attend so you’re ready to go on or before the big day.

Before committing to the college of your choice, know the total cost of attendance - after financial aid - for each school you have applied to. Review your financial aid offers so you can compare the net cost of attendance of each of the schools. It is only when you compare the cost after your financial aid package will you truly know which school is more affordable. Consider appealing a financial aid award if needed, if you feel that the financial aid package offered to you is not enough. Your financial situation might change after you complete your FAFSA, or a school’s aid offer might just come up short.

College Decision Day is the ending of your dedication and hard work in researching schools, writing essays, submitting applications, campus tours, taking entrance exams, and eagerly waiting for acceptance letters in the mail. Once you have made your decision and paid your deposit, you can now move on to the next chapter. And that is to plan ahead for your upcoming college student life. There’s plenty of time between May

and August to do a couple more things such as picking up scholarship money for school. It’s always a good idea to look for extra funding sources for school to avoid the need to lean on student loans. You can start applying for scholarships during your senior year and when you’re in college. It’s common for students enrolled in college to look for new scholarship money each semester. So make sure you research the best sources to find this free money for school.

Focus on exploring your interests during the summer. The summer before college is the perfect time for you to shift your focus from college applications to thinking about gaining experience by having a summer job and exploring new hobbies. This will be a great way to build your college resume.

Spend quality time with family and friends before heading off to college to reinforce those essential bonds. Prepare for college campus life. Start thinking through the big decisions such as, will you be living in the dorms with roommates or at home? Are you going to pledge to a fraternity or sorority, will you invest your free time in clubs or a collegiate sport? There are so many options, and you have time to explore more and work



PHOTO CREDIT: @HENHUDCLASSOF2023 ON INSTAGRAM

through these decisions. And lastly, keep track of your school’s Registration and Student Orientation Day which normally happens in the summertime. This is when you meet with other incoming students and professors in your program which is a great way to get comfortable on campus as you prepare for your first day of your college life. College Decision Day frees you to look towards your bright future.

Take it or Leave It: Hen Hud’s Little Free Library

CONTINUED FROM
FRONT PAGE

up space in the back of a closet. Not only is it convenient and sustainable, but the book box allows both new and seasoned readers to share their love of reading.

Kaitlyn Krupa (a co-president of the Reading Club) agrees, saying that the mini library will hopefully “help foster a love of reading.” For her, reading has always been “a

fun form of education; you can learn a lot through other people’s mistakes and stories, things that you may not from school.” So even though she’s a senior and will be unable to use the library next year, she’s “happy to leave this legacy for future students.”

These are ideas that the members of the Reading and LitMag clubs hold dear, enough that they spent days painting, priming, and building the library itself. Though now

almost a month from its first day up, their efforts clearly proved to be fruitful as the library has remained popular. Many students continue to borrow and donate books, and even if some don’t, the library is appreciated for its refreshingly vibrant contribution to the front of the school building. Undoubtedly, Hen Hud’s little free library is a wonderful addition to our school and community.

Junior Class Club Holds Hen Hud’s First GeoGuessr Tournament

By KACIE BURNS

WESTCHESTER, New York -- On May 17th, the Junior Class held a GeoGuessr Tournament after school in the library. As a fundraiser, students competed against each other in the online game GeoGuessr. GeoGuessr uses Google Maps and Maps’ Street View to place players in various parts of the world where they have to guess where they are. Before time runs out, players look at language, street signs, cars, and even agriculture to determine where they are to win

points based on proximity. 10 students participated among three teams: AARI, TrisBen, and ArtsyFarts. The freshmen team AARI won the first round of



ARTWORK BY KACIE BURNS

global history, leading with 10 points. Trailing behind were the ArtsyFarts, followed by TrisBen. In round two, ArtsyFarts took the lead, and wound up tying with AARI. To switch

up gameplay, round three had a global map but with only 30 seconds to choose – ArtsyFarts got an almost perfect score in the first round, but sadly forgot to guess on the next map before time ran out.

Famous places, the fourth round, started with AARI in the lead. Places like the Notre Dame of Montreal, Athens and King Ramses’ Castle allowed players to get almost scores.

In the end, AARI caught the lead, making the winners freshmen Declan Clarke, Luca Tucci, and Aaryan Sharma!

Congrats to the winning team!



Club members with the completed library (Left to Right: Kaitlyn Krupa, Neyssa Birotte, Lexi Schaffer, Sarah Nabi, Simrah Hassan, Ember Bates, Chiara Quick, Mrs. Maye, and Rebekah Anderson)

History of American Prom

By ELAINE CLARKE

American prom has a rooted history in America, despite only dating as far back as to the late 19th century. However prom’s impact on American media and its importance in a student’s time at high school shows its the great significance of the tradition in American culture.

Prom has been a part of American high school culture since the 1920s, however the promenade ball has earlier roots in the 19th century, beginning as an event for college students similar to debutante balls. It allowed for college age students to intermingle and, taking influences from debutante balls, potentially find their future spouse.

However during the 1920s and 30s, balls transitioned into a high school event for the seniors. In the early 20th century, prom consisted of simple tea parties where high school students talked in their best clothes under strict supervision of teachers and parents.

By the 1940s and 50s, prom had become more similar to the party event we know today. High schoolers wore more extravagant clothing, proms were held at hotel ballrooms and country

clubs, rather than high school gyms, and the tradition of boys inviting girls as dates began. Prom court was more competitive as well, as students strove to be the best dressed and most popular. Prom queen and king were an important part of this popularity and high school prom became the culmination of a student’s social life.

In the 1960s and 70s, prom had entered a political sphere as the racial segregation of prom began to be challenged by students and parents. Many schools had become integrated after *Brown v. Board* in 1954, but schools continued to hold segregated proms: one for white students and one for black students. Many schools continued to hold segregated proms, even after the Civil Rights movement, like one school, Wilcox County High School

in Abbeville Georgia, finally having their first integrated prom in 2013.

From the 1980s until today, schools also began to struggle with LGBT inclusion in prom. The extremely heteronormative event of prom was challenged by students who went against the norm. Students were often banned from taking same-sex dates to prom or dressing in a way that went against traditional gender norms.

Prom today has become an exciting event open to all high school students, and some have even begun removing old traditions such as prom court in an effort to be more inclusive. High school prom is known for being an important event in any high schooler’s life, where students talk, dance, and reminisce before leaving high school.



PHOTO CREDIT: THE INDEPENDENT

TAKE A BOOK JOURNEY IN FRIDAY’S READING CLUB



COME AND RELAX NEXT FRIDAY (OR ANY FRIDAY) AT READING CLUB IN ROOM 202! BRING YOUR CURRENT FUN READ OR CHOOSE A BOOK FROM THE CLUB LIBRARY. AND BRING A FRIEND! WE ARE ACTIVELY RECRUITING NEW MEMBER AND ALL ARE WELCOME! :)



PHOTO CREDIT: ON THE BANKS OF THE RED CEDAR (MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY)

PROMPOSALS: TIME TO TRADE IN THE TRADITION?

PRO

By ELAINE CLARKE

Promposals are a cute tradition associated with prom and the prom season. Despite the fact that many promposals lead to embarrassment or awkwardness between the promposal-er and the promposal-ee, they can often be sweet moments between two teens excited for the prom season. However, the most important factor in this sweetness is context.

Promposals have to be given in specific instances where you know you will get a “yes.” In other words, you are proposing to your partner or a friend and have already established that you are going to prom together. Promposals should not be moments for making grand gestures to someone you barely know, but rather more personal proposals to show your affinity—whether romantic or platonic—to your date.

There is innate sweetness in the idea since you can personalize your promposal to your dates likes and dislikes. Many include cute puns that deliver a clever twist to the interests of whom you are asking. Overall, this adds flare to your prom date, by incorporating more thought into and importance to the proposal since It is often more fun than simply asking.

People feel that promposals are often too public, and can embarrass your date out of going with you. However, that’s up to you and your date. If you know your promposal-ee is uncomfortable with bringing that kind of attention to themselves, it would probably be a better idea to stay away from big, public promposals and rather do something simpler. However, if both you and your date are comfortable with grand promposal ideas, you are welcome to go all out and have fun with the event.



PHOTO CREDIT: RAISING TEENS TODAY

At its core, the controversy with promposals is rooted from unexpected proposals. Yes, the promposal should be a surprise to your date, since it makes the whole spiel much more exciting and fun. But usually this is only true if the person is already your date. Overall, promposals are a sweet and fun part of prom season and can truly add to your prom experience through a well-thought out, cute, potentially punny promposal.

By KACIE BURNS

One of the core pillars of American high school culture is prom, and with that is all the awkwardness and embarrassment of finding a date. Although cute and seemingly “loving,” promposals add unneeded pressure to the already hectic environment of prom.

Being asked in a grand display of emotion forces a person into making a decision they don’t want to

CON

make. Someone showing up to your house or work with a poster, chocolates, and even their friends creates anxiety around the situation, but also embarrassment. The added pressure of being asked so publicly makes saying “no” almost impossible. At worst you embarrass them (and yourself a little) in front of everyone, and at best you hurt their feelings. Saying “yes” when you don’t mean only makes prom worse for you; prom is supposed to be looked forward to, not dreaded.

The whole idea of promposals feels outdated; don’t they just reassert stereotypical gender roles concerning relationships? Most of the time, it’s only guys asking girls, which only just takes away a girl’s choice to choose whom they want to ask or go to prom with. Asking someone to prom doesn’t have to be a one-sided decision, but constantly resorting to promposals cements the

“asking to prom” as a male duty. Girls should have a say in the process of being asked and going to prom.

Additionally, no one really can consent to being asked because it ruins the surprise. Not everyone wants a display of affection in front of their peers, family, or coworkers, and not everyone reads social cues that hint at uncomfortability. Prom doesn’t need to be some romantic gesture when going with friends or alone is perfectly acceptable. Dates shouldn’t be pushed as the norm for prom, as they just create more stress and enforce archaic notions of relationships. Just because prom is a rite of passage doesn’t mean old-fashioned traditions need to still be practiced.

What's your take? Write a letter to the editor!

Science & Technology

THE ANCHOR

INDIAN POINT DECOMMISSIONING RAISES HEALTH CONCERNS

By ZACHARY ZALAMEA

HUDSON VALLEY, New York -- Holtec International is heading the decommissioning plan for the Indian Point nuclear plant, which may cause harm to life in the Hudson River and residents of the surrounding counties. The plan is raising attention across the Hudson Valley as carcinogens are set to be dumped in the local river.

Nuclear power provides the second-largest share of New York’s in-state electricity generation according to the U.S. Energy Atlas, supplying approximately one-fourth of the state’s electricity in 2021. Indian Point, one of New York’s four nuclear plants (Fitzpatrick, Gina, and Nine Mile Point), accounted for almost two-fifths of the state’s nuclear-generating capacity in 2019. After 65 years of providing electricity safely to the region, Indian Point, a three-unit nuclear power plant in Buchanan, New York went permanently offline in April 2021. Holtec International, an energy industry company founded in Mount Laurel, New Jersey, and based in Florida, purchased the plant in May 2021. A deal that allowed the power



PHOTO CREDIT: LAURYN STARKE FOR THE MARIST CIRCLE

plant to enter immediate decommissioning. The decommissioning plan, originally set for August 2023, involves discharging one million gallons of radioactive wastewater into the Hudson River, which concerns the Hudson Valley communities. The potential environmental and public health impacts will affect public resources, including such as drinking water and the Hudson River’s wildlife.

Decommissioning is the process by which nuclear power plants are safely retired from service. This involves decontamination of the facility to decrease the amount of residual radioactivity, dismantling

the structure, and removal of contaminated materials to the appropriate facilities for disposal. As the nuclear plant undergoes the decommissioning process, security is enforced to safeguard the facility until all the nuclear fuel has been completely removed from the site. The water that will be discharged from the plant contains tritium, a radioactive form of hydrogen that is a byproduct of nuclear fission. According to the National Institute of Health, tritium decays by giving off beta particles, which has the potential to damage cells or DNA if ingested. Ingestion of high levels of tritium has been

linked to cancer. Pregnant women and children are the most vulnerable to complications from coming into contact with tritium.

Holtec International, the company that owns the nuclear plant, and that will be executing the decommissioning plan, claimed that dumping the wastewater into the river is the “best option” for handling the remnants of radioactive chemicals. The concentrations of tritium released will be below the level required by federal standards. Despite this, some environmental groups still believe that those standards are insufficient to protect the Hudson River and its surrounding communities. Dr. Zion Klos, a professor of environmental science at Marist College, said that most chemical issues in the Hudson don’t actually show up from people breathing or being exposed to that chemical. Most of it is from bioaccumulation in animals, particularly fish that people eat. There is a

good population of people that don’t just fish for sport, but also fish to supplement their income and their diet.

Activist groups in the Hudson Valley, including Riverkeeper, a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection of the Hudson River, are pushing for alternative methods of disposal that don’t involve the introduction of waste into the Hudson River. There are two viable alternatives, but they also come with their own downsides: transferring the radioactive waste to an alternate site, or storing the chemicals at Indian Point and allowing them to decay over time. Containing the radioactive waste onsite at Indian Point poses a threat of danger to the area close to the plant, and storing the chemicals onsite will also be very expensive. “If you kept it on-site, you may have issues with it getting into the groundwater,” Dr. Klos said. “There’s always a risk of it getting into the

groundwater and drinking water options.” He also explained that shipping the waste comes with the risk of spills and accidents during transport, which could release higher levels of tritium into other communities. The chemicals could end up in “someone else’s backyard,” as Dr. Klos put it, which calls into question issues about environmental justice and why it is acceptable to expose other communities to potential health dangers over Hudson Valley communities.

The projected date of the first release of the wastewater is in September 2023. Other batch releases that are estimated to hold an estimated 18,000 gallons each are tentatively scheduled for June and April 2024, and August 2025. The current pause from the original timeline of August will give the state time to independently test and verify the contents of the water before the initial release in September.

Introducing “Digidog”, New York’s First Robot Police Officer

By ZACHARY ZALAMEA

They say every dog has his day and April 11 was Digidog's day. New York City officials gathered in Times Square Tuesday morning to roll out a new initiative in the ongoing war on crime. The New York Police Department is reenlisting the four legged, 70-pound (32 kgs) robotic canine which was initially deployed years ago but dismissed by the previous administration after facing some backlash from critics. Digidog, also known as “Spot” is a \$74,000 remote-controlled robot created by Boston Dynamics in Massachusetts, owned by Hyundai Motor Group. It is designed to work in dangerous situations that

pose a threat to humans like hostage standoffs, perform inspections in dangerous areas, and monitor construction sites.

Digidog, who was previewed exclusively by WABC TV Eyewitness News back in December 2020, fell victim to calls by civil rights advocates to cut police department funding. Its first appearance was in 2021 when the NYPD touted its ability to use its cameras, lights and communication system to help police in dangerous situations. Critics spoke out against the use of Digidog over

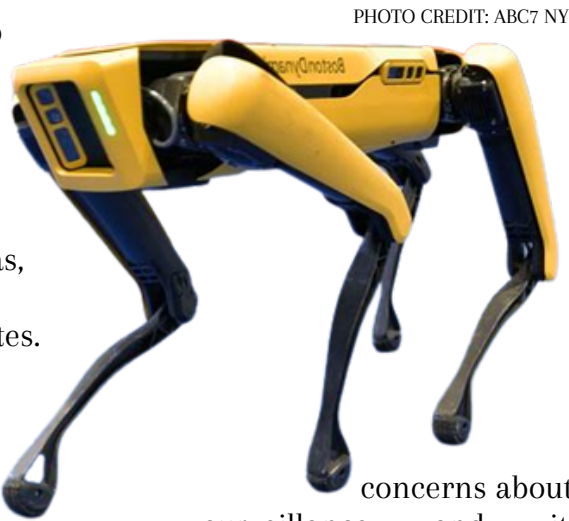


PHOTO CREDIT: ABC7 NY

concerns about surveillance and its emblematic aggressive policing which caused the NYPD to immediately cancel its contract with Boston Dynamics. "A few loud people were opposed to it and we took a step back. That is not how I operate," Adams said during a news conference. "We are scanning the globe to find technology that will assure this city is safe."

Police Commissioner Keechant Sewell said the robotic canine is part of the NYPD's history of leveraging technology to "safeguard a modern city." Two men were being held hostage in a Bronx apartment in 2021.They had been threatened at gunpoint, tied up, and tortured for hours by two other men who pretended to be plumbers to get inside, the police said. One of the victims managed to escape and called the police, who showed up early at the apartment on East 227th Street. Unsure if the armed men were still inside, police deployed

Digidog with a loping gait, cameras and lights affixed to its frame and a two-way communication system that allowed the officer maneuvering it remotely to see and hear what was happening. Digidog was able to see in the dark and assessed how safe it was for the police officers to enter the apartment building.

“The use of these technologies will be transparent, consistent and always done in collaboration with the people that we serve," Sewell said. The NYPD is leasing the new Robocop, which Mayor Adams

compared to a Roomba, equipped with multiple cameras and sensors to patrol Times Square and the Times Square subway station this summer. "This K5 robot provides real-time situational awareness and actionable intelligence to first responders and also provides a physical crime deterrence," NYPD Chief Maddrey said. “Our job is to fight crime and keep people safe, and these tools are significant steps forward in that vital mission.”. The announcement comes as the city continues to battle crime on the subways and elsewhere.



Current Events

THE ANCHOR

THE WRITERS BEHIND THE SCENES: PUTTING THE PEN DOWN FOR PAY

By KACIE BURNS

Since May 2nd, 2023, the Writers Guild of America has been on strike in a demand for better working conditions and pay after negotiations with the Alliance Of Motion Picture and Television Producers failed. Lack of compromise has led many daily TV shows like “Saturday Night Live,” “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon,” and various other late-night shows to stop production. Series that remain in production, such as “Rings of Power” and “Severance,” are also under threat,being affected by unfinished scripts and lack of supervision.

Consisting of over 11,500 writers, the WGA advocates for writers of all industries ranging from daily TV to film. In 2007 and 2008, the WGA went on a 100-day strike in which the union won, proving their worth in the industry by costing production companies an estimated \$1.5 billion. The main motive for the 2007 strike was better wages: “Our basic mantra is if they get paid, we get paid,” said Patric Verrone, president of the Writers Guild West in 2007. Although fighting for similar demand, this more recent strike has particularly targeted the streaming industry and companies like Netflix.

The WGA wants viewership-based residuals on streaming services,

meaning that writers would earn more money based on how many people watch their show. Cable TV shows generate residual payments for writers, so every time an episode is rerun, writers and producers earn money from that rerun. But since streaming services don't offer live TV, writers don't gain any money made from a show after its release, despite possibly increasing membership or revenue for the service. Not to mention, some of the best TV shows and movies in recent years have come from streaming services, not cable television, hence showing how writers don't reap the benefits of cable streaming in spite of creating better shows and movies.

The union also wants writers to have more permanent jobs through mandatory staffing and employment guarantees due to a rise in “minirooms” where only a small group of writers develop shows for short periods of time. A “miniroom” creates a blueprint for a TV series that requires fewer writers to be hired once the show is greenlit. Fewer writers on set harms the potential quality of a TV show or movie by not allowing a script to adjust to certain problems like line delivery, location problems, and even prop issues. Less

writers means less ideas and ways to solve problems, but it also takes away experience writers could gain from dealing with production issues.

This strike shows no signs of stopping until the WGA's demands for better

wages, conditions, protections, and security are met by the Alliance Of Motion Picture and Television Producers. These demands, if successful, would increase the quality of television and movie production by

allowing writers' full creative freedom to create beautiful pieces of media. Shows and movies from these past years like “Succession,” “The Rehearsal,” “Better Call Saul,” “Everything Everywhere All at Once,”

and so many others prove writers' worth as a key component to developing imaginative shows and movies and the masterminds behind these words deserve fair wages and protected jobs.

US Intelligence Leak on Social Media

By ZACHARY ZALAMEA

What appears to be a leak of classified US intelligence documents – some top secret and a number of which relate to the war in Ukraine – was circulating on social media such as Twitter and Reddit as early as March. Despite the Pentagon's announcement of their investigation into the circulation of more than 50 classified documents, dozens still remain viewable on Twitter. Images said to be classified US intelligence documents began popping up on social media servers associated with the gaming community. Unlike the other leaks which included materials released by NSA contractor Edward Snowden and former US army whistleblower Chelsea Manning, the files in circulation appear to be hard copies of Pentagon briefing materials and slides that appear to contain sensitive and highly classified material which presents a very serious risk to national security.

The leaked documents first appeared on a section of Discord, an instant messaging platform that hosted debates about Ukraine weeks earlier and sat undetected before it made its way to the mainstream sites in the United States like Twitter and Telegram, a multi-platform messaging service founded by a Russian entrepreneur operating outside of the United States. The photographed papers had folds in them and given the state of the documents, it is assumed that they were put in a pocket after being taken out of a secured

location, suggesting that only a person with high level security clearance can access them.

The leak is being treated seriously by US intelligence agencies, who have launched investigations. The US Department of Defense released a statement saying it is “continuing to review and assess the validity of the photographed documents that are circulating on social media sites and that appear to contain sensitive and highly classified

a claim that French soldiers had been engaged in operations in Ukraine.

The leak reinforces a number of issues. First, intelligence is not dependable and it can reflect only what US agencies think they know. Second, the fact that these documents sat undetected for so long and continue to circulate online underscores the limited authority the US government has to force social media companies to remove content, even

paramilitary Wagner group, largely through intercepted

communications and human intelligence sources, which could now be put at risk. Chris Meagher, a top spokesperson for the Pentagon, urged caution in “promoting or amplifying any of these documents” adding that “it does appear that slides have been doctored with”.

Analysts point out that leaks like this can be a double-edged sword. While



CARLOS BARRIA FOR REUTERS

The Pentagon Building in Arlington,Virginia



DAVID MCNEW FOR GETTY IMAGES VIA VANITY FAIR

Sports

THE ANCHOR

THE STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS: AN NHL OVERVIEW

By CASTALIA LITOS

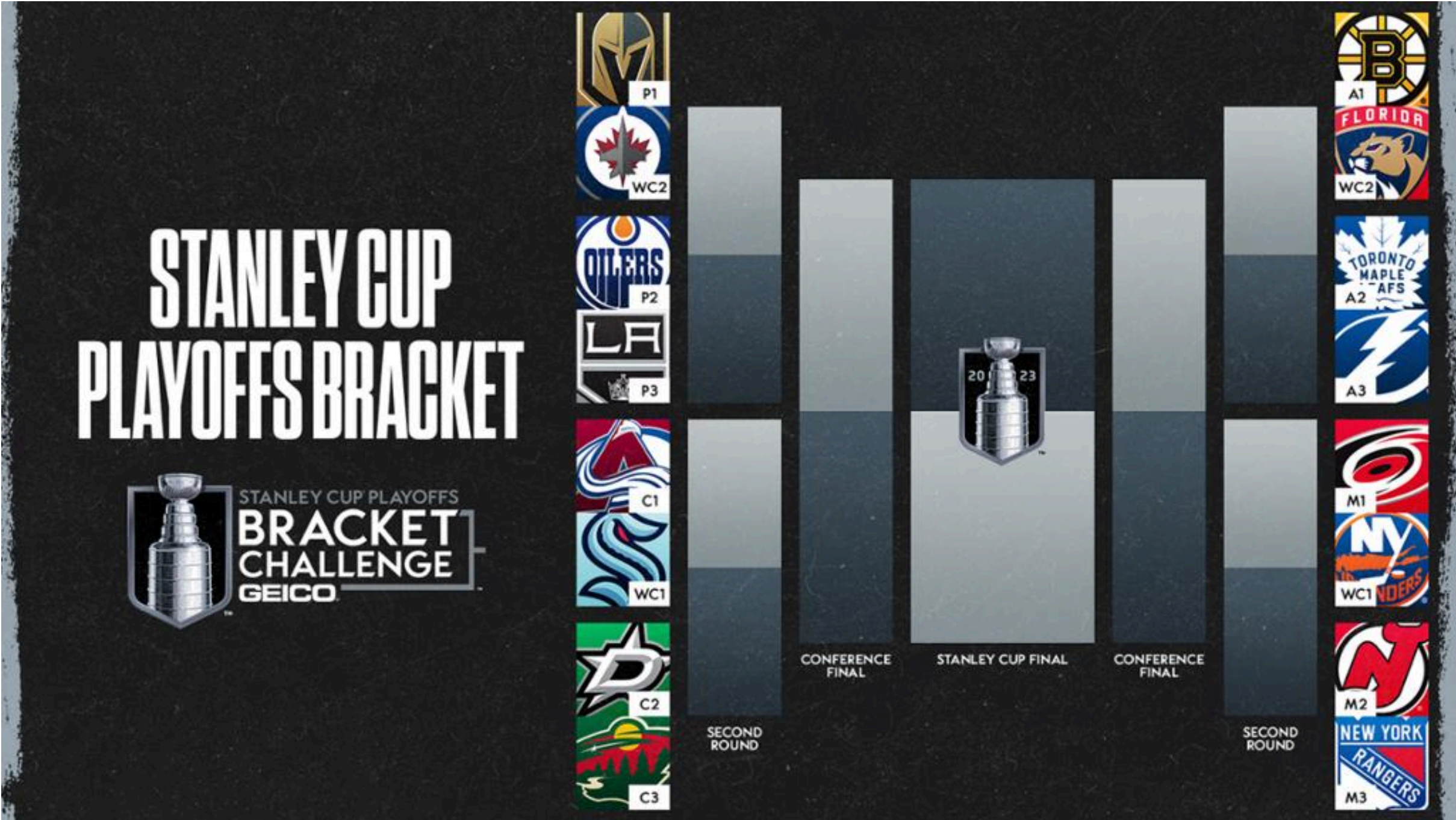


PHOTO CREDIT: NHL.COM

Hockey’s most exciting time comes with the Stanley Cup playoffs which started on April 17th, running through June. 16 teams of the four divisions (Atlantic, Metropolitan, Central and Pacific) face off for the coveted Stanley Cup and the honor to have their names engraved on North America’s oldest sports trophy.

Round 1: Round 1 saw one of the biggest upsets of the NHL, with the league’s best team ever, **Boston Bruins**, beaten by the **Florida Panthers**. The **New Jersey Devils** defeat the more seasoned **New York Rangers**. The **Toronto Maple Leafs** broke a 19 year curse of not qualifying for Round 2, and the **Carolina Hurricanes** beat the **New York Islanders** in five. In the West, the biggest upset was the **Seattle Kraken’s** victory over reigning champs the **Colorado Avalanche**, as well as the **Dallas Stars** over the **Minnesota Wild**, the **Edmonton Oilers** eliminating the **LA Kings**, and the **Vegas Golden Knights** doing the same to the **Winnipeg Jets**.

Round 2: The **Florida Panthers** continue their impressive run with a dominant win over the **Toronto Maple Leafs** with a goal by **Nick Cousins** in overtime of Game 5 to advance his team and 50 saves by **Sergei Bobrovsky**. The **New Jersey Devils’** lack of goaltending experience contributed to a loss against the **Carolina Hurricanes**, who would win in overtime Game 5. In a tight series, the **Dallas Stars** beat the **Seattle Kraken**, unable to break through the Stars’ top line and the absolute brick wall that was Jake Oettinger so far in the playoffs. Finally, the **Vegas Golden Knights** managed to contain the star talent of **Leon Draisaitl** and **Connor McDavid**. Nevertheless, credit to those two, who are perhaps the greatest duo in the game right now despite the team behind them unable to harness their power effectively enough.

Conference Finals: Four teams are now only one step away from all the glory: the **Florida Panthers** vs the **Carolina Hurricanes** in the Eastern Conference,

and the **Dallas Stars** vs the **Vegas Golden Knights** in the Western Conference.

Eastern Conference: Florida has dominated the series, leading 3-0 going into Game 4. Game 1 saw the sixth longest game in NHL history, with four overtime periods before Matthew Tkachuk would score the game winning goal. He would do it again in overtime the following game, Game 2, where once again, the Florida Panthers’ captain would casually stroll off the ice much to the amusement of fans and announcers. Florida would win Game 3, shutting out the Panthers in a 1-0 win.

Star Players: It goes without saying that **Matthew Tkachuk** wins the prize on this one, and, in my not so humble opinion, is the most valuable player in the entire playoffs left. The man will not quit. **Sergei Bobrovsky** has only allowed three goals to be scored against him in the 14 periods of play this series so far, which is no small feat considering the Canes’ offense.

Predictions: I’ve said from the start of the playoffs, if

Florida beats Boston, they’re going all the way to the cup. Carolina’s stars in Aho and Necas have not been doing much against Florida’s defense, putting Carolina in an extremely dire situation going into Game 4, therefore many predict Florida will earn the win.

Western Conference: The **Vegas Golden Knights** lead the series 3-0 after wins in games 1, 2, and 3. Games 1 and 2 saw overtime wins by Vegas; forward Brett Howden scored in a 4-3 win in Game 1, and center Chandler Stephenson gave Vegas a 3-2 win in Game 2. Game 3 saw a huge 3-0 lead by the Golden Knights by the first period, going on to shut out Dallas in a 4-0 win.

Star Players: For the leading Golden Knights, captain Mark Stone carries 15 points for his team, with two assists and a goal by the third game of the series. Chandler Stephenson follows close behind, with a game winning goal in Game 2 and an assist for the game winning goal in Game 1. An additional honorable

mention to **Brett Howden** for the first overtime game winning goal as well.

Prediction: Bolstered by solid defense and aggressive offense, the **Golden Knights** seem poised to take the series. Despite the obvious star power the **Dallas Stars** possess in **Jason Roberston** and **Roope Hintz**, so far

they have been unable to stand up to the energy of the playoffs. With captain **Jamie Benn** ejected from Game 3 for high sticking Vegas’ captain **Mark Stone**, the Stars are slowly seeming to lose their grip on what has otherwise been an electric season for them.



PHOTO CREDIT: YAHOO SPORTS

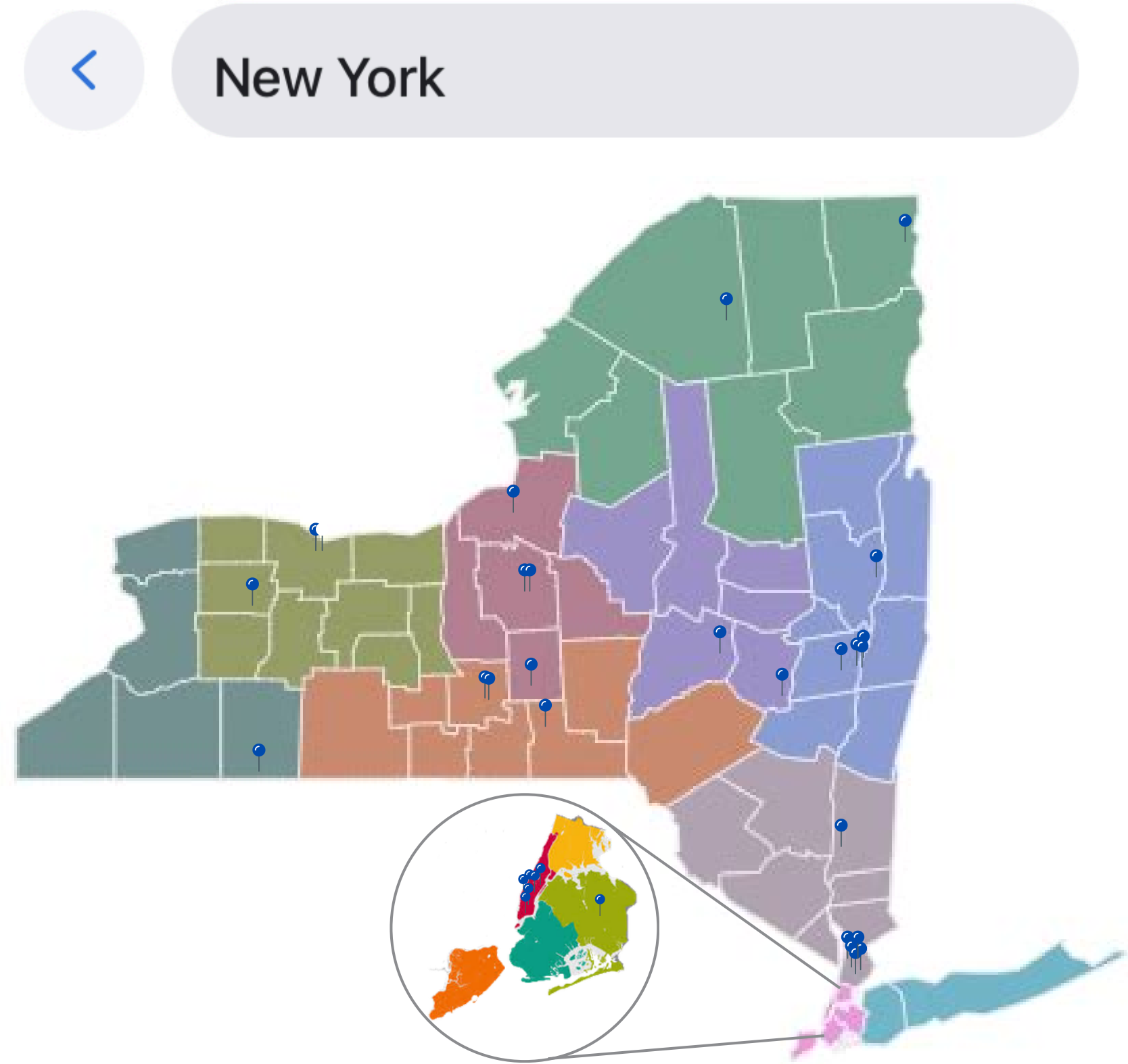


PHOTO CREDIT: THEDAY.COM

<	California	×
📍	University of California, Davis	2576 mi Kayla Cohen, Animal Science
<	Connecticut	×
📍	University of Hartford	71 mi Anthony Ciampi, Architecture & Construction Management
📍	University of Hartford	71 mi Lucy Notrica, Undecided
<	Delaware	×
📍	University of Delaware	147 mi Ella Doorley, Business
📍	University of Delaware	147 mi David Gougelmann, Finance
📍	University of Delaware	147 mi Alec Tangredi, Business
<	Florida	×
📍	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical...	927 mi Taylor DeResh, Aeronautical Science
📍	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical...	927 mi Michael Pieri, Aeronautical Science
📍	Florida Atlantic University	1089 mi Jillian Hentze, Marketing
📍	St. Thomas University	1122 mi Marjorie Villa, Biology (Pre-Med)
<	Georgia	×
📍	University of Georgia	727 mi Logan Gougelmann, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
<	Indiana	×
📍	Indiana University Blooming...	683 mi John O'Connor, Finance
<	Kentucky	×
📍	University of Kentucky	611 mi Ryan Olstrom, Exploratory Studies in Business and Economics
<	Maryland	×
📍	Loyola University Maryland	195 mi Logan Moore, Undecided
📍	University of Maryland, Coll...	225 mi Fiona Doyle, Kinesiology
<	Massachusetts	×
📍	Nichols College	115 mi Michael Tucci, Finance, Division 3 Baseball
📍	Northeastern University	163 mi Sage Weidenbaum, Psychology

<	Class of 2023	×
📍	University of Massachusetts...	105 mi Stephen Raguso, Kinesiology
📍	University of Massachusetts...	105 mi Amy Wilkinson, Psychology
<	Michigan	×
📍	Eastern Michigan University	511 mi Maddie Porter, Undecided, Division 1 Lacrosse
<	North Carolina	×
📍	Duke University	455 mi Lexi Schaffer, Environmental Science
📍	Meredith College	459 mi Katherine Couch, Civil Engineering & Mathematics, Division 3 Soccer & Lacrosse
📍	North Carolina Wesleyan Uni...	419 mi Camille Gibson, Pre-Vet, Division 3 Volleyball
📍	University of Mount Olive	476 mi Caroline Clark, Marketing, Division 2 Lacrosse
📍	University of North Carolina...	464 mi Tony Mills, Finance
<	Pennsylvania	×
📍	Arcadia University	105 mi Ryan Clark, Undecided, Division 3 Lacrosse
📍	Arcadia University	105 mi Joey Connolly, Business, Division 3 Lacrosse
📍	Bucknell University	157 mi Valerie Stratton, Civil Engineering
📍	Penn State University	209 mi Bella Gatto, Criminology
📍	Penn State University	209 mi Rebecca Goldfarb, Undecided
📍	Susquehanna University	158 mi Michael Gagliardi, Sports Communication, Division 3 Baseball
📍	University of Scranton	92 mi Dean Hiltley, Marketing, Division 3 Lacrosse
📍	University of Scranton	92 mi Thomas Popolizio, Undecided, Division 3 Lacrosse
📍	Villanova University	114 mi Ally McManus, Exploratory Arts
<	Rhode Island	×
📍	New England Institute of Tec...	127 mi Kevin Skelly, Cybersecurity & Networking Engineering

📍	University of Rhode Island Pr...	134 mi Paige Johannsen, Business Management
📍	University of Rhode Island Pr...	134 mi Alexa Ostrowski, Chemical Engineering
📍	University of Rhode Island Pr...	134 mi Jocelyn Romero, Psychology
<	South Carolina	×
📍	Clemson University	672 mi Ella Simonetti, Nursing
📍	Coastal Carolina University	588 mi Tristan Alcock, Communications
<	Vermont	×
📍	Castleton University	165 mi Karli Martin, Physical Education, Division 3 Track & Field
📍	Champlain College	224 mi Jenna DiLoreto, Filmmaking
📍	University of Vermont	224 mi Morgan Davis, Biology on Pre-Med Track, Division 1 Track & Field
📍	University of Vermont	224 mi Aidan Irwin, Marketing
<	Virginia	×
📍	Virginia Tech	447 mi Charley Corrado, Finance
📍	Virginia Tech	447 mi Madeline McKinley, Graphic Design
📍	Virginia Tech	447 mi Madeline McKinley, Graphic Design
<	Washington DC	×
📍	American University	233 mi Quinn Muller, International Relations & Journalism
📍	George Washington University	233 mi Chantal Fernandez, Criminal Justice Pre-Law Track
<	West Virginia	×
📍	Shepherd University	242 mi Amya Davis, Nursing, Division 2 Volleyball
<	Wisconsin	×
📍	University of Wisconsin - Ma...	806 mi Brendan Chen, Mathematics



	Alfred State College	214 mi
	Matthew Pena, Heavy Equipment Operations	
	American Academy McAlliste...	35 mi
	Gabby O'Mara, Funeral Service	
	Baruch College	36 mi
	Brystal Titus, English	
	Binghamton University	121 mi
	Maddie Figueroa, Undecided	
	Binghamton University	121 mi
	Andrey Porokhin, Finance	
	College of Mount Saint Vincent	24 mi
	Adelina Elezaj, Business Administration & Management, Division 3 Volleyball	
	College of Saint Rose	96 mi
	Cassie Ijeh, Social Work	
	Cornell University	156 mi
	Dani Febres, Animal Science	
	Cornell University	156 mi
	Bixby Piccolo-Hill, English & Performing Media Arts	
	Fordham University	28 mi
	Lena Johnsen, Undecided, Division 1 Soccer	
	Hunter College	34 mi
	Vera Montalbano, Political Science, Division 3 Volleyball	
	Iona University	24 mi
	Carlton Zhuzhingo, Criminal Justice	
	Ithaca College	157 mi
	Kieran Muller, Business Administration	

	Marist College	31 mi
	Falasteen Hamideh, Religious Studies	
	Mercy College	17 mi
	Luis Angeles, Music Production & Recording Arts	
	Mercy College	17 mi
	Nikki Faiella, Accounting	
	Mercy College	17 mi
	Oscar Platko, Undecided	
	Mercy College	17 mi
	Jefferson Zhingri, Criminal Justice	
	New York University	37 mi
	Simrah Hassan, Biology on Pre-Med Track	
	Onondaga Community College	168 mi
	Dylan Lennox, Fire Protection Technology	
	Onondaga Community College	168 mi
	Sean Stewart, Fire Protection Technology	
	Pace University	39 mi
	Olivia Giordano, Business Administration	
	Purchase College	18 mi
	Josie Kazepis, Photography	
	Rensselaer Polytechnic Instit...	101 mi
	Katelyn Krupa, Aeronautical Engineering	
	Rensselaer Polytechnic Instit...	101 mi
	Ryan Lee, Computer Science	
	Rochester Institute of Techn...	230 mi
	Devin Klimek, Computer Science	
	Sarah Lawrence College	23 mi
	Kyra Johnsen, Filmmaking, Division 3 Tennis	

	Siena College	100 mi
	Gidalys Gomez, Social Work, Education (minor)	
	Skidmore College	126 mi
	Stella Allen, English Literature, Division 3 Horseback Riding	
	Skidmore College	126 mi
	Hayden Bouza, English	
	Skidmore College	126 mi
	Sophia Jackson, Studio Art	
	St John's University	38 mi
	Tyler Booth, Undecided	
	St John's University	38 mi
	Lina Farrell, Business Administration	
	SUNY Albany	97 mi
	Neyssa Birotte, Psychology	
	SUNY Cobleskill	101 mi
	Connor Harbolic, Diesel Mechanics	
	SUNY Cortland	150 mi
	Morgan Parks, Exercise Science	
	SUNY Cortland	150 mi
	Dougie Travis, Physical Education, Division 3 Football	
	SUNY Delhi	87 mi
	John McGuigan, HVAC	
	SUNY Geneseo	227 mi
	Trey Feirman, Finance, Division 3 Track & Field	
	SUNY Geneseo	227 mi
	Elisabeth Lersch, Neuroscience	
	SUNY Oswego Campus Center	202 mi
	Tyler Stiloski, Undecided	
	SUNY Plattsburgh	237 mi
	James Giordano, Undecided	
	SUNY Plattsburgh	237 mi
	Amelia MacNeil, Undecided	
	SUNY Plattsburgh	237 mi
	Jazmine Maya, Social Work	
	SUNY Plattsburgh	237 mi
	Abby Snyder, Undecided	
	SUNY-Potsdam	240 mi
	David Feirman, Computer Science, Division 3 Track & Field	
	Syracuse University	167 mi
	Carter Alcock, Undecided	
	Syracuse University	167 mi
	Ashley Morgan, Architecture	
	University of Rochester	230 mi
	PJ Kocheck, Business Analytics	
	University of Rochester	230 mi
	Jadon Seenjan, Biology on Pre-Med Track	
	Westchester Community Coll...	15 mi
	Neftali Martinez, Marketing	
	Westchester Community Coll...	15 mi
	Angel Picciano, Fashion Design	

Opinions & Editorials

THE ANCHOR

What Americans Can Learn from the French

By SARAH NABI

France is synonymous with relaxed living and happy, well fed people; probably because that’s exactly what life in France is like. The French term "bon vivant" or good living, is an idea that is enforced by the fact that France is consistently listed as one of the top 25 happiest countries in the world with their outstanding quality of life. The average life expectancy in France is 82 years, but the life expectancy In the United States is 77 years and we’re all burned out. So, what are we doing wrong, and how can we live like the French? The thing is, at this point, France is also synonymous with protests - lots of protests. Recently, on Tuesday, March 7th, over one million protesters crowded the streets of France, leaving deserted

schools, inactive trains, and empty stores in their wake. This was their sixth day of protest over the two months prior, with each amassing hundreds of millions of protesters. The cause of the commotion? France’s president, Emmanuel Macron, announced plans to raise the country’s retirement age a whopping 2 years, from 62 to 64. He was met with major opposition and, according to the New York Times, livid citizens vowed to “bring France to a standstill.” For a long while, it did not look like the French government would retract Mr. Macron’s plans. Following their extreme dislike, their National Assembly, lower house of Parliament, upper house, and Senate lawmakers discussed the proposed bill; and they hoped it would be passed by the end of March.

Still, the French carried on; banding together, they lit trash fires, waved flags, and more recently, revived a traditional form of protest called the “casserolade,” in which the public bangs pots and pans together to create cacophonous sound. Despite the fact that on April 14th the French Constitutional Council approved Macron’s plan to slowly raise the country’s retirement age to 64 by 2030, these protests are a wonderful example of French stubbornness. The moment any idea is raised that may at all make living slightly inconvenient, the French band together with a frightening passion. And usually their work pays off as the French have an incomparable level of work-life balance. Here are a few of the benefits that the French enjoy:

- Universal healthcare

- French law requires a minimum of 5 weeks paid vacation for workers
- Paid maternity leave for up to or even exceeding a year, and paid paternity leave
- Generous unemployment benefits in the event of layoffs
- Government pension
- Unlimited sick days (within reason, after a few days you must provide a doctor's note)
- College tuition ranges from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars
- French commuters get a commuting allowance to cover the cost of travel
- You legally do not have to work on a Sunday as it is considered a day of rest, and office workers are legally prohibited from going

- to work on a Sunday
- The Right to Disconnect law: if a person is away from the office they reserve the right to not answer texts, calls, or emails from their employer, and can’t get in any trouble if they don’t. Most french workers follow this law (very) strictly
- (This one’s crazy) French law not only asserts that employees should not eat lunch at their desks, but employers must

provide some form of restaurant or food options at midday

Clearly, us Americans are doing something horribly wrong. While the French were busy protesting a retirement increase of two years, the U.S has changed the age at which an individual can retire and receive Social Security benefits from 62 to 67 (to increase over a 20 year period) - an increase of 5 years. Even though, in this case, the French are losing, they’re still winning.



SARAH MEYSSONNIER FOR REUTERS

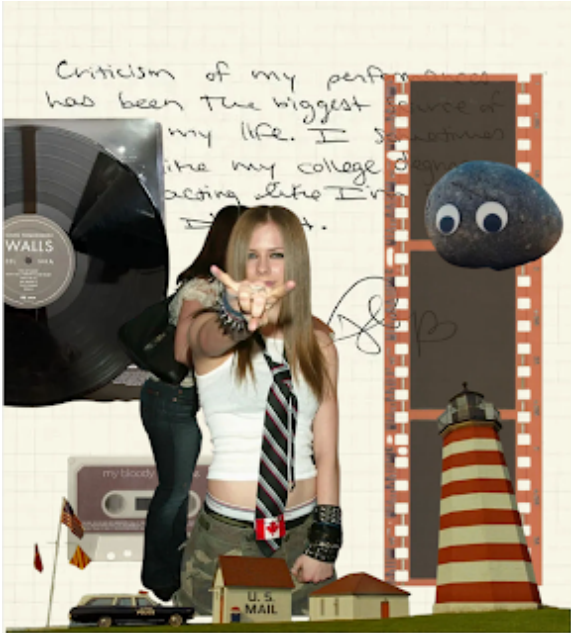
Being "Cultured" Is A Privilege

By CASTALIA LITOS

As music, film, fashion, and literature become increasingly more globalized and accessible, people around the world are absorbing various forms of media previously unattainable. As a result, I’ve witnessed a shift in the way we talk about enjoying art. No longer are there just subcultures everyone seems to float between at their leisure, but instead the conversation has become a binary; those perceived to be “trendy” and those considered “cultured,” the latter of which relish in their so-called “ability” to appreciate what few others do. To me, this “cultured or uncultured” nonsense is just that: nonsense. Pop culture is meant to be enjoyed, and there’s simply no other way to look at it. I encourage diversity, but the problem for most lies not in the motive, but the means. Being deemed as “cultured” is not easily accessible. It’s for the privileged.

I know this may seem contradictory to my statement on the increased accessibility of all this art in the world. However, what I’m touching on here is not the accessibility. It’s every other factor that leads to the acquisition of these

hidden gem albums and movies and styles that’s the problem. In order to truly explore the mind-blowingly vast collection of music on Spotify, for example, or dig through reviews on Letterboxd and then go out and find the movies on Netflix and Amazon Prime, it takes a whole lot of time. A whole lot of time most people in this country cannot afford, as there’s just too many other, arguably much more important, things to do. Trust me, I’m one of those people who attempt



both of those things, and finding the time is the hardest part of the whole ordeal. Let’s say you did carve out a weekend to scope out all this art. You’ve spent a full weekend watching films (that’s what the fancy people call them, of course,

not “movies”) and listening to albums (because listening to just one song is never enough). Now comes the maintenance of what you’ve just discovered. Understanding the full scope, the meaning, the “artistic quality” and point of view. And sometimes, the most crucial part is convincing yourself you actually liked that album or movie (because we both know you’ll probably hate at least one “masterpiece” eventually). But let’s not forget what I find to be the most humorous argument of these “cultured” folks; that pop music is somehow objectively bad. It’s called “pop music” for a reason: it’s popular. Just because something has gained mass appeal doesn’t mean it's somehow beneath your enjoyment. Give it a try, it might surprise you. It’s okay for someone else to like the same music you do. But let’s not forget what I find to be the most humorous argument of these “cultured” folks; that

pop music is somehow objectively bad. It’s called “pop music” for a reason: it’s popular. Just because something has gained mass appeal doesn’t mean it's somehow beneath your enjoyment. Give it a try, it might surprise you. It’s okay for someone else to like the same music you do. Not only are these elitist sounding “culture connoisseurs” failing to recognize all of this, but they are disincentivizing newcomers to enter what should be an incredibly rewarding community. The more and more I tried to catch up to those around me, to sound more knowledgeable and like a cultured little intellectual, the more experiencing the art began to become a chore. I didn’t want to listen to long albums for hours on end, or sit through films that were “indie” when I could barely keep my eyes open after the first ten minutes. Sometimes I just wanted to turn on the radio and listen to a song that’s the pinnacle of cheesy 2010s boy bands, playing in a loop on WHUD for the sake of nostalgia. I want to watch a blockbuster Marvel movie from the display screen on my TV so I can talk about it with other kids at school. And that’s okay too.

Unsustainability in the Fast Fashion Industry Through an American Lens

By QUINN MULLER

The textile industry is known for being extremely polluting to the environment. With fashion trends changing overnight, bringing on the new fad of fast fashion, many clothing articles end up going to waste in an instant. Because of this constant cycle of clothes going in and out of peoples’ closets, consumers turn to cheap manufacturers like SHEIN that exhibit horrendous working conditions, from the treatment of workers, to the pollutants. The entire issue behind the lack of sustainability of the fashion industry is the way that the clothing is made, and what people do with the products when they’re done with them. The amount of water used to produce clothes is unimaginable, and the materials are harmful. Much of the content on sites of manufacturers like SHEIN are made of cheap materials that use polyester, a form of the pollutant petroleum. The

microplastics that make up petroleum end up fizzling into our ecosystem, harming animals and endangering our water supply. It is believed that these microplastics are already in the food we eat, the water we drink, and even in our lungs. What’s worse is that not only are these products made unsustainably, in large factories with underpaid workers, but unfit products are often if not always thrown away to “decompose” in a landfill—despite the common knowledge that plastic takes an obscenely long time to decompose. Even the products that make it out to the public are done through easily. Not just because of the changing fashion trends, but largely because of the lack of quality. Sustainability in the fashion industry can come from three things: prolonged use of products, sustainably sourced materials, and reduced waste. The fast fashion fad began in the early '90s as

Unsustainability in the Fast Fashion Industry Through an American Lens

fashion trends sped up and clothing companies needed to begin producing new products on a weekly basis. Buying clothes like this is a privilege, and with the first-world status of the US, the fashion industry boomed with middle class Americans consuming more than ever.

COVID exacerbated fast fashion. Stuck at home and low on cash, consumers turned to highly advertised sites like ASOS and SHEIN, known for their incompetent business and environmental practices. Sites like those were entirely online, which was perfect for a nation under quarantine; but their existence as international corporations complicates things. With their bases being outside of the US, restrictions on their companies are more difficult to put into place. The added factor of transportation from international headquarters to all over the US (and other destinations) only adds to the unsustainable practices of the fast fashion industry.

After quarantine and stay-at-home orders were lifted, people resumed their daily lives (pre-COVID) slowly. With this came the resurgence of thrift stores and consignment shops. Many companies like H&M and Eileen Fisher have also begun programs to retake clothes to reproduce on their own. While these help

with the reduction and reuse of textile waste with what is commonly referred to as a circular economy. The right against textile waste has largely been led by individuals and interest groups rather than the government itself and legislation. While there have been proposed bills, I struggled to find legislation that had been passed.

The issue of textile waste is directly related to the environment. Organizations like GreenDrop, Greenpeace, and the Council for Textile Recycling fight directly against textile waste. Sustainable fashion activists include Dominique Drakeford, Dan Pontarlier, and Céline Semaan.

Many people involved in the fight for regulation of fast fashion corporations have created their own nonprofits, or sustainable fashion businesses and are involved in interest groups like Greenpeace to promote awareness of textile pollution.

The Fashion Sustainability and Social Accountability Act (NYS), AKA the Fashion Act, was introduced in early 2022 to the New York State Senate to combat the environmental effects of the fashion industry. The act includes provisions to better the working conditions of textile workers and improve the supply chain of the companies. The act would

force companies of a set net worth to maintain transparency with the government on their practices, and set goals to reduce carbon emissions. These targets would be wholly science-based, rather than economically-based, and would ensure alignment with the Paris Climate Agreement—a task that the US has a very difficult time doing. The bill– Assembly Bill A8352– was last noted to be in review by a committee, which is not exactly the definition of productive.

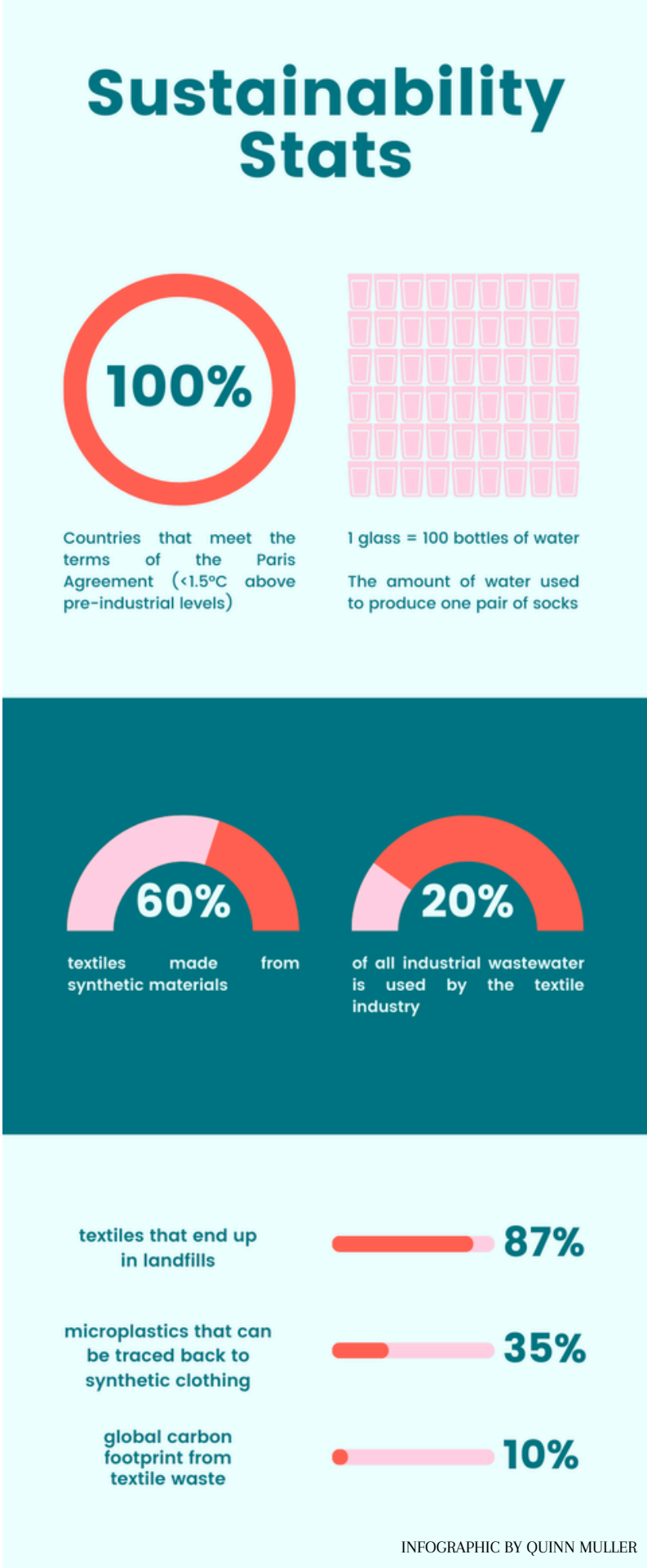
The lack of legislation towards this dire issue is unsettling. Even acts like the FABRIC Act–a bill proposed by NY Senator Kirsten Gillibrand to ensure fair treatment of workers– skirts away from the sustainability issue. While there has been virtually no government action on the front against textile waste and unsustainable practices in the fashion industry, Europe has been making progress.

The Sustainable Clothing Action Plan, commonly referred to as SCAP has been largely successful in the UK. It was first implemented in 2012 to combine the efforts of retailers and textile recyclers to reduce textile waste. In an assessment from 2020 of the program, it was deemed that the plan successfully reduced the amount of water consumed, waste dumped,

and carbon emissions produced by the fashion industry. Almost half of the country’s retailers joined in to accomplish this, and among other climate policies, the UK has landed as one of the closest countries to meeting the requirements of the Paris Agreement.

According to the Climate Action Tracker, out of the 38 entities (37 countries + the EU), none meet the actual tier set by the Paris Agreement, but 9 countries are marked as “Almost Sufficient,” the next tier down. The principles and foundations of SCAP were taken on by Europe as a whole to create the European Clothing Action Plan (ECAP). The original plan was implemented by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), a UK based charity that works to achieve sustainability. The program has been very successful to the point of being adopted by Europe, and should provide a basis for the lack of American-based legislation pertaining to textile waste.

Many of the organizations working to inhibit the effects of the fast fashion industry are based globally, or in Europe. The American government has persistently fallen short on regulations of the fast fashion industry and their shortcomings are truly damaging to the environment and our health.



Want to Change the World? Pick Up a Book.

By CASTALIA LITOS

Imagine yourself back in sixth grade again. You’re about eleven, twelve years old, you’re carrying a small backpack slung around both shoulders, papers slipping out of folders, and you’re trying to figure out if the school lunch today is worth it. Overall, it’s a pretty turbulent time, and whether the experience was positive or negative, I think we can all agree on one thing: you certainly wouldn’t want your sixth-grade self making the decisions and dealing with the things you encounter on a daily basis. I mean, you were so naive back then, right? Well, for 54 percent of American adults, a part of them remains in their sixth-grade selves. I’ll give you a hint; it’s not their inability to make a choice on what to eat each day for lunch. It’s their ability to read.

The Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) defines literacy as “the ability to understand,

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evaluate, use and engage with written texts to participate in society, to achieve one’s goals, and to develop one’s knowledge and potential.” Yet here we are, the United States of America, known for leading the rest of the world: the country with the highest GDP, the largest and most expensive military, and number one when it comes to international influence. However, more than half our adult population cannot thoroughly digest words on a paper. There’s too many things wrong with that statement to even comprehend.

Many may point to our immigrant population as a contributing factor to the literacy problem in this country, but it’s important to note that it is the U.S.-born adults that make up nearly two thirds of the Americans with “low levels of English literacy skills.”

Of course, there are countless factors that can be attributed to the lack of reading in America.

From socio-economic status, regional differences, access to public libraries, and individual environments, the depreciation of literature hurts us all at the end of the day.

The correlation between regular reading and success is staggering. Want to be a millionaire? Great, well, take a trip to the library, because according to socio economist Randall Bell, “those who read seven or more books per year are more than 122 percent more likely to be millionaires as opposed to those who never read or only read one to three books.” Yeah, you read that right: a whopping 122 percent. It makes sense that all the richest and most influential people in the country have spoken about what seem like extreme reading habits. There’s Oprah with her book club, Mark Cuban reads three hours a day, Warren Buffet with an extreme five to eight hours of reading, and Bill Gates reads around 50 books a

year.

Not interested in filling your pockets or gaining notoriety? Read to improve overall cognitive performance, lower blood pressure, contribute to the maintenance of a healthy sleep schedule, and even alleviate symptoms of depression amongst other mental disorders.

Before you feel like I’m blaming you, trust me, I’m not. Learning to read is not an individually acquired skill. It takes time and it takes assistance from someone, and that’s where the American education system comes in.

There have been countless discussions on the way reading has been taught in American public schools nationwide. The New York Times has published numerous articles and opinion pieces on the state of reading in schools, and there seems to be a common theme: the statistics are not positive. Two-thirds of fourth graders are not “proficient” in their reading skills. By failing to provide adequate access

to obtaining such skills, we are failing the next generation. Put the politics aside. Go out and support the implementation of certain programs like “phonics” (the study of language through correlated sounds in the alphabet) that ensure the reading methods we place in our schools are based on science and efficacy.

Personally, I see it around me every day. That’s what inspired me to write this article. Without even knowing the benefits of reading and all the correlations beyond the obvious, I myself have fostered a love of reading. I don’t mind that I’m one of the few people who’d rather read than go on TikTok, or who knows more authors than celebrities. But everyone else seems to think the opposite. And with long, strenuous assignments with endless annotations that put so much emphasis on getting the grade I understand why kids wouldn’t want to read. Who would after the stress of these assignments?

We have to stop teaching

literature like this. It’s having the opposite effect of what English teachers should want, which would be to cultivate a love of literature. I see it everyday.

As former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan once said: “Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.” A cliché is only overused if it isn’t true, so follow in the steps of the greatest that have come before you, and do with that power what you will. As book banning becomes an increasingly recurring issue in this country, it’s important to remain diligent in protecting our right to education. Free thinking has, and always will be, our greatest weapon in effective societal change for the benefit of humanity.

While I remain hopeful that sooner or later my generation will come around to this realization, I’m sure most of you haven’t even made it to the end of this article.

Arts & Entertainment

THE ANCHOR

EVERYTHING 'ERAS'

By SARAH NABI

“We’re going on an adventure one era at a time... We have all kinds of things ahead of us—breakups, teenage love triangles, and even the liars and dirty, dirty cheats of the world... I’ll be your host tonight... My name is Taylor Swift...” Thus began the 11th installment of Taylor Swift’s 52 show “Eras Tour” in Houston, Texas on April 21st. The tour began on March 17th in Glendale, Arizona, and is scheduled to hit 20 cities, ending in Inglewood, California on August 9th. Though we’re only halfway through, Swift’s migration across America has been nothing short of a phenomenon. Here we’ll take a look at the Eras Tour as it is now: a record-breaking, frenzy-causing, beast of a production.

Throughout her music career, Taylor Swift has performed in 21 music festivals, and 204 live events and has been the headlining artist in five concert tours and four individual concerts. So far, Eras is Swift’s sixth tour and second all-stadium tour after her Reputation Stadium Tour in 2018. Her past five tours have been nothing short of impressive, collectively attracting almost 10 million attendees and grossing about 960 million dollars. However, the Eras Tour just might blow them all out of the water with the fact that it is projected to rake in \$1.6 billion, and each venue she plays holds tens of thousands of her screaming fans.

We also know that in Taylor’s wake, there are the shattered remains of plenty of other broken records. On March 17, Swift broke the record for most attended concert by a female artist in United States history. Along those lines, Swift has broken attendance records in many of the venues she has stopped at so far. Some of these include being the first female act in history to sell out three shows on a single tour at the Lincoln Financial Field, and the first female act in history to sell out three shows on a single tour at the Lincoln Financial and Soldier Fields.

Though it’s no wonder that the Eras Tour is shattering

attendance records with the number of its tickets that have been selling. On November 15th, 2.4 million Swift fans, nicknamed “Swifties,” snagged seats to a few of the tour’s earlier concerts, breaking the record for most tickets sold by an artist on a single day. They would have sold more too, if not for the fact that Eras famously “broke Ticketmaster,” an online concert ticket sales and distribution company, with the sheer demand that it brought. Swift had partnered with Ticketmaster to use the company as a platform to sell the tickets to her shows and, having been assured that the platform could handle the amount of demand that this tour would bring. Initially, Ticketmaster prepared for the arrival of 1.5 million buyers. However when sales opened up on November 15th, 14 million Swifties charged the internet to get a hold of seats. The online seller couldn’t handle it, and the site crashed so badly that sales had to be moved to a later date.

The Swift-craze really makes you wonder what the Eras Tour is all about. Swift’s idea behind Eras was to take audiences on a journey through her entire discography from when she released her first album, when she was just 16 years old. 10 albums and 17 years later, Taylor is now 33 years old and one of the biggest pop stars in the world. As of right now, the Eras shows can run for up to or over 5 hours when you include the time taken for opening acts and the breaks Swift takes to quickly change outfits. This is because of the many egments that make them up - each of which refer to a different stage/album in the artist’s music career. According to Evie Magazine, Swift kicks off her performances “with her album Lover, followed by Fearless, Evermore, Reputation, Speak Now, Red, Folklore, and 1989.

Whatever she plays, Swift’s fans are here for her - and willing to spend a lot of money to prove it. Aside from the crazy expensive tickets, Swifties have also been documented camping out, sometimes in the rain out, sometimes in the rain, always for hours, and never without hope, at unholy hours of the day with the

goal of buying official Taylor Swift/Eras Tour merchandise. Everyone’s goal? A plain crewneck sweatshirt. Blasted into popularity by social media and its supposed elusivity, the blue crewneck sports Swift’s name across the front and tour dates and album names on the back. Maybe because it can’t be bought on the official tour online store, or because it’s the only Eras merch that doesn’t have her face printed on it, the souvenir is so popular that fans are

In the past 10 years, video games have solidified themselves as viable forms of storytelling that can rival traditional storytelling mediums such as film, theater and literature. Video games like *The Last of Us*, *God of War*, *Red Dead Redemption* and *Destiny* have shown that video games can not only be immersive experiences, but storylines that hold their own against the plots of hit shows like *Game of Thrones* and *Breaking Bad*. One video game that came out in 2020 that I think exemplifies this video game format is *Ghost of Tsushima*. The game follows samurai Jin Sakai, who must defend his home of Tsushima against a Mongol Invasion, while losing his honor in the process. The game boasts a mastery of plot, gameplay, graphics and atmosphere that few games can rival.

The storyline was written by Ian Ryan, a distinguished video game lead writer who has written games such as the *Star Wars: Old Republic* games and *Thief* (2014). In *Ghost of Tsushima*, he developed an intricate storyline that molded two main plots: one that revolves around Jin Sakai defeating the Mongols, and the other revolving around him losing his honor in the process. Samurai were expected to follow an honor code when fighting, and Sakai had to violate this code in order to protect his homeland from

willing to do anything to get their hands on it. Some are even haunted by their need for this sweater, 20 year old Emily Rottkamp says that she hasn’t been sleeping, and “she’s been having nightmares about getting this crew neck.” Some of the panic may be justified - the resale prices on these sweatshirts can go over \$300, more than four times over their list price of \$65. 7 year old Gina Delano summed up the Swiftie attitude with her statement that “the weather could definitely be better, but if this is what it takes to get merch, then this is what we’ll do.”

If one thing’s for sure, Taylor Swift’s fans really care. Their flocking to her

the deadly invasion. This leads to an immersive and complex plot that is not only action-based, but delves into the inner conflict that Sakai faces as he violates his code of honor to protect his home and loved ones.

This inner conflict is reflected in the gameplay—as you progress in the game, you learn skills that diverge further and further from the honorary, head-on fighting that Samurai were traditionally taught to do. This allows players to mold a play style that is most suited to their tastes. Some players may want to take the head-on approach, fighting swaths of Mongol warriors with smooth and entertaining sword fights that reflect the honorary codes of Samurai. Other players may take the stealth approach, fighting from the shadows with poison, bows, and assassination, as a ninja would. Either approach is equally weighted, creating a gracious and fun fighting style that keeps players connected to the game.

But by far the most memorable aspect of this game is the graphics and atmosphere. Sucker Punch Studios and PlayStation Studios spent months perfecting the world of *Ghost of Tsushima* to create a fantasy world out of a very real place, Tsushima Island. This led to the creation of a large, open-world map based on both the history and folklore of Tsushima Island. Historians were brought in to help create Tsushima Island, and graphics artists

events have literally boosted the economy of her locations thus far. In fact, Taylor’s appearances have proved so economically beneficial for her concert locations throughout the country that economics experts have even created a new microeconomics theory dubbed “Swiftonomics.”

Everybody seems to have praise for Eras, and Swift and her tour have received high critical acclaim. Though it’s the fans that are what make or break a tour, so far the verdict is good. Jadon Seenjan, a Hen Hud senior, attended an Eras concert when the tour stopped at the MetLife Stadium in late May. When interviewed, he said

that “it was just the best concert ever,” reflecting on the fact that “she [Swift] is a really great performer.” Another Hen Hud senior, Ally McManus, said that she had “such an amazing experience” at the Eras concert, and that “the music and energy was great.” McManus was also “impressed with how Taylor was able to perform for 3 and a half hours straight.” As proof, the two Hen Hud students arrived at school after their respective concerts sporting their new Eras Tour merchandise. One thing’s for sure, whether you listen to Swift’s music or not, you can’t help but respect the hustle.

spent months perfecting each mountain, tree, and blade of grass to be as cinematic as possible. Both studios put hours of painstaking effort into making the world of Ghost of Tsushima truly cinematic, and I think they got the result they were looking for.

Ghost of Tsushima was PlayStation’s fourth biggest launch in Sony history—it was an instant success. Its thematic appeal, cinematic value, and quality of gameplay quickly made it a favorite in the hearts of

many gamers, including myself. I have recommended this game to every gamer I know, and I even got my dad to try the game out (he loved it). I am a firm believer that video games should be respected as stories on the same scale as film and literature, and this game only helps my case. Whether you are a seasoned gamer or someone who is simply trying to find a great story to experience, *Ghost of Tsushima* is what you’re looking for.



PHOTO CREDIT: REDDIT



PHOTO CREDIT: DIGITAL TRENDS



PHOTO CREDIT: THEGAMER

Levi’s Jeans: 170 Years of Style

By SARAH NABI

Levi Strauss and Co has endured as an icon in the world of fashion since the company was founded in 1853. Known internationally for their denim, Levi’s has somehow managed to defy all logic and remain a constant in popular culture, even when attention spans shortened, fashion became fast, and quantity overtook quality. The brand has existed longer than Coca-Cola, Dr. Martens, and Hershey’s chocolate, and has survived even as countless clothing companies fell apart. Here, we’ll take a look at Levi’s biggest moments over the past 170 years; both for their brand and for pop-culture.



1853 - Levi Strauss and Co. is Founded

Levi’s was founded in 1853 by German dry goods salesman Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis, a tailor from Nevada. The company came to be when Davis came up with a process to use copper rivets on the stress points of men’s pants which become over-stretched during day-to-day activity, like pocket corners and the fly, to make them more durable. At the time denim was being used for workwear, but nothing like Davis’s pants existed. However, an issue arose when Davis couldn’t afford the paperwork to patent his idea, so he reached out to Strauss, his fabric supplier, to ask that they team up to patent the idea. Luckily, Strauss agreed. Thus was the birth of Levi Strauss and Co, a company that was founded on innovation and never stopped.



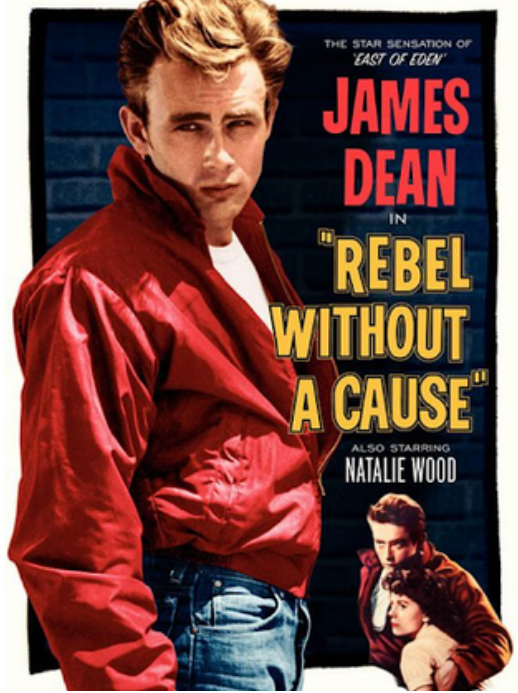
1873 - Creation of the 501s

Not only was the Davis/Strauss patent the beginning of a beautiful new friendship, but those first denim pants that they thought up became the classic 501 jeans. These were the first real pair of jeans to grace the market, and they have remained a staple since their official debut circa 1873. The 501s became so popular that Vogue referred to them as “debatably the most famous jeans in the world.”



1886 - Introduction of Levi’s Iconic Patch

In 1886, Levi’s started branding their denim with the iconic leather patch that is still used today. Featuring two horses pulling on a pair of jeans, the logo was created with the idea of proving the durability of Levi’s products to the public. Though, the patch as a whole was created in order to help customers avoid buying counterfeit jeans by mistake. Decades later, the patches still help us spot a pair of Levi’s from a mile away.



1953 - James Dean Wears 501s in *Rebel Without a Cause*

In 1953, James Dean did for denim what Michael Jordan did for sneakers. Wearing a pair of 501s in the movie that made him an instant icon, *Rebel Without a Cause*, James Dean showed America that jeans could be worn whenever and however, not just as workwear. In his uniform of a white t-shirt, red bomber jacket, and denim, Dean popularized jeans with the youth of the 50s who wanted nothing more than to exude cool and rebel from their more stiffly dressed parents.

1957 - Elvis Rocks Out in a Pair of Black Jeans

It’s rumored that the King of Rock, Elvis Presley, was the first ever to don a pair of Levi’s black jeans when he danced like no one was watching in his 1957 movie, *Jailhouse Rock*. However, the truth is that the brand’s first pair of black pants debuted more than 50 years prior when Levi’s began to offer their products in colors other than blue. Still, nobody remembers that; all we know is that the King himself rocked a pair of Levi’s. He not only popularized black jeans but also denim jackets, which previously had not been widely worn.



1970s - The Popular Explosion of the Levi’s Original 505s

1967 saw the creation of one of Levi’s most famous products to date, the Original 505s. These are no ordinary jeans, in the 1970s they became the uniform for rebellious youth and counterculture supporters everywhere. The 505s were a cultural zeitgeist of the 70s; they appeared on a certain Rolling Stones album, *Sticky Fingers*, in 1971, and every member of The Ramones sported a pair on their self-titled album’s cover in 1976. Interestingly, the 505s had dozens of prototypes before they were released as Strauss and Co wanted to land a fit that *sits* right in between slim and skinny.



1984 - Bruce Springsteen Wears 501s in the *Born in the USA* Album Cover

Bruce Springsteen shows off his 501s in the iconic cover of his 1984 album, *Born in the U.S.A.* As the album became ever popular, so did its cover - so much so that President Reagan even tried to use its popularity in his reelection campaign (to Springsteen’s annoyance). Eventually, Springsteen’s album cover, and his 501s, became an icon in the world of music listeners everywhere.

1984 - Levi’s Outfits the US Olympic Team

As the official outfitters for the winter and summer Olympics in 1984, Levi Strauss and Co ensured that the United States team arrived in style. At the opening ceremony of the winter Olympics in February, American competitors entered the Sarajevo Stadium in Levi’s flannel-lined jeans, sheepskin jackets and cowboy hats.



2022 - Vintage Levi’s are Sold for \$87,000

A phenomenon that continues to appear through the 21st century is the finding and selling of vintage Levi’s jeans. Not “vintage” like your older sister’s low rise khakis, vintage like 100 year old pants found in the deep recesses of a coal mine. Modern denim aficionados spend hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars on collecting the rarest of the rare pieces, and Levi’s is a consistent favorite as the brand has been around for so long. In 2022, a pair of Levi’s that had been found in an abandoned mine shaft from the 1880s were sold at an auction for a whopping \$87,000. Their buyers were 23 year old collectors Zip Stevenson and Kyle Hautner, who are not the first and certainly not the last to shell out a seemingly outrageous amount of money for a pair of vintage Levi’s.

School’s Out Summer Playlist

By FRANCISCO AGUIRRE-GHISO and KACIE BURNS



Material Girl

Song · Madonna

...



Love Rollercoaster

Song · Ohio Players

...



I Feel for You

Song · Chaka Khan

...



Da Funk

Song · Daft Punk

...



Boogie Wonderland

Song · Earth, Wind & Fire, The Emoti...

...



Groove Is In the Heart

Song · Deee-Lite

...



Two Hearts in 3/4 Time

Song · The Avalanches

...



Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'

Song · Michael Jackson

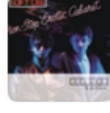
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Canned Heat

Song · Jamiroquai

...



Tainted Love

Song · Soft Cell

...



Wat's Wrong (feat. Zacari & Kendr...

Song · Isaiah Rashad

...



Gettin' Jiggy Wit It

Song · Will Smith

...



Pink + White

Song · Frank Ocean

...



My Life

Song · Erykah Badu

...



Didn't Cha Know

Song · Erykah Badu

...



Money Trees (feat. Jay Rock)

Song · Kendrick Lamar

...



Let's Stay Together

Song · Al Green

...



Slide (feat. Frank Ocean & Migos)

Song · Calvin Harris

...



drive ME crazy!

Song · Lil Yachty

...



Águas de Março

Song · Elis Regina

...



Champagne Coast

Song · Blood Orange

...



Move On Up

Song · Curtis Mayfield

...



Daydreamin' (feat. Jill Scott)

Song · Lupe Fiasco

...



Everybody Wants to Rule the World

Song · Tears for Fears

...



This Must Be the Place (Naive Melody)

Song · Talking Heads

...

No-Skip Albums are Rare. One with 36 Tracks is Rarer.

By QUINN MULLER

Rarely do you see albums that you can pick your top 10 favorites from. Morgan Wallen’s 2023 album *One Thing At A Time* does just that: 36 songs, no skips.

The rat race of today’s world leaves music enthusiasts quickly moving from one song to the next, one genre to another. You’re sure to have found yourself on the receiving end of listening to halves of songs, whether it be your doing or the friend you gave AUX to. The rewarding sense that follows finding a no-skip album is a great feeling; it is increasingly difficult to find. Your go-tos for this likely follow the mainstream: *SOUR* by Olivia Rodrigo, *Lemonade* by Beyonce, *Fine Line* by Harry Styles. Country music generally manages to stay out of this mainstream spotlight, save for a few artists like Maren Morris, Kelsea Ballerini, and technically Taylor Swift. All those artists are famous for one reason: they appealed to the general public, they sacrificed much of their traditional style of music to compete with the A-listers.

Artists who have stuck to country have had a more difficult time breaking through the barriers of pop music while maintaining the genre’s style. Morgan Wallen has done this time and time again, and *One Thing At A Time* is no different. With songs like *Last Night*, *You Proof*, and *Thinkin’ Bout Me* breaking through to non-country fans, Wallen’s newest album has proven successful on a frontier many country stars cannot fathom. This album, among others, has undoubtedly placed Wallen among the older ranks of Luke Bryan, Carrie Underwood, and Jason Aldean.

36 songs is a lot. Not to mention this isn’t a new trend for Morgan Wallen. Wallen’s second album, *Dangerous: the double album* features 30 songs, split into two sections. Every single song on *One Thing At A Time* is at least good. The styles and topics within this album are so different, but Wallen manages to pay tribute to all types of country music, and do it well.

Born With 7/10
Last Night (Quinn’s Pick) 8/10

Last Night marks one of the more popular songs on the album. The song, being on the sadder side, is perfect to scream in the car. Last Night tells a story of Wallen and his implied girlfriend fighting while under the influence. It is the epitome of saying things you don't mean, “You told me that you wish I was somebody you never met / But baby, baby somethin’s tellin’ me this ain’t over yet” (*Last Night*, 0:24) characterize the chorus. Wallen highlights passionate love throughout the entire album, and this is no different, singing about be-all-end-all fights, doors slamming, and dust clouds from tires.

Everything I Love 8/10
Man Made (feat. Eric Church) 7/10
Devil Don’t Know 7/10
One Thing At A Time (Quinn’s Pick) 10/10

One Thing At A Time, the title track, is one of my favorite songs from it. The opening of the track resembles any Dayglow song, giving a softer yet upbeat feel to the song. The lyrics outline how Wallen is only “only quitting one thing at a time” (*One Thing At A Time*, 1:05) when warned by his girl of losing two things he's deeply attached to. The track is upbeat but conveys a firm message of self-restriction and further adds to the theme posed in *Born With*. The song also highlights his over-reliant personality, and how they manifest to the point that he can’t imagine quitting one without the support of the other.

‘98 Braves 6/10
Ain’t That Some (Quinn’s Pick) 9/10

Ain’t That Some highlights the wild side of country life, and Morgan Wallen’s personal experiences with friends. This fast paced song is one of my favorites on the album. It’s hard to present as much specific imagery as Wallen does in a matter of 2 or 3 minutes, but somehow he does it. He notes of “a honey hole with a Zebco.” Personally, I needed to look into what this term meant. A honey hole is a good place to catch fish and Zebco is a fishing brand. Regardless, the song is super catchy despite being a very masculine song.

I Wrote The Book (Quinn’s Pick) 10/10

This being the first song I listened to on the album, I have to note it. Since listening to the entire album in full, it’s not my favorite but it’s definitely up there. *I Wrote The Book* starts with Wallen singing about all the things that he prides himself on, things that he ‘wrote the book’ on. The song goes on to talk about the book: the Bible; Wallen recognizes his reluctant aversion to the Bible, despite being a Christian man, in terms of his almost hellbent personality. “I didn’t write it, but I probably oughta read it” (*I Wrote The Book*, 2:08) is reflective of this. The sound of the song is also very different from his other ones, while still maintaining that country feel.

Tennessee Numbers 7/10
Hope That’s True 6/10
Friends 7/10
Sunrise 5/10
Keith Whitley 6/10
In The Bible (feat. HARDY) 7/10
You Proof 7/10
Thought You Should Know 8/10
F150-50 (Quinn’s Pick) 10/10

F150-50 describes the 50-50 choice of one of Wallen’s love interests to leave in her Ford F150. The clever title highlights a true worry about the choice to leave or stay, and the uncertainty of relationships in our generation. Any English teacher will love this song for the alliterations in the chorus that add a rhythmic annunciation to the track (“Tails, it’s taillights tailin’ off / Floor that Ford forget this” (*F150-50*, 0:52)). If you’ve been listening to these songs while reading, you’ve likely noticed that Morgan Wallen writes about somewhat melancholic topics, and then either drives them into the ground with that negative energy (ex: *Cover Me Up*) or lifts it up ironically with upbeat backtracks (ex: *Last Drive Down Main*). *F150-50* is no different, using that irony to add a kick to the song.

Neon Star (Country Boy Lullaby) (Quinn’s Pick) 9/10

Neon Star is a simple song but the crescendo and decrescendo of the chorus is so satisfying to listeners, making it a true “country boy lullaby” (*Neon Star (Country Boy Lullaby)*, 1:54). This track is another story of heartbreak, as Wallen wishes on a star, neon because it’s truly just a neon sign of a star, lit up in a window. The song goes over his wish for this woman to come back to him, “Hoping there's a u-turn in your car” (*Neon Star (Country Boy Lullaby)*, 1:25).

I Deserve 7/10
Into Water 6/10
Me + All Your Reasons 7/10
Tennessee Fan (Quinn’s Pick) 9/10

Tennessee Fan brings back the personal flavor of Morgan Wallen’s music. The premise of the song is the outline of a football game between University of Tennessee, Knoxville and University of Alabama, throwing it back to *Had Me By Halftime* on his first album. Wallen includes lines like “a little Deep South Delta Gamma” (*Tennessee Fan*, 0:56) and “the Vol State line” (*Tennessee Fan*, 0:42). Lines like these tell about where Wallen’s new interest is from, and the sorority she’s in, highlighting the popularity of Greek life in the South. The Vol State line just means the Tennessee border– the name comes from their team, the Tennessee Volunteers, or “Vols.” Wallen also mentions “Rocky Top,” which is one of the more famous sports anthems, which also happens to be for the Vols, comparable to the *Boston Red Sox* and *Sweet Caroline*. In general the song has a nice sound to it, but it's the relationship that Morgan Wallen creates with his listeners that brings out the true country style of the song.

The easter egg of this song is probably the most interesting part. If you want the full experience, go listen to *Tennessee Orange* by Megan



MORGAN WALLEN ON APPLE MUSIC



ANDREW WENDOWSKI FOR COUNTRY NOW

Moroney; Moroney is a Georgia native and rival to the Vols. While the stories don’t line up completely, with the schools differing, rumors of Wallen and Moroney dating have been stirring after she was seen wearing one of his shirts. She sings “I’m wearing Tennessee orange for him / Took me to Knoxville last Saturday” (*Tennessee Orange*, 1:06) which is clearly reciprocated with “and she’s / fine in orange every weekend from now on” (*Tennessee Fan*, 2:19).

Money On Me 6/10
Thinkin’ Bout Me 8/10
Single Than She Was (Quinn’s Pick) 10/10

Single Than She Was is probably my favorite song on this album. The track tells the story of a girl who got stood up by her boyfriend, and gets whisked up by Wallen to the point of being “a little more single than she was” (*Single Than She Was*, 0:54). He pokes holes in her relationship in a light-hearted way in hopes of getting the girl. He depicts a picturesque night singing “She even stole a sip of mine” (*Single Than She Was*, 2:00) and “Danced on my boots to closin’ time” (*Single Than She Was*, 2:05). This is one of the only positive romance songs on the album, and Wallen’s style fits it perfectly.

Days That End In Why 6/10
Last Drive Down Main (Quinn’s Pick) 9/10

Last Drive Down Main presents a sense of wild sentimentality and acceptance of moving on. Of course, the reason for Wallen’s move is because “Two hearts break, only one can stay” (*Last Drive Down Main*, 0:29). As a teenager, I feel that everyone can relate to blasting music in the car driving down the familiar streets of your hometown, and this is reflected not only in the lyrics of the song, but also in the production. The song was made to be blasted in a pickup.

Me to Me 8/10
Don’t Think Jesus 6/10
180 (Lifestyle) 7/10
Had It 6/10
Cowgirls (feat. ERNEST) (Quinn’s Pick) 10/10

Let me just preface this by saying this is a fun song. There’s no deeper meaning, or necessary reflection, it’s just a song to vibe out to. The song is just a medley into country roots and popular beats, which is representative of Morgan Wallen’s style of music. While he has songs that are very traditional sounding, he has a lot that are produced to sound more like hip-hop, rock, or even pop songs sung by a country singer. ERNEST, one of the opening acts for the One Thing At A Time tour, hops on this track to tell listeners to “Long live cowgirls” (*Cowgirls*, 0:32). ERNEST is also a big songwriter for country music, writing eleven tracks on *One Thing At A Time*, and eleven on *Dangerous: The Double Album*.

Good Girl Gone Missin’ 7/10
Outlook 6/10
Dying Man 6/10

Upon the debut of the album, *One Thing At A Time* hit number one on Billboard 200. The album is arguably the biggest country album since Taylor Swift released her version of her original album Red. During the week of release, every single song on the album landed a spot on Billboard Hot 100, beating out Drake for the record of most songs on the prestigious list at one time, 36 to 27. Half of the songs on the top 10 were Wallen’s, including *Last Night* charting as the number one song. The album charted number one on several lists: Australian Albums, Australian Country Albums, Billboard Canadian Albums, New Zealand Albums, UK Country Albums, US Billboard 200, and US Billboard Top Country Albums. Wallen’s One Thing At A Time tour was meant to start up in April this year, and Wallen has been coasting through shows until he recently had some trouble with a vocal cord injury. Originally placed on vocal rest for ten days, he performed three more shows and re-injured his vocal cords. The tour and its upcoming shows are now up in the air as he announced on the morning of May 9th that he has been placed on vocal rest for six weeks.



ANDREW WENDOWSKI FOR COUNTRY NOW



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WHAT

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Fun & Games

THE ANCHOR

CROSSWORD

By ELAINE CLARKE

				1	2	3	
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			10				
	11						

Across

1. What one does in a pool
4. (Abr.) The essential element to a cold house on a hot day
5. What to do off a diving board
7. A pool must always be _____.
9. (Spanish) Ball of fire in the sky
10. Your towel after a dip in the pool
- 11.The most irritating thing on the beach

Down

2. An ocean’s greeting
3. The essential part of a cold drink on a hot day
5. What unattended swimmers do in a pool
6. One’s mind over the summer
8. Summer weather is __ hot __ the sun!

SUDOKU

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