

North Shore Welcomes Its New Pre-K Program

By: Elsa Lanne

On February 1st, 2023, history was made as a Pre-K program was added by the North Shore School District. This addition had been talked about in the past, but it finally came to fruition at the end of the 2022-23 school year. The District was given a special UPK (Universal Pre-K) expansion grant from New York State, which contained the funds needed to start the program. The State allowed the District to spend 5,400 dollars per student in the Pre-K program, which will be a very valuable resource for parents in the District, as private Pre-K education could cost 8,000 dollars or more per year, plus the District’s school fees they are already paying.

The Pre-K program consists of three classes, two of them are held at District elementary schools such as Sea Cliff School (SCS) and Glen Head School (GHS), and the third is held at the Glen Cove YMCA. The majority of the seats are filled in the program, as each class has about 14-18 students in it. Since the YMCA already had a Pre-K program in place, the children’s days would function similarly to the other classes that are held in that space. At

SCS and GHS however, students begin a little later than the other elementary students at 9 am and end earlier at 2 pm to avoid the busy pick-up and drop-off times. A typical day functions almost as a kindergarten class would with a morning meeting, activities, lunch, and snack breaks. The curriculum is just a simpler version of kindergarten as it incorporates more basic skills. There are two certified teachers per class working with these students. These teachers are provided by an organization called SCOPE Education Services. This organization offers many services to school districts in New York State. It had all of the resources needed to begin the Pre-K program and use the District’s space to educate the young students.

Despite support from SCOPE, the North Shore School District faced certain challenges as the program was being created. Since the addition came halfway through the year, all of the classrooms at the elementary schools were already in use. This meant that certain sacrifices had to be made to find space for the new Pre-K classes. The Mandarin room at SCS, as well as the

faculty space at GHS, were therefore converted into the new Pre-K rooms. Dr. Christopher Zublionus the Superintendent of Schools for the North Shore School District, said that, “the teachers were amazing in their flexibility.” Though the program began halfway through the school year, next year, the program is expected to begin normally in September. Looking to the future, Zublionis says, he thinks that the District “will expand and work with more pre-schools [while continuing] to work with the YMCA.” This would create more classes and opportunities for kids and parents in the District.

Parents should quickly take advantage of this new addition as it could become quite popular. In order to get into the 2023-24 school year program, there was a lottery that took place in April. Parents entered this lottery so that their children would have a chance at receiving a roster spot in one of these District classrooms. Since there are a limited number of spots, in future years this lottery could become increasingly harder to “win”. Lori Ruderman, a parent of a current Pre-K student at

Sea Cliff Elementary, is thrilled with the new opportunity. “We would highly recommend this program. Very quickly Phoebe [her daughter] transitioned into this new caring and loving environment. Developmentally she is ready for kindergarten, but she is still being given the opportunity to learn play skills and make friends.” This preview into the kindergarten environment clearly prepares students for their upcoming years in elementary school. Ms. Ruderman added that, “Phoebe is doing amazingly well in this program. Sometimes she comes home with paint on her, or stickers, or an amazing hat she made to learn the letter of the day. To us that is the best sign of her growth and happiness in the program.”

Overall, the teachers and the environment in the Pre-K classroom were clearly well thought out. The students are happy and excited to continue their learning experience, which is important for their motivational level. As the youngest Vikings continue to grow in the new program, it is obvious that North Shore’s new Pre-K program is quite a success.

One Chapter Closes, But Another One Opens

By: Jessica Lillis

I thought a lot about what I should write as my final piece for *The Viking View*; and, up to that point, I honestly did not think it was going to feel as significant as it does. When I actually sat down to write it, I was hit with the feeling that this would be one of the last, lasts I would have at North Shore. So, no this is not another article about a sports team, community concern or political issue; instead, I’m taking this as an opportunity to share what I have taken away from my senior year of high school.

Despite high school feeling like a never-ending loop of craziness, it does eventually come to an end. And yes, your relatives who tell you to appreciate these times while you still are experiencing them are right. I have spent so much of my time at the High School thinking about the future and dreaming of the independence and freedom that comes with graduating, that I rarely took a minute to appreciate the life I was living at that moment. I took for granted things like going to school with the kids I grew up with and then going home every day to my family and dog. This routine will soon change. However, even though the new chapter that is coming up in our lives as high school graduates can seem terrifying, especially when living through the college decision process, it is important

to recognize how ready we truly are. It may take a little time, but when you finally realize and accept things like Sports Night not being as much fun as you remembered it being in your freshman year, or the first day of school not being as exciting as it once was, you can start to understand that maybe this “senioritis” so many of our elders frown upon, could actually be just us out-growing the high school lifestyle and growing in maturity. Somehow, throughout all of these past few years, we seniors have matured and become ready for this next chapter to begin; plus, the comfort that comes with knowing we are ready makes everything seem a little bit easier.

So, to any any student who is reading this piece, appreciate the small things that are around you. Appreciate every person who is in each of your classes; appreciate that kid you do not talk to anymore, but remember being in the same first grade class as; appreciate the friends who have stuck with you through the rollercoaster that is middle and high school; appreciate that one freshman teacher you had who still says hi to you in the hallway years later. But, have the confidence to know that when the time comes, you will be more than ready for whatever comes your way in the future.

*Congratulations
To
North Shore
High School’s
Class of 2023*

Once A Viking, Always A Viking.

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May 2023

The Class Of 2023 Looks Back

By: Kaitlin Ho

It has been almost four years since the Class of 2023 walked through the front entrance of North Shore High School to begin its ninth grade year—and now, its members are about to walk out for good. Despite having seen the brute force of Covid and therefore not having a “normal” high school experience for most of the time they were here, this class, in particular, was able to adapt and persevere extremely well. So now, some members of the class are sharing their thoughts about their time here:

Q: What was the best class you have taken and why?

Sammy Lockwood: Anthropology- Mrs. Grimshaw makes a class feel like a family and encourages all kinds of discussion related to the subject. Anthropology was not only fun, but it was also an important class to take to learn about walks of life that are separate from one’s own. The environment of the class is completely unique- individual thinking is encouraged and Mrs. Grimshaw easily makes everyone feel like they’re valued and a positive contributor to the class.

Andrew Kraupner: The best class I’ve taken was AP Biology. This class was very interesting because it went highly in-depth about biology. During the year, we got to learn specifics about microbiology such as cellular respiration and photosynthesis. In addition, our AP Bio class took a trip to the DNA Learning Center in Cold Spring Harbor. Here, we sequenced our mitochondrial DNA and got to learn a piece of our ancestry.

Jessica Lillis: The best class I have taken in high school was Science Research; it really taught me how to work hard and made me a much better student overall.

Liliana Stella: The best class I have taken at North Shore was IB Business Management with Ms. Sandback. It was interesting and hopefully will help my future studies in college.

Gregory Saridakis: Most definitely Chorus! The community provided a place where I was free to express myself and learn from others. The art form not only takes a lot of mental effort to produce the music, but it also takes a lot to tell a story.

Sarah Barnett: I really loved AP Literature with Mr. Knight because I love analyzing text and talking about books and poetry. I particularly enjoyed reading *The Crucible* and felt excited to read *Frankenstein*.

Paige Cloutier: Sculpture with Ms. Cano. It gave me a chance to express myself and it was a stress reliever.

Loretta Nester: Literature and Social Action because the teacher, Ms. Millman, is really supportive and the class is very informative about what’s currently going on in the world.

Peter Liotta: My woodworking class sophomore year because it taught me lots of valuable life skills such as how to actually fix things and do arts and crafts on my own. Those are skills I am going to use later on in life.

Q: What advice do you have for incoming freshmen?

Sammy Lockwood: Don’t get too hung up on grades- it’s important to do well, but a test is not worth stressing out over to the point of tears. The school provides resources that are invaluable for the adjustment to high school, such as the Peer

Leaders, Writing Fellows, and the Math Center. Utilize these tools- everyone here has been a freshman before and has used them as well!

Dean Mallen: Take classes that challenge you, ask for help, and participate in extracurricular activities.

Emily Wilson: Don’t waste your time waiting for high school to be over; also, speak up for yourself with teachers (in a respectful way).

Azuré Harvey: Don’t come into high school expecting things to be the same as they were in middle school. Friend groups break up, drama happens, people fight, people make bad decisions, and that’s okay. All change isn’t bad change. And go to BOCES. It’s a part time trade school; you can get a license/certification and get a job right away.

Andrew Kraupner: My biggest piece of advice is to join extracurriculars that interest you the most. Joining extracurriculars you’re interested in enables you to connect with people that share similar interests as you. Many of our club advisors are highly passionate about what they teach and there is an abundance of opportunities you can receive from joining extracurriculars.

Jessica Lillis: Take the time to appreciate every little thing because it goes by very fast.

Peter Liotta: Take as many classes as you can, don’t be lazy, and make sure you put in the work for those classes the first three years of high school because then college will be very easy for you.

Q: What was your favorite school lunch? Why?

Sammy Lockwood: Mozzarella bites with marinara sauce. These were so delicious and easy to prepare!

Liliana Stella: My favorite school lunch was the bagels in the cafeteria, because they were always fresh.

Gregory Saridakis: Bacon, eggs, and cheese every morning. OG’s remember the wraps though. In terms of actual lunch, it’s gotta be the Deli. The hot lunch was amazing, but I gotta give it to my hard working ladies in the Deli.

Alonzo Marte: Steak because it is just really good, especially when medium rare.

Trevor Janusas: The pesto and grilled chicken sandwich because I love pesto so much and it was the best tasting meal I’ve ever had at school.

Andrew Kraupner: My favorite school lunch is the Mac and Cheese. Every time, this lunch hits and recently the cafeteria staff improved its recipe even more by adding a layer of breadcrumbs to the top.

Jessica Lillis: My favorite school lunch is the steak and potatoes! Even though it is rarely served, it’s always really good.

Matthew Baron: Homemade sliders. They’re really good.

Azuré Harvey: The ramen, honestly. It’s actually good and it’s different from the usual school lunch.

Peter Liotta: Tacos; they were my favorite. You can’t go wrong with tacos. I also like the rice and black beans. I get one soft and one hard taco and they have never messed it up.

Q: What teacher/staff member/coach has really made a difference in your life? How so?

Sammy Lockwood: Mrs. Grimshaw, Mr. Blanchard, and Mr. Perles are three of the most incredible teachers I have ever had the pleasure of working with. They each interact with students in a personal, meaningful way to individualize the learning environment and maximize comprehension. They each root for their students in an authentic and sincere way that shows their students that they care- whenever I had a rough day, each of these teachers identified this, took the time to show concern, and then compassionately allowed me to perform at my own personal level for the day without criticism. I have never learned from anyone as well as I have learned from them, both in terms of the curriculum provided and in terms of how to interact with the world around me. I truly believe each of these teachers has made me a better person just from having them and listening to their experiences and lessons.

Gregory Saridakis: Mr. Kleba. He helped me embrace the weird and chaotic. Also, he taught me to always learn, teach, and spread joy.

Sarah Barnett: Mr. Knight has been my teacher for the last three years and I think he’s great. I had Mr. Rodahan last year for history and he was a great teacher as well. Both made me feel like I was actually smart, even when I was having trouble with my work; they were very patient with me. The honorable mention is Mr. Fierro because he also made me feel smart and he makes math fun :).

Andrew Kraupner: Ms. Chen has made a difference in my life. I had Ms. Chen sophomore year when I took Anatomy and Physiology. Her great teaching, love for the subject and vast knowledge left me a better biologist. In addition, I would always look forward to the Microbe and Anatomy’s weekly meetings when we would explore biology phenomena and do dissections. Once again, Ms. Chen’s great teaching resulted in me becoming more interested in biology.

Trevor Janusas: Ms. Nercesian because she taught me that I can have fun in a classroom and still be productive.

Paige Cloutier: Mrs. Cano- she is always so nice and she cares about every one of her students.

Alex Uryan: Mr. Millard because he’s always positive and knows how to keep you interested in a class.

Azuré Harvey: Ms. Millman. I’ve had her for three years, and even bothered her the one year I didn’t have her. She was with me while I was going through rough patches and took the time to get to know me and push me to my potential.

Peter Liotta: Mr. Madigan. I’ve been playing football with him for the past four years and he impacted me and made me who I am today. Whenever there was trouble in school, he always made sure I was not associated with a bad crowd. He always gave me advice and would often tell me stories of his high school experience and how he wishes he stayed away from those kinds of kids. He

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All The Way From Glen Head To Spain

By: Vincent Giugliano

As the North Shore High School students who went on the trip to Spain during the week of February 15th, 2023 emerged from the subway and caught their first glimpse of the city of Barcelona, they were immediately hit with a feeling of amazement. The warm Mediterranean sun beat down on them and they started to hear the sounds of Spanish chatter and smell the aroma of the fresh coffee that seemed to be brewing everywhere. Barcelona's rich history was also immediately evident to them as they could not help but notice the Gothic architecture that is riddled throughout the entire city. The North Shore kids felt such a strong sense of anticipation for all that Barcelona had to offer and the memories they were about to make.

So much of what the North Shore High School students experienced on the trip to Spain was brand new for them. And, as a result, there were many highlights. For example, visiting the city of Tarragona, seeing the Roman ruins and the Sagrada Família Cathedral in Barcelona were high up on their list of things that caused them to ooo and ahhh. Many students also had the amazing opportunity to go to Camp Nou to watch a Barcelona soccer match. In fact, for junior Masten Martin, going to an FC Barcelona match was an amazing experience. He said, "Barcelona is my favorite team and the atmosphere in the stadium was amazing." In addition, junior Liam Brady said "Before the Spain trip, I had made my face present at several sporting events, whether it was a Mets' game or a North Shore home football game. However, I was fortunate enough to go to a Barcelona game where they played Cadiz. Although it was not an important game in the grand scheme of things, the energy and experience made it one of the most memorable moments of my life as the stadium erupted each time Barcelona scored a goal." Overall, the stadium's atmosphere was incomparable to any that could be found in an American stadium. The spirit was so high that we felt like we were in a movie.

Another highlight of the trip for many of us was the food; one thing I noticed about it was how inexpensive it was and how easy it was to find a fabulous eatery wherever we went. There were just so many of them. Junior Cash Evans, said the highlight of his trip was "Going out for dinner in Barcelona late at night. It was so nice to see the gothic neighborhoods empty and lit up at night. We had great Spanish meals; I had an awesome time and got along well with the Spanish people. We also went to a place before one particular dinner that had a great view of the city."

Yes, there were so many great experiences on this trip, but several of the students who attended had a lot to say regarding the cultural and societal differences they noticed. Cash Evans said that "Probably the most surprising things were how affectionate the Spanish kids were with their parents and how common smoking is. Also, since so many people smoke, instead of salt and pepper shakers on the tables of some restaurants, there were ashtrays."

Despite the many things the students saw and did in Spain, many would have liked to have had more time to explore

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would always make sure I was on the right path.

Q: What's your most embarrassing in-school North Shore memory?

Sammy Lockwood: In ninth grade, during a lockdown drill, I was playing Flappy Golf while sitting under the table-shelf in J3. When I finally beat the level I had been stuck on for weeks, I pumped a fist in the air, forgetting I was sitting under the table-shelf; and so, I punched the shelf in the dead silence. Everyone stared at me, including my teacher, who hadn't realized I was playing Flappy Golf.

Liliana Stella: My most embarrassing North Shore memory would be when I walked in the rain to the Victorian to get to class. This then caused me to walk into class with myself and all of my stuff wet.

Sarah Barnett: In general, the concept of embarrassment isn't real; it is only real if you perceive it as real. You are only embarrassed if you find yourself embarrassed. Just do what makes you happy; mistakes are a part of living :P

Andrew Kraupner: My most embarrassing high school memories involved me forgetting to mute myself during the Google Meets for my classes.

Paige Cloutier: I splattered clay all over my face in art.

Loretta Nester: During Sports Night freshman year, I did the Gonzo relay and everyone still remembers it to this day. Believe me, EVERYONE remembers. Thank god there was no Gonzo relay this year!

Q: Which event did you most look forward to during your North Shore career? Why? Did it live up to your expectations?

Sammy Lockwood: The Latin trip to Italy- my brother had gone on it when he was a senior, and I was so excited for all of high school to go on it as well. I went as a junior, and even though our luggage was lost for two days and our flight home was delayed and then changed entirely, the trip was amazing and one I'll remember for a very long time.

Liliana Stella: The event I looked forward to most during my North Shore career would have to be the football games. They were always a lot of fun to be at, and being able to spend that time with friends and people in the community was an amazing experience.

Gregory Saridakis: Senior Dog Picture Day. It's all I did high school for, and it was everything and more.

Trevor Janusas: I looked the most forward to my last play, *Inherit the Wind*. It didn't live up to my expectations because it turned out to be way better than I imagined. :)

Andrew Kraupner: I looked forward to the science department trip the most. In my junior year, I had the opportunity to travel with 30 other students to Costa Rica. It was one of the most exciting weeks of high school as we did activities such as zip lining through the jungle, whitewater rafting and taking

chocolate, pineapple and coffee tours.

Jessica Lillis: I most looked forward to Sports Night throughout the years because it really brings the grade together; everyone has so much school spirit and gets closer.

Matthew Baron: The Italian exchange program. My siblings both did it and it seemed super cool to go away to a different country and meet foreign people.

Paige Cloutier: Senior Year and yes, it did live up to my expectations because it was not stressful and more fun. It was really fun sculpting a hand holding a pair of goggles.

Emily Wilson: Bring Your Dog Day. I couldn't bring my dog because my dog doesn't like any people other than my family and three of my friends, but one of my friends brought his dog, so I participated with him that day. It was a lot of fun walking around the courtyard when it was filled with all kinds of dogs.

Azuré Harvey: Bring Your Dog Day. It absolutely lived up to my expectations and it made most people's day.

Peter Liotta: Senior Assassin. It seemed like a fun game when I watched upperclassmen playing. Everybody was relaxed and having a good time.

Q: What was the best activity you were involved in at North Shore and why?

Sammy Lockwood: Doing shows in the theater department. Being involved in theater has allowed me to have multiple groups of friends throughout the school and interact with a much larger variety of people than I otherwise would've.

Liliana Stella: The best North Shore activity I was involved in would be the Pulse Dance Team, because it gave me the opportunity to not only attend and participate in all of the sports games and community events, but also spend time with friends.

Gregory Saridakis: Theater; there's nothing more fun than building tight bonds and showing everyone the fruits of your labor.

Nehir Tan: Musical Theater because it was so much fun to work with Mr. Brateman and build strong friendships!

Dean Mallen: The lacrosse and soccer programs because we were like a family and that is where I made the most memories.

Loretta Nester: All of the trips to different countries for music and language. I went to Greece freshman year for Chorus and I went to France with my French class this year. Both trips exposed me to various cultures out there; and, the fact that I was traveling with my friends was nice. I specifically enjoyed admiring the churches we visited.

Andrew Kraupner: One of my favorite activities that I was involved in was Chamber Orchestra. I enjoyed Chamber Orchestra because of the advanced repertoire that we tackled every Wednesday. Furthermore, I enjoyed our yearly holiday performance. This year, we performed

for Sea Cliff Elementary which was a very rewarding experience.

Jessica Lillis: The North Shore Track team because it really made me push myself both physically and mentally.

Q: What did you love most about attending North Shore? Why?

Sammy Lockwood: I loved involving myself in as many activities as I could, from Theater to Mock Trial to the Poetry Club to Student Government. I'm thankful I had the opportunity to explore so many different aspects of the school.

Liliana Stella: The things I loved most about attending North Shore were the amazing teachers and events at school. North Shore is so unique in the fact that the teachers not only care about your academic success, but they also create activities and events to get students excited. One of the many examples would have to be the cook-offs that would often occur during 7th period!

Gregory Saridakis: Community. All of the teachers are so inviting and helpful, and many students are so lovely to be around. When I tried something new, people were always adamant about helping me. There have been lots of teacher-like figures and mentors that have guided me. For instance, in Track, I made so many friends that took me under their wing and taught me about the sport. They never laughed at me or made fun of me and for that, I am very thankful.

Sarah Barnett: Seeing my friends and learning new things. I learned to enjoy using my brain; also, the teachers and staff here are very patient and understanding. You can tell that most teachers really care about their students and their job. :)

Andrew Kraupner: My favorite thing about attending North Shore was the teachers. I feel that many of my teachers are extremely passionate about what they teach and enjoy facilitating the spread of knowledge.

Jessica Lillis: I really love the sense of community you feel while at the school. Whether you attend North Shore's elementary, middle, or high school, you always feel like someone is rooting for you and that they support you.

Azuré Harvey: It is accepting towards all kinds of people and gives the opportunity for different people to get along; you end up being close with people that you never would have thought you could.

Peter Liotta: I think the people. I have a good group of friends. I like talking to everybody and it is a fun atmosphere to be in.

Sadly, the 2023 Seniors are leaving North Shore High School, but it is evident that they created numerous memories at North Shore—all thanks to the wonderful administration and staff. Hopefully, they will always consider North Shore home. Good luck to the Seniors in their future endeavors!



All The Way To Spain

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the city. Masten Martin said, “I would just want to spend more time there.” Liam Brady added that, “In the region of Catalunya, I can’t imagine having done any more there than I did that pertained to cultural traditions, but in the entirety of Spain, I am sure there are countless places I would have loved to visit, but could not in the allotted time. Senior Yusef Helo said, “Try to add two more days to the trip to visit Madrid or southern cities like Seville Cadiz or Granada; it would have been great to see the different cultures within the country.” Doing something like this would make the Spain trip more similar to others like the Italian exchange trip where the American students leave the families they stay with to see other parts of the country for a couple of days. Another change that was mentioned that the organizers could consider making was suggested by Masten Martin. “Maybe they could ask if there are any places we want to go to and just go there”. To do this, there could be a meeting held before the trip where students get to suggest places they would like to visit; the organizers could then consider those thoughts or express to them why they would not be feasible.

Finally, regarding staying with a host family while on the trip, Cash Evans stated, “I preferred staying with the students. It made me feel more integrated into the culture and made my experience feel much more authentic. I also spoke the most Spanish while I was at the house, so that helped me improve and practice.” Yusef Helo had somewhat of a different opinion when he said, “I liked staying with my host family, but I think staying in a hotel in a different city for a couple of days would be equally beneficial” Another student, Senior Shannon Stalzer, added that, “I think I would have liked to have stayed in a hotel because staying with someone else can lead to a lot of drama, limit what you can do and see in Spain, and it does not allow us to see our American friends”. The area of the trip that received the most mixed opinions from the students was clearly in regard to where they stayed.

As the trip came to an end, our emotions ran high. All of the American and Spanish students met back at the Spanish students’ school to say a final goodbye. Saying farewell to the families that treated us all as their own and the kids we grew close with was tough, to say the least. The bus ride to the airport was entertaining though as everyone shared his or her favorite memories from the trip. By the end of the trip, the group had grown together and became a close-knit family of sorts; and, I think I can speak for all when I say that this travel opportunity was an experience of a lifetime that we could never trade.



May 2023

College is one of the most vital experiences one can have. While it is by no means necessary in order to live a fulfilling life, it is still incredibly useful. At its core, college manages to build both the knowledge and skills needed to succeed; some of these include broad outlooks, organizational ability, deadline accountability, knowledge of a field, and professional skills learned from a person’s veteran professors (Bouchrika). The importance of these skills is reflected in the data of college graduates as they are significantly financially better off than those with a high school diploma or an Associate degree. While the median weekly incomes of high school graduates and those with an Associate degrees are \$809 and \$963 respectively, those with a Bachelor’s degree earn \$1,334 (Bureau of Labor Statistics). This leads to greater financial stability and wealth accumulation as those with higher incomes can invest any spare income. Additionally, over a lifetime, a college degree is worth 2.8 million dollars (Merisotis). Similarly, those with a college degree have a far lower unemployment rate at 3.5% as opposed to 6.2% and 4.6% for those with a high school diploma and Associate degree.

Yet, these numerous occupational and financial virtues have recently been unable to attract students’ attention. In recent times, undergraduate enrollment has slumped with every passing year since 2017 seeing a decrease. In 2017, about seventeen million undergraduates enrolled in the fall. But in 2022, there were just fifteen million (National Student Clearinghouse). This precipitous drop of about 12% is not primarily caused by Covid-19 either as the trend started before Covid-19 and continues even now. However, while Covid-19 may not have caused this trend, it did exacerbate the actual cause: the cost of college. With Covid-19 causing economic damage and spurring subsequent inflation, many people’s finances have worsened, and college appears to be more out of reach than ever. But if the primary barrier is cost, then surely lowering the cost would increase enrollment.

Unfortunately though, lowering college expenses is easier said than done. At first, it may seem that simply cutting costs could lower college expenses given that the United States spends the second most per student in the world. However, most of that cost is from paying faculty and staff (Ripley). Thus, even if we cut out many of the superfluous expenses, our costs remain high and our appealing college amenities would be gone. This is further complicated by our byzantine three-pronged approach to colleges as students face vastly different tuition costs, with those at public institutions facing average tuition costs of \$9,400, private nonprofits facing \$37,600, and private for-profits facing \$18,200 (National Center for Education Statistics). These students face

College Reform Is Necessary

By: Raymond Lin

different circumstances, and their colleges have different programs, meaning that attempts at cost-cutting measures across the board would be logistically impossible to implement. In its stead, one may suggest as a solution direct aid to students. But since an average of \$15,330 of student aid is given to students already, how much more should it be (College Board Research)? Allowing blanket aid would be exorbitantly expensive, no matter what form it takes. Additionally, blanket aid would not assist those who truly need it as the main beneficiaries of such aid are those with higher education and incomes (Looney). As one attempts to tackle the problem of costs, they uncover the convoluted nature of our colleges.

To reinvigorate college enrollment and lower its cost to students, we must untangle its byzantine nature. We could implement this through the publication and spread of a list of low-financial-value programs (Meyer). This list, if it were properly created and distributed, could lead to a large portion of future students choosing good careers and paying off their student loans; after all, most people with student loans have less than \$20,000 (College Board Research). This list of low financial value programs would lead to greater transparency and, while it may not end the byzantine status of our colleges, it could guide future students through a winding path and prevent them from suffering from student debt for most of their lives. While this could guide future students, we must also help those who are already beleaguered by student loans. A helpful reform for these people is to treat educational loans like consumer debt and allow them to be discharged via bankruptcy. This would help those in need and prevent student loans from further burdening these people.

These administrative reforms may assist people greatly, but we must also simultaneously work to make college more favorable and accessible cost-wise. As mentioned earlier, the costs of college are largely required as the faculty is vital and cannot be removed. However, the cost for students can still be reduced in several ways without drastically altering the college experience. The number of non-teaching staff could be cut, allowing for resources to be dedicated elsewhere or removed from the cost entirely (Council on Foreign Relations). Another solution involves restricting federal loans for students at institutions with poor student outcomes, which discourages future students from obtaining an ineffectual education (Council on Foreign Relations). This, in turn, leads to the shrinking of problematic institutions and the promotion of better institutions and educations. Lastly, college costs could be lowered through government intervention. This would help colleges and students the most directly, but it would also be more expensive than the previously

mentioned cost-cutting measures. However, one must keep in mind that the subsidization of education through funding colleges and giving aid to students who need it leads to a more robust educational system (Council on Foreign Relations). It is by no means a senseless expense and could prove to be a boon as future citizens earn better educations at less burdening costs.

While colleges and the reforms needed to fix them can seem byzantine, it is important to stress how imperative these institutions are. The benefits are not merely financial and can extend into many matters of one’s life. To ensure that more people, rather than fewer people every year, obtain these vital experiences, aid and systemic reforms must be implemented. In a time when many people are plagued by college debts and apathy for colleges is growing, the college system must be revitalized and reformed through untangling byzantine systems, removing some non-essential staff, and offering greater state subsidization of colleges via selective funding and aid.

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To Be Woke Or Not To Be Woke: A Dive Into The Political Buzzword

By: Veronica Frank

Before 2014 the word “woke” was rarely used, and certainly never uttered in political spaces, let alone in Republican presidential debates. In 2023, the use of “wokeness” or “woke” in primary debates seems almost guaranteed; however, many users of the political buzzword have little to no idea what it means and where it originated from.

In the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, the term is defined as “well informed or aware, especially in a political or cultural sense”. The term gained popularity at the start of the Black Lives Matter movement in 2014, but was only included in the *Oxford Dictionary* in 2017 due to a rapid increase in mainstream usage, especially in politics. Currently, the term is closely associated with the “New Left”, a political stance that advocates for cultural and social issues like race, sex, and gender equality (Cohn).

The “New Left” emerged with President Obama as he brought in a focus on racial inequality, and gender inequality, as well as protecting the LGBT community from hate. The New Left believes that racism, sexism, and other oppressive hierarchies are deeply embedded in American society, and supports academic theories such as critical race theory. Despite the dictionary definition of the term “woke”, many categorize the term as someone addressing these “New Left” issues such as “critical race theory, non-binary pronouns, trans rights and the fate of university courses” (Cohn).

However, this term has become a word more commonly used by Republican politicians wishing to insult the liberal party and its viewpoints during rallies or presidential primary debates. President Donald Trump and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis have been at the forefront of this term in recent political debates. DeSantis claimed during a speech this past April, “We will never surrender to the woke agenda!” Many have questioned DeSantis and Trump, trying to understand exactly what they mean by the “woke agenda”. The DeSantis Administration responded by defining “woke” as “the belief there are systemic injustices in American society and the need to address them”. However, when asked to define the term, conservative writer Bethany Mandel became the subject of considerable ridicule on social media as she was unable to concisely define the term in an interview. Therefore, although DeSantis has defined the term, it seems rather elusive to the Republican party as a whole.

The reason “woke” has become such a buzzword for Republicans to throw around almost as if it was a slur is because it sums up everything the Republican party stands against. This term seems to encapsulate everything the

right wing opposes: social justice issues, granting rights to those minorities like LGBTQ, and trans people, and solving the climate crisis. DeSantis claims that “What you see now with the rise of this woke ideology is an attempt to really delegitimize our history and to delegitimize our institutions, and I view the wokeness as a form of cultural Marxism”. Overall, the GOP feels that such stances are “liberal excess”, and is using its political power to fight against it.

Over the course of their time in power, the two leaders of the “anti-woke” movement claim that in the future they will do everything in their power to remove liberal legislation (Muddle). Donald Trump and Mr. DeSantis swear to pass federal laws recognizing only two genders and punish doctors who provide gender-affirming care for minors. In addition, DeSantis says that he would ban gender studies, and has recently passed the “Stop W.O.K.E. bill” last April which “essentially prohibits instruction on race relations or diversity that imply a person’s status as either privileged or oppressed is necessarily determined by his or her race, color, national origin, or sex” (Florida Senate).

However, “wokeness” as a buzzword has just been another way our country has fallen into further political polarization. In the past 10 years, particularly since the election of Donald Trump, our political sphere has grown farther and farther apart on almost all stances. For liberals or more left-leaning individuals, the term has a positive connotation, relating much closer to the original definition of “well-informed”. As a professor of political science and African American studies from Penn State explained, “When people talk about being woke or becoming woke, they’re talking about being well-informed and well-aware of systemic oppression and injustice.” On the contrary, the Republican party drives the narrative that “wokeness” is a movement dedicated to undermining the institutions America was founded on and promotes citizens to stray from traditional conservative values.

Therefore, as the word itself takes on two different meanings in American society, so does our view of what America should be. On the one hand, the left believes our society should strive for change and progress into a place that has no inequality. On the other hand, the right exclaims that our country should protect its traditional values, even if it means “recognizing systematic injustices” (DeSantis). It seems that as time goes on the parties are growing further and further apart, and “wokeness”, although just a word, has nonetheless contributed to it.

The Terror That Is Tik Tok

By: Wyatt Snyder

These days, social media use has become a regular part of teenage life, as at least one social media app can be found on most teenagers’ phones ages 13-17 (aacap.org). On average, these teens spend around nine hours online per day, endlessly scrolling through short, dopamine-inducing content (aacap.org). This continuous scrolling and borderline addiction does in fact take a toll on these young, still-forming minds.

One social media app in particular has grown rapidly in popularity ever since the quarantine; that app is Tik Tok. In 2022, Tik Tok was the most downloaded mobile app worldwide (statista.com), and for a good reason. Tik Tok is a social media app that consists of seemingly

endless short, colorful, funny videos that help to release small amounts of dopamine in the human brain with every scroll. The design of this app is genius, hooking people of all ages with its carefully crafted format, making them want to come back to the app for more of that happy feeling. Although Tik Tok may seem harmless with its catchy sounds and vibrant colors, don’t let it fool you as this app is to blame for the drastic shortening in children’s attention span and overall happiness.

Social media, more specifically Tik Tok, is considered one of the “most detrimental things to happen to our attention spans” (Heinz) as it caters to our generation’s already shrinking attention span caused by consumerism. This

Since the presidency of Donald Trump, there have been talks of banning Tik Tok, the popular Chinese-owned video platform. According to Tik Tok, the app is used by more than 150 million Americans, accounting for nearly 50% of the country’s total population. The bipartisan RESTRICT Act, which was recently introduced to Congress, has implications far beyond banning an app that lets people watch silly videos. The bill has been touted as a way to protect the United States from the threat of foreign espionage and cyberattacks, but the push-back has pointed out how this Act not only stifles free trade, but also directly violates the First Amendment by giving the government full power of censorship.

In August of 2020, former President Donald Trump signed Executive Order 13942, with the goal of banning Tik Tok, alongside a similar order against Chinese-owned messaging app WeChat. ByteDance, the owner of Tik Tok, announced that it was willing to sell the U.S.’s Tik Tok operations, an action that wouldn’t make sense if they needed to collect data on Americans. While these bans never went into effect, the same ideas still remain. While President Joe Biden overturned these bans with Executive Order 14034, the anti-Tik Tok sentiment remained. On December 30, 2022, Biden approved the No Tik Tok on Government Devices Act. In March, Senator Josh Hawley introduced the RESTRICT Act, which allows the government to ban apps from several countries, including China, if they are perceived as threatening. Although it does not mention Tik Tok by name, this bill has been seen as another attempt at banning it.

Despite operating under the guise of protecting user privacy, the RESTRICT Act does no such thing. Instead, it paints over international businesses in broad strokes that allow for the government to easily perform censorship. While there are legitimate concerns over the data Tik Tok collects, as with any other social media company, we should be concerned whether this data ends up in the hands of the Chinese government or an American corporation. What we need is a “comprehensive policy that starts closing the gaps,” according to Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden. We need an actual solution that doesn’t just point fingers at China for our carelessness with our data. The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) argued that “this bill is a distraction from real progress on

privacy.” As a solution, it proposed more general privacy-protection legislation, which would protect the consumer, unlike the RESTRICT Act.

The censorship potential of this bill however, is insanely draconian. The vague language, according to Rae Hodge, threatens civil liberties and First Amendment rights. Hodge also points out an issue with the lack of oversight over the decision to ban apps. Additionally, it is unclear whether or not the use of a VPN to circumvent the ban would be allowed, but if it is not extreme, government surveillance would be required to stop it. This violation of free speech is insanely regressionary, and would only sharpen the divide between the United States and China.

Ultimately, Tik Tok’s handling of data is a severe issue, just like it is on practically any social media platform. While there are legitimate concerns about this data ending up in foreign hands, more sweeping data protection would do so much more for consumers than the RESTRICT Act. What the proposers of this bill want is not to protect our privacy, but further anti-Chinese fear-mongering and allow for censorship. The issues with this bill are so clear that Tucker Carlson agreed with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s opposition to it (Hodge). While Tik Tok users may find this bill stupid or annoying, and others may find it harmless, the RESTRICT Act sets up the unacceptable ability for the government to censor, and it must be stopped.

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children are finally being brought to the public’s attention as some of these concerns were brought up during the recent Tik Tok congressional hearing on March 23rd. Although the addictive nature of the app was not the main concern of the hearing, some ideas were still discussed such as the “teen screen time” limits that were put in place. These limits offer parents a way to control their child’s usage of the app at any time. Tik Tok users between the ages of 13-17 have the limit set to one hour by default. Although this feature does not offer a perfect solution, it brings us one step closer to solving the problem of social media addiction and the issues that follow.

May 2023

Social Media Sustains Consumerism

By: Hannah Sadowski

Since the 1950s, America has been known for being a consumerist society. With the creation of the internet, it has become easier for people to obtain any goods through online shopping. This method of shopping also allows people to buy things more frivolously due to its convenience; also, the fact that the shopper is constantly bombarded with ads does not hurt either. The biggest proponent to this cause is the rise of social media, as more consumers are being influenced by it everyday.

In just a few years, the social media platform TikTok has exponentially grown in popularity. With over 150 million Americans on the app, people are exposed to all kinds of content all day everyday. While scrolling through their feed, users may see unboxings, shopping hauls, and “get ready with me” videos. These videos are made by varying accounts and can be used to push different products on users. Sometimes, the use of a certain product in these videos can be enough to convince the users to purchase it. Oftentimes, the more popular the creator, the more influential she is, and the more likely she is to sell out a product. For example, Alix Earle is a creator who get this done. Through her TikToks, she has caused an array of products to sell out, including Mielles hair oil, multiple shades of Rare Beauty’s liquid blush, the Tweezerman eyelash curler, the Retrofête alphabet earrings, and Charlotte Tilbury’s contour wand (Rey). This can make it extremely difficult for those who previously enjoyed the product to obtain it again, as loyal customers are being replaced by newly influenced social media users. Despite this downside, having this type of media coverage benefits the brand in such a huge way. To take advantage of a creator’s influence on TikTok, companies often send her a PR (public relations) package. In response to receiving the PR package, the creator will make a TikTok video promoting the product. This gives the company a new way to advertise to an even wider audience, at little to no cost. When a consumer sees an influencer she admires promoting a product, it gives the product more appeal.

With new items being displayed to audiences every day on social media, new trends arise as well. When a new trend appears, consumers automatically want to join in with the trend and fit in with everyone else, so become more likely to purchase this product. But by the

time the consumer receives the product, often, a new trend has started, and then another purchase is made. In the article “Perpetuating Consumerism: The Role of Social Media and Self-Image,” the author states that “when trends come and go, it can be taxing on our self-image. It’s difficult to fit in when what is ‘in’ is always changing. It can lead to a sense of isolation, or the idea that we’re missing out” (Burrows). The sense that one is not perceived as ‘cool’ because she does not have a certain trending product is an even bigger motivator for a person to make impulse purchases on something trendy. As a result, consumers become the ‘proud’ owners of an abundance of items that were once considered “trendy”.

With daily exposure to influencers, it is easy to fall into the trap of ‘the trend cycle’. However, some creators on TikTok are trying to stop the process of overconsumption that stems from the app. This is done in a method called “deinfluencing.” One article describes this as “a term that’s been recently invented by creators who are urging viewers not to buy something, or calling criticism to cult-favorite products” (Chen). This is done by influencers who are not considered brand ambassadors. They give an unbiased review of a product that a different creator was paid to promote. This can cause users to second-guess their favorite trendsetters by thinking for themselves to see if a product is really worth buying. Coupled with this tactic, creators are also beginning to show their followers less expensive replacement products for high end cosmetics; these are known on the internet as “dupes”. While finding cheaper alternatives for products can be beneficial to consumers who may not be able to afford more expensive products, this can hurt the companies that created the original product. However, deinfluencing does not one-hundred percent solve the problem. When a popular creator tells consumers not to purchase a product, she often gives them a different one to buy instead, therefore still influencing her audience to continue the cycle of consumerism.

Overall, the spread of consumerism cannot easily be tamed. The cycle is fed by social media platforms that are supported by and therefore filled with ads. The solution to this problem is unclear. But, with the consumer at the root of the issue, a change in behavior could be what is needed.

Lies, Deceit And Power

By: Matthew Malone

Since the country was founded, the United States has been known as the “land of the free and the home of the brave.” The founding fathers wanted to create a state that was devoid of tyranny, lies, and corruption, where the power was in the hands of the people. Despite this, for decades now, the US government has demonstrated, on numerous occasions, unethical behavior and dishonesty, while also withholding information from the public.

The most corrupt government agency, the FBI, has been exposed for its untruthful and biased ways. A prime example of this involves the Twitter Files that were released by CEO Elon Musk. This revealed that Twitter, along with the FBI, was censoring conservative speakers. Matt Taibbi, one of the publishers of the files, stated, “Between January 2020 and November 2022, there were over 150 emails

between the FBI and former Twitter Trust and Safety chief Yoel Roth.” These emails from the FBI told Twitter what to censor. The FBI was barring certain Americans from their free speech rights. Unfortunately, it doesn’t stop there. Another result of this corrupt attack was: “A near-blackout of public knowledge about the Hunter Biden laptop story, first published by *The New York Post*, exposing allegations of Biden family corruption” (*Washington Times*). Talk about election interference. Government agencies censoring stories concerning political candidates right before an election is not interfering in election outcomes? It certainly seems that way, but only for one side of the aisle. For example, what has been done to these people that played a role in the help that Joe Biden received from this censorship? Has justice been served? No, not in the United States’ one-sided system of justice. On the other hand, a social media

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Risks And Rewards: The Approval Of The Willow Project

By: Kalista Lin

The Willow Project, a proposed oil and gas development project located in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A), has been a controversial topic for years. Recently, President Joe Biden approved the project’s environmental review, allowing it to move forward. This decision has sparked concerns among environmentalists and indigenous communities who fear its the potential repercussions. The Willow Project was proposed by ConocoPhillips, an American multinational corporation engaged in hydrocarbon exploration and production. It is an \$8 billion plan that involves extracting approximately 600 million barrels of oil and 3.4 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves from the NPR-A. The project includes the construction of a drilling site, pipelines, and other necessary infrastructure that will help in the extraction of the resources.

Proponents of the Willow Project argue that it will create jobs and boost the economy. According to an article written by Eric Revell that was published on March 15th, 2023 for *Fox Business*, the Willow Project is predicted to generate between \$8 billion and \$17 billion in new tax revenue for federal, state and local governments. In addition, according to the Bureau of Land Management, there is a possibility that “the Willow Project could create more than 2,000 construction jobs and 300 permanent jobs” (“Support for Willow Project Development”). However, opponents argue that it will harm the environment and indigenous communities. One of the primary apprehensions surrounding the Willow Project is its potential impact on the environment. The NPR-A is home to a diverse array of wildlife, including caribou, polar bears, and migratory birds. The project could disrupt their habitats and lead to the destruction of their ecosystems.

The drilling and construction activities associated with the Willow Project could also lead to increased greenhouse gas emissions, thus, contributing to climate change. Critics argue that the project’s contribution to climate change will exacerbate the already existing environmental crisis and harm the planet’s natural systems. With this being said, the approval of this project has shocked the nation, as many people are bewildered as to how the Biden administration could have come to this decision. Knowing that this project will likely have severe consequences on the environment and our future, individuals are protesting against this decision of the government and speaking out on the impacts. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, “the Biden administration acknowledges that Willow, if completed, would release an additional 9.2 million metric tons of carbon pollution into the atmosphere each year...” (“Why the Willow Project is a Bad Idea”). However, just recently, Biden publicly stated his intentions of reducing carbon-pollution in the next decade or so: “President Biden has set an ambitious

U.S. goal of achieving a carbon pollution-free power sector by 2035 and net zero emissions economy by no later than 2050” (“FACT SHEET: President Biden to Catalyze Global Climate Action through the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate”). The Willow Project’s approval remains a controversial topic, and has recently raised a myriad of questions about the Biden administration’s commitment to climate change, especially when considering the President’s pledge to transition to a clean energy economy.

Despite these concerns, the Biden administration’s approval of the Willow Project hopefully means that it will be subject to environmental regulations and mitigation measures to minimize its impact. The project will be required to follow strict guidelines such as requiring the use of advanced drilling technologies, the use of insulated pipelines to reduce the risk of oil spills, and the implementation of wildlife protection measures. Additionally, the government has committed itself to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions associated with the Willow Project by 50-52% by 2030. (“What Is the Willow Project? ConocoPhillips’ Disastrous Plan to Drill in the Western Arctic”). ConocoPhillips has also pledged to work with local communities, including the Inupiaq people, to address its apprehensions and provide economic opportunities. The creation of jobs and an investment in the local economy have been discussed.

Even though some positives could potentially come from the Willow Project, many environmentalists and indigenous communities remain skeptical of its possible consequences. They argue that the project’s approval undermines the Biden administration’s climate change agenda and sets a dangerous precedent for future oil and gas development in sensitive environments. The Willow Project is a contentious issue, that has arguments both for and against it. While it is true that the project could provide economic benefits and jobs, it also poses significant risks to the environment and indigenous communities. The Biden administration’s approval of the project has raised concerns about the administration’s commitment to climate change and environmental protection. It remains to be seen how the project will impact the region and whether its benefits will outweigh its costs.

Overall though, as the world faces a looming climate crisis, it is crucial that we prioritize the protection of our environment and the rights of communities.



The Whole Truth And Nothing But The Truth?

(Continued From Page 6)

influencer named Douglas Mackey tweeted a joke during the 2016 election that read, “Avoid the line. Vote from home. Text ‘Hillary’ to 59925.” This act by Mackey landed him 10 years behind bars with critics saying he “used Twitter to disseminate false information to redirect would-be voters of Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election” (*Washington Post*). Jokes earn people jail time, but willingly covering up a true news story to help a candidate win an election is something to look away from.

Unfortunately, it doesn’t stop there. The Department of Justice never fails to demonstrate colluded behavior. On August 10th of 2019, Jeffery Epstein, who faced sex trafficking charges, was found dead in his jail cell. Ever since then, the media has said that Epstein killed himself and that anyone who dares to think otherwise is a conspiracy theorist. However, initially the story made so little sense that even failed New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said, “The facts themselves don’t make sense on their face.” In a speech given by then Attorney General Bill Barr shortly after Epstien’s death, Barr said, “We will get to the bottom of what happened and there will be accountability.” Despite this remark, almost four years later, many reasonable thinking people still have questions about what exactly happened. Moreover, the two guards who “shopped online, took breaks, and napped” (*New York Post*) on the night of Epstien’s death pleaded guilty to falsifying government records. However, last year, an Obama appointed judge, Analisa Torres, dropped the charges against the two for no apparent reason. When Bill Barr declared the Epstein case closed, he cited that “the New York City medical examiner had conducted an autopsy and ruled that Epstien killed himself by hanging,” and “I personally reviewed that video footage; it shows conclusively that between the time Epstein was locked in his cell, at 7:49 p.m. on the night of August 9 and the time he was discovered the next morning at 6:30 a.m., no one entered his tier.” This was enough information for Barr and much of the media to say that Jeffery Epstein killed himself. However, many critical thinkers began to question statements being made and didn’t just eat up what the media had to say. For example, Barr starts by saying the autopsy conducted concluded that Epstein hanged himself. But, Michael Baden, a pathologist, said, “The forensic evidence released so far, including autopsy, point much more to murder and strangulation than the suicide and suicidal hanging.” Baden also said that it was “very unusual” that the initial cause of death following the autopsy was pending, but then changed to hanging. Why would that happen, especially since no new evidence was released. Moreover, Barr also claimed to review the video footage from that night. It just so happened that the cameras that were focused on Epstein’s cell were not working, so Barr had to review the footage from cameras that were focused on the entrance to the tier, which is what Barr said no one entered. Alright, no one entered Epstein’s cell block, but who said the murderer had to have been from the outside. There were seven other cells located within the tier, each holding dangerous criminals. Nevertheless, this idea never presented itself to Bill Barr. There are many unanswered questions such as were inmates within the cell block able to move from cell to cell? Why are there no pictures of Jeffery Epstien dead

in his cell hanging? Additionally, Epstein frequently socialized with many high-profile people including Bill Clinton, Donald Trump, vaccine expert Bill Gates, and many more (NPR). After Epstein’s death, none of these people seemed to care. In an interview with PBS, Bill Gates, while smiling, said, “Well, he’s dead. So in general you always have to be careful.” Perhaps none of these people want to talk about Jeffery Epstein because when he died, so did all of the secrets they shared. Sadly, some of it doesn’t make much sense. By no means was Jeffery Epstein a good person. However, people don’t deserve to live in a country where a corrupt government agency can potentially cover up a killing of a certain person and get away with it.

In addition, in April of 2023, a man by the name of Jack Teixeira leaked classified documents concerning the war in Ukraine. These documents revealed that Ukraine is losing the war. The country’s air defenses could also have been depleted near the end of May, and Russia has a fleet of 485 fighter jets while Ukraine has 85 (Fox News). Why has this information been withheld from the public? It seems like important information to know when a country who is receiving billions in American taxpayer dollars is losing. But, of course, this is nothing new. The United States’ government has withheld millions if not billions of classified documents from the public. All sorts of things happen and remain a mystery in the US; there is in fact no telling if the federal government has the answers. The killer of JFK, the planter of the pipe bombs on Capitol Hill the day before January 6, 2021, and the person who leaked the Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade are just a few other events that are still in question. To remain a true democracy, it is imperative that the federal government be transparent and honest.

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The Pandemic Puppy Problem

By: Lucia Cagno

The term “pandemic puppy” started to trend as the increasing adoption of pets became noticeable during the Covid-19 pandemic. Its meaning is simple: a dog that was adopted in the midst of the pandemic to accompany someone during the time of isolation (*Urban Dictionary*). This idea seems sensible, as, for many, Covid created feelings of loneliness, and pets were often able to help people cope. However, once the world started to heal, a problem emerged.

While people were home during the lockdown, they were able to give their pets a great deal of attention, but when they started to go back to the office or school, they had to leave their pets at home and attempt to tackle taking care of their pet while being busy with many other responsibilities. As a result, some pandemic pets, who had only ever experienced being with their owners constantly, developed separation anxiety when their owners started to leave the house more often (*AAHA News*). This often resulted in behavioral and psychological issues, especially in dogs, since “Dogs who have lived their whole lives with their humans at home can become scared when the people leave even for what to the people seems like a short time” (*The Washington Post*). These issues made owners more tempted to give up their pandemic pets because they did not want to deal with their pets’ bad behavior while they were gone. Additionally, pandemic pet owners were rudely awakened when learning the full cost of their pandemic puppy after returning to their post-lockdown activities. Danielle Diaz, a new dog owner during the pandemic, said that unexpectedly, “pretty much all my money, my whole paycheck, goes to him”

Tik Tok Takes A Dangerous Turn

By: Brian Kraupner

You roll into bed after a long day, and feel your body finally relax. You open up TikTok and scroll and scroll and scroll. You see the dancing videos, cooking videos, vlogs and a user cooking chicken and mixing it with NyQuil, the over-the-counter cough medicine. Yes, you read that right. Nowadays, many users on social media are taking part in dangerous trends on TikTok. They have become blind to the dangers of social trends due to their young age and lack of brain development.

Over the past few years, TikTok has grown in popularity. According to NBC News, in March 2023 there were about 100 million people in the US that regularly use TikTok. This app has become appealing to all age groups. Although TikTok has spread positivity regarding awareness in regards to mental health, it has also caused damage. Trends on TikTok have taken a dangerous turn as some of them have resulted in serious injury, property damage and even death. For example, the Penny Challenge involves inserting a penny behind a partially plugged in phone charger cube. The coin comes into contact with the metal prongs of the phone charger cube and often causes a spark which can cause an electrical fire. This trend has caused serious damage to schools and many students have gotten into serious trouble. In February of 2023, the popular TikTok trend, the “Kool-Aid Man” Challenge, caused destruction in Suffolk County. The trend involved teens running through fences in a neighborhood just like the popular Kool-Aid mascot did in commercials. This resulted in the involved teens being brought to Family Court and ticketed. “This is a really bad decision; they shouldn’t be influenced by social media or their friends. It might seem fun and it might be a prank, but it’s criminal and they will be held accountable,” said Suffolk County Chief of Patrol Gerard Hardy. Trends like these intrigue young teens who don’t know any better.

(*The New York Times*). She adopted her dog when he was just four weeks old, and did not anticipate the hefty food expenses, vet expenses, and since returning to work, the daycare expenses. These issues seemed to be present with many other first-time pet owners throughout the pandemic.

Immediately after the pandemic appeared to die down, shelters started to receive the pandemic pets. Many people did not want to give up their pet to a shelter; however, they felt the need to do so due to the lack of necessary and proper care that they could not provide for their pet. Although this is often the case with dogs, this problem is not limited to them. A no-kill animal shelter in New York reportedly received over 650 surrendered guinea pigs in 2022, which is over a 300% increase from previous years (*The Guardian*). Unfortunately, not all surrendered animals are able to end up in a no-kill shelter. In fact, many beloved pets do often end up in kill shelters, where the animal will be euthanized if not quickly re-adopted. A general estimate from the North Shore Animal League states that in the US, over two million cats and dogs are euthanized yearly.

However, there are ways to help with this animal epidemic. Adopting from a shelter or rescue instead of buying from a breeder saves lives. These rescue and shelter adoptions help keep animals from the danger of possible euthanasia, create more space for the rescue/shelter to take in more needy animals, and combat the many puppy and kitten mills of unscrupulous breeders. Volunteering at a local animal shelter is also a way to support your local animal community. Every bit helps.

Some TikTok trends are so clearly dangerous, we have to wonder why do people participate in such dangerous trends? Simply put, to feel connected. For example, in 2014 the popular trend, The Ice Bucket Challenge, raised awareness and money for ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis). This connected people for a good cause and raised awareness. However, the same thing is happening with these current dangerous trends. Morris Brittany, a licensed clinical social worker from Thriveworks in Chesapeake, Virginia, said that many people are participating in these trends to feel connected. Brittany added that “this feeling can be so strong, it can trump the risk of getting hurt doing a stunt.” TikTok has a variety of user ages, but a majority of the users are teens. 32.5% of TikToks users are 10-19. This is concerning because it is known that teenagers can be impulsive and, at times, irrational. The American Academy of Child And Adolescent Psychiatry states how scientists studied the region of the brain called the amygdala. The amygdala is responsible for the behavior of fear and aggression. In addition to the amygdala, the frontal cortex is the part of the brain that is in charge of reasoning and thinking. Both parts of the brain are still in development during the adolescent period. So, due to the stage of brain development in the adolescent brain, younger children are more likely to, “act on impulse, misread or misinterpret social cues and emotions, get into accidents of all kinds, get involved in fights and engage in dangerous or risky behavior.” Younger ages are certainly more vulnerable to these trends.

Yes, TikTok can be used to spread positivity, news, new ideas and creativity, but there are certainly dangerous challenges on the app. Although TikTok has become more aware of this problem due to new algorithms which verify and block dangerous trends, this is not stopping adolescents from partaking in these acts. Something certainly has to change before more bad things happen.

The U.S. And China:Where Is The Love?

By: Rockwell White

Phones, computers, cars, tv’s, home appliances, and military weaponry; practically every piece of technology that utilizes energy, is run by microchips or computer chips. There are two main categories of these chips: logic and memory chips. The logic chip’s job, simply put, is to execute a task. And, just like the name suggests, memory chips store information. If there was a halt in the development of these chips, an industry worth over 500 billion dollars would stop functioning, nearly all electronics would cease to be produced, and technology as we know it, could stop advancing until a new way of manufacturing it is found. This claim was substantiated during the COVID-19 pandemic as the microchip shortage caused a halt in the supply chain of cars, which in turn forced prices to skyrocket. Three years later the entire market is being threatened. But why?

During the 1960’s when microchips were first produced, they were mostly used for missiles and other military weaponry; however, American corporations, such as Intel, realized their profits could increase exponentially if the market expanded to include civilian use. In order for this to happen, the chips needed to be manufactured cheaply and at a more efficient rate. Thus, the U.S. began moving its factories to Taiwan, Japan, and Korea, each U.S.’s allies with affordable, available labor; in addition, China and Russia, both U.S. rivals, were blocked from using these territories and prevented the development of their technology. Since these countries gained access to advanced chips, Taiwan, and the other countries were advancing at nearly the same rate as the U.S. However each of the new corporations was not self-sufficient in its partnerships with the U.S.; the corporations were being supplied with the latest machinery that was only manufactured in the Netherlands. However, these machines needed equipment from the United States to function, which meant the market was being stretched throughout the three most prevalent continents. This brings us to the main problem here: China. Throughout the development of the market, China had yet to catch up in its development of microchips and its yearning to compete with the U.S. when it came to levels of advancement; the U.S. however, needs to be the pinnacle of technology, and in order for China to manufacture U.S. level advanced chips, it needs the U.S, and clearly that isn’t an option. China aims to be completely isolated and self-sufficient in the microchip market. Eventually the Chinese government will need to invest gargantuan amounts of capital in its own manufacturing companies, just to

kickstart the microchip market within China. However, China is still generations behind in technology.

In 2018, a trial involving ASML, the largest tech supplier of the microchip industry, accused two Chinese tech companies, Dongfang Jingyuan Electron and Xtal, of being the same company that were connected to the Chinese government. It turns out that these companies were the same in that they were created a month apart in 2014 by a former engineer of ASML, Zongchang Yu. One year later in 2015, Yu fled to China. It was revealed that the motive was to obtain ASML technology and use it in China to catch up to the U.S. After this conflict, Donald Trump, the United States’ president at the time, banned U.S. companies from selling components to ZTE, a major corporation and then later, Huawei, China’s most prolific tech company. These bans were further enforced after Joe Biden was elected to office. In 2022, Biden’s policy prevented all U.S. companies from selling chips to China. The policy also stopped Chinese companies from using U.S designed software and equipment. The final blow banned global companies that use advanced microchips from selling these chips to China. Later in the year, the U.S. made a deal with the Taiwanese company TSMC to develop factories within the U.S. to once again gain the upper hand, but also to prevent China from having access to all of the U.S.’s manufacturing plants.

Taiwan is home to the largest manufacturers of microchips in the world; even a portion of China’s chips are manufactured there. Taiwan is roughly 100 miles off the coast of China and China’s failed attempts to steal U.S. technology, in addition to the tech rivalry, puts Taiwan in a dangerous position. However, the Taiwan Relations Act states, “the United States shall make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capacity as determined by the President and the Congress”. The Act puts the U.S. in a tough position; if China does invade, the U.S. is forced to respond, with the battle ground being the country that is home to the world’s most prolific tech manufacturing plants. The war would have catastrophic consequences and would likely collapse the global economy. So, hopefully, in time, things will calm down and the microchip issue will no longer be an issue.

The Man On A Mission

By: Giuliano Wang

In today’s polarized political discourse, few names have gained such infamy as that of Florida’s governor Ron DeSantis. Nowadays, it seems that every week we see some headline about how Florida, which, as DeSantis proclaimed it, is “the freest state in these United States.” However, lately it seems as if DeSantis is trying to restrict the freedom of the LGBTQ+ community or ranting about how “Florida is the place where woke goes to die” (Vakil). Touted as the most prominent rival Donald Trump will potentially face in the 2024 Republican Election, to say DeSantis has built a reputation as a controversial figure is an understatement. Elected to the governorship in 2019, DeSantis made a name for himself as one of the most prominent Republicans in the nation and a so-called defender against wokeness.

DeSantis’ many attacks on the

LGBTQ+ community have been some of, if not, the most flagrant and aggressive in recent memory. In the Spring of 2022, the infamous “Don’t Say Gay” Bill was passed, banning so-called “Classroom instruction by school personnel or third parties on sexual orientation or gender identity”, but nowhere within the Bill does it define what instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity (flsenate.gov) means, meaning that the Bill was essentially a blanket ban on any mention of queerness whatsoever. Furthermore, as of the printing of this article, DeSantis is looking to expand the Bill to all grade levels, meaning that high schools would also find themselves under a similar blanket ban of any discussion of queerness in school. According to DeSantis, it’s all part of a campaign to exterminate ‘wokeness’, declaring during his re-election speech in November of 2022 that Floridians would “fight ‘the woke’ in

When Success And Power Don’t Help

By: Mia Perciballi

Alex Murdaugh, a once prominent South Carolina attorney, and a member of one of the most powerful families in that state was recently tried, and found guilty on all counts in the murders of his wife and son. The Murdaugh family had built for itself an image of success and power via the creation of an empire of a law firm. The name that once summoned sentiments of power, money, and legacy, now drags with it the mention of murder, theft, and lies.

The murders of Maggie and Paul Murdaugh had been unsolved without any suspect for over a year. Then, on July 14, 2022, “Alex Murdaugh, was indicted on two counts of murder, with the authorities saying he fatally shot his wife with a rifle and his son with a shotgun” (Bogel-Burroughs). The prosecution’s case was based on the belief that Murdaugh killed his wife and son in a failed attempt to hide the financial crimes he had committed; Murdaugh has allegedly stolen millions of dollars from his clients and law firm, and had been in prison for some of these crimes since October 2021.

Murdaugh pleaded not-guilty, as he “insisted he did not kill his wife and son” (Chappell and Bowman). Still, at the conclusion of the trial, the jury unanimously agreed that Alex Murdaugh was guilty on all counts. He was sentenced to life in prison.

Judge Clifton Newman, who presided over this trial, said that the evidence that Murdaugh is guilty was “overwhelming”. Furthermore he denied the defense’s request to declare a mistrial.

This case was however, presented with a lack of physical evidence. Furthermore, the only eyewitnesses to the crime were killed, those being Maggie and Paul Murdaugh. According to an *NPR* article by Bill Chappell and Emma Bowman, “Prosecutors built a case against Murdaugh using circumstantial evidence, lacking eyewitnesses, video records or a murder weapon”. Even with a lack of physical evidence, or eyewitness accounts, the fate of Alex Murdaugh was agreed upon by all members of the jury.

After the verdict of this trial was delivered, Prosecutor Creighton Waters said, “Justice was done today, it doesn’t matter who your family is. It doesn’t matter how much money you have or people think you have. It doesn’t matter how prominent you think you are. If you do wrong, if you break the law, if you murder, then justice will be done in South Carolina.” Even though Alex Murdaugh came from a high-powered family in South Carolina, the wrongs he committed during his lifetime eventually caught up with him. He is now facing the consequences of his actions that he thought would happen because of the family he is associated with.

the Legislature. We fight ‘the woke’ in the schools. We fight ‘the woke’ in the corporation, and we will never ever surrender to the woke mob – ” (Allen). DeSantis has even made himself an enemy of the Disney Corporation. After the corporation publicly criticized the Bill and stopped providing funding for the state (Atterbury), DeSantis began a campaign against Disney. In a statement on April 23rd, DeSantis swore that “he and the state Legislature can and will overturn any Disney development deal and retake control of the acreage that’s home to Walt Disney World” (Goldsmith), even floating the possibility that a new state prison should be erected near the park (Goldsmith).

So, if DeSantis is this extreme when it comes to protecting children from ‘wokeness’, what else is he doing for the educational system? As it turns out, not much. For one thing, Florida has consistently ranked as one

Glen Cove 101

By: Kelly Larkin

Most people who attend the North Shore Schools, think only of Sea Cliff, Glen Head, and Glenwood Landing being a part of that District. However, many students who attend North Shore live in Glen Cove. So why not share a little history about it?

In 1668, a man by the name of Joseph Carpenter bought 2,000 acres from the Mattinecock Indians. He and five others named that land Musketa Cove and they built a gristmill and a saw mill near the water, as Glen Cove is surrounded by it on three sides. This way, the harbor or Sound could be used to ship goods and lumber to New York City.

Then, in the 1800’s, Thomas Garvie found a lot of clay deposits on his land; this land is now called Garvie’s Point. As a result, the clay was dug up and sold in New York City to be used for different types of goods. Due to the industry that could then be found in Glen Cove, by 1829, there was a steamboat that ran daily from Glen Cove to New York City.

Unfortunately, a lot of people from New York City did not want to visit Glen Cove because Musketa sounded like mosquito to them. That’s when, in 1834, the name was changed to Glen Cove thanks to someone who suggested it as it sounded like Glen Coe, an attractive spot in Scotland.

After this, in the 1850’s, Glen Cove became a popular summer resort. There were many hotels, mostly near what is still known as The Landing, which was where the steamboat docked. Wealthy New York City residents looked to build estates near the water in Glen Cove. Some of these people included Charles Pratt, F.W. Woolworth and J.P. Morgan. And in 1867, due to Glen Cove’s popularity with New York City residents, the Long Island Railroad was extended to that area. This expansion, in turn, made Glen Cove a great place to live year-round.

Soon enough, the Industrial Revolution hit Glen Cove and the Duryea Corn Starch Company opened. It employed a lot of residents, but some people did not like the business because it dumped waste from the conversion of corn to corn starch into the Glen Cove Creek, which, at times, caused a bad smell in both Glen Cove Landing and Sea Cliff.

However, due to all of the positive activity that was happening in Glen Cove, in 1918, it became an independent city and separated from the Town of Oyster Bay. The desire for tax revenues to be used in Glen Cove, considering it was a wealthy area and contributing quite a bit to the Town of Oyster Bay, was the main reason for this change. Not enough of the money was actually going to Glen Cove. It is now one of two cities in Nassau County, the other being Long Beach.

At this point, Glen Cove has its own police force, fire department and EMT service and is home to many wonderful sites like Garvies Point Museum and Preserve, Morgan Park, the Glen Cove Golf Course, the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center, Pryibil Beach, Stanco Park, and Welwyn Preserve.

Instead of just seeing Glen Cove as the place “down the hill”, we should get to know the city that so many of us are proud to call home.

of the worst states when it comes to teacher’s pay, as the average salary is now \$51,230. For comparison, that is the fourth lowest salary when compared to the rest of the nation (Teacher Pay by State 2023). Additionally, funding is consistently a problem for schools in Florida, as according to the Florida Policy Institute, Florida schools “ranked 45th for funding level, at \$4,484 below the national per-pupil average of \$15,487 for school year 2018-19” (Bullard). And, finally, according to Scholaroo, Florida’s educational system ranks among the worst state education in the nation; it’s 42nd among the 50 states.

When looking at all Ron DeSantis has recently done and said as governor to, as he says, make Florida the freest state, the question is why is he making it such an unfree state by focusing on making people feel they can’t be who they are?

What Exactly Is *Everything Everywhere All At Once*?

By: Sarah Barnett

The Oscars are not only one of the most prestigious award shows, but also one of the most popular. With over 18.7 million people watching this 2023 season (*LA Times*), we witnessed tearful speeches and history being made. Met with a 94% on Rotten Tomatoes, the movie *Everything Everywhere All At Once* swept the Oscars with eleven nominations and a whopping seven wins. Written and directed by duo Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, who are also known as “The Daniels”, the story follows an immigrant mother, Evelyn, played by Michelle Yeoh, and her journey across the multiverse to defeat of version of her daughter found in a different timeline, Jobu Tupaki, played by Stephanie Hsu. Though the movie may sound confusing, deep down it is about the complicated relationship between a mother and daughter.

The movie’s protagonist, Evelyn, is an overworked mother who is going through a midlife crisis. She feels discontent with her life, but finds it too hopeless to fix as she feels like a failure. She is having trouble with her marriage, her relationship with her daughter, Joy, her laundromat business, and her disapproving father. Evelyn constantly runs into problems and when she is overwhelmed, she dissociates “in another world in [her] mind” and struggles with focus. This was inspired by both director Kwan and his mother (NPR). Evelyn, as “a middle-aged immigrant person who has had a long life to look back on all [her] regrets” is constantly questioning “what if?” (NPR). As the story progresses, she needs to learn how to cope with the life she has, while she questions all the things that could have happened to her if she stayed in China or made different choices. She perfectly encapsulates the frustration, disappointment, and regret mothers feel, but even though her relationship with her daughter is strained, she still feels a never ending love for her daughter which will never change. For this role, Michelle Yeoh, who

plays, Evelyn, is officially “the second nonwhite woman to win the Best Actress award in the Academy’s near century of existence” (Ampil).

The movie also focuses on Evelyn’s husband, Waymond, who is portrayed as a sensitive and kind man who questions his dysfunctional marriage. At the beginning of the movie, Waymond falls into the trope of the “beta male [who is] used primarily as comic relief” which is often a role Asian men are given (Magnuson). As the story progresses, the trope completely dissolves when Waymond succeeds in multiple ways where most other characters do not. He explains to Evelyn that the reason for his kindness is a “survival technique” that helps him “solves problems over time by just being kind”; he shows that he doesn’t need aggression to fix situations and instead relies on kindness, which is a tactic that ends up working. Waymond is meant to destroy the trope of the weak, incompetent, beta man as he rejects the toxic masculinity most heroic male characters possess and ends up being a hero himself. The actor who portrays Waymond, Key Huy Quan, was awarded Best Supporting Actor for his incredible performance as he seamlessly switched between Waymond’s varying personalities found in each timeline.

It really is no surprise that the movie is so popular. Even when switching between timelines, the film remains realistic in the characters intertwined relationships with each other; almost every human emotion is shown and as Evelyn accepts the life she has, the audience accepts it with her. Audiences are excited to see what the talented actors and directors are going to do next and the love for *Everything Everywhere All At Once* is well-deserved and can be felt around the world.

The Swan Is Gone

By: Joanna Kenney

It has been confirmed that the beloved swan outside of the Swan Club, the event venue located at 90 Glenwood Road in Roslyn Harbor, is gone. Questions and rumors were swirling in regards to the swan’s sudden disappearance as people that became accustomed to seeing the swan and loving its presence on a daily basis are distraught over its disappearance. So where did the star of the Swan Club that could always be seen swimming in its pond disappear to—and why so suddenly?

First some background information on the missing swan; it is a wild swan that lingered in the area for quite a few years. It was not brought to the area or forced to stay, but did so on its own terms. The swan had also been looked after by the Volunteers For Wildlife, an animal rehabilitation center in Locust Valley that is on the property of Bailey’s Arboretum. The Center educated the staff at the Swan Club on how to take care of its seemingly more permanent guest. When it came to the swan’s ability to fly, the staff was originally unsure and said it had “never seen him do so”. However, those who work at the Swan Club had come to love this resident and were

saddened by its disappearance.

I was able to speak with Vera, the desk manager at the club, who did not seem to want to give her last name. Vera said that she and the staff at the Swan Club are unsure where the swan has gone, and that it disappeared a few weeks ago, around March 26th to be more precise. She followed up by saying, “I know one of the employees saw it fly away”.

It was also established that the Swan Club installed, around the time of the swan’s disappearance, fountains and lights in the pond. It is therefore a good assumption that this might be the reason for the swan’s vanishing act. During the swan’s residency, the pond had naturally growing cover as well and that was cut back prior to the installation of the new lights and fountains.

Unfortunately, the current location of the swan is not known, but many are upset that the changing of the landscape may have forced it to move after being so comfortable there for a number of years. Even after several attempts, the Swan Club could not be reached for comment in relation to the work that was recently done in the pond.

The North Shore Masquers Present a Masterpiece

By: Sophia Marchioli

The North Shore High School Masquers worked for three months on their latest production, *Urinetown: The Musical*, which was performed on March 24th and 25th. It focuses on a dystopian town which has a shortage of water and attempts to solve this issue by limiting a person’s right to urinate: one must “pay to pee”. This law is enforced by a large corporation named “Urine Good Company” which threatens citizens with banishment to the hellish “Urinetown” if they disobey the regulations placed on urination. Inevitably, this causes social and political conflict within the community, as many see the right to urinate as a natural human right. With long “grueling” hours, as director and advisor Aaron Brateman put it, the students worked hard to put the thrilling production together. Despite the tough process, cast members described the rehearsal environment as “enthusiastic” and “passionate”.

This musical was carefully selected by Brateman for a few reasons. Last year, the director selected *Hello, Dolly!* as the musical because he felt it aligned with the idea that society was re-entering the world after the global pandemic. As one of the lyrics from the musical says, “It’s so nice to have you back where you belong”. Continuing with the theme of social relevance, Brateman selected *Urinetown: The Musical* because society must now consider how it will rebuild itself as the pandemic fades into the past. By bringing attention to issues such as corporate greed and inequality, the production tastefully forces the audience to acknowledge the world’s flaws and ponder whether it’s worth the sacrifice of creating social injustice for fiscal benefit. As lead, Hope, played by Charlotte Marchioli, says in a satirical tone, “Wow! I never knew large, monopolizing corporations could be such a source for good in the world!”

These messages were carried throughout the set design to create a cohesive story. Set designer, Margaret DeLima, stated that Brateman suggested that the set should reflect “a town with a history of corruption based on environmental politics, corporate greed, and social injustices, but also one similar to the French Quarter”. Additionally, they put together grand puppets to be used as props which symbolized the “pageantry and spectacle of Mardi Gras parades”.

Another distinct touch that the set design crew added was the curtain of water bottles which acted as the backdrop for the show. Made up of 5,100 plastic water bottles which were collected by The North Shore Masquers from mid-January to late February, the curtain aimed to mimic “the draping of Mardi Gras beads” as well as “flowing water” with its long, linked strands of

bottles. This project proved to be a challenge for the crew as it attempted multiple methods of construction. Finally, after much trial and error, it landed on a method of lining up and taping “over 160 strands of bottles” together. DeLima stated that the curtain was used as a “strong metaphor for the monetization of basic needs as well as the ecological indifference of many capitalist enterprises”. After having served their purpose, the bottles were recycled. Despite obstacles posed by the many regulations that sanitation facilities place on recycling plastic bottles, the Masquers were determined to have them recycled and to then donate any money collected from their recycling to water.org, an organization whose goal is to increase equality of access to clean and safe water.

With the intricate sets that were created, the actors then utilized these constructed spaces by making them look lived in, thus bringing life to the stage. This required an intense rehearsal process which asked cast members to be there almost every weekday from 3-6pm at the start of the process, and at the end of the process, every school day from 3-9pm and 10am-4pm on weekends. Brateman stated that in these rehearsals, he didn’t just act as the leader, but as a “collaborator with the actor”. When working with the actors, he claimed the biggest challenge that they faced came from the fact that the show is a comedy. As Brateman added, “comedy is infinitely harder than drama”, and in this show it is even harder because of the “specific” and satirical nature of the comedy in *Urinetown: The Musical*. The actors had to go through a step-by-step process to successfully depict the comedy that the show is meant to express. This started with identifying what exactly the script was making fun of, then fully committing to the comedy, and working as a team to create cohesion within the imaginative world that they were building. Ultimately, through many “glorious mistakes”, as Brateman put it, the cast attempted to find “the most fun version of the show”, and fully executed this goal by the time the curtain went up on opening night.

It is important to note that the construction crew and the cast weren’t the only groups involved in the production. The production process also included, but was not limited to, the lighting and sound crews, the pit, or the musical accompaniment, and an external costume designer. Each group contributed to the complete cohesion of the musical, acting as the catalyst for the sea of smiles in the audience at every performance. The North Shore Masquers truly produced commendable work with their take on *Urinetown: The Musical*.



The cast of *Urinetown: The Musical* doing what it does best.

Outer Banks: Viral Editing Errors

By: Ava Varsano

Outer Banks, is the viral Netflix series that excited teens and adults alike with its third season that came out in late February this year. The show’s first season, which was released in the spring of 2020, earned the number one spot on Netflix’s most streamed list at the time and became an iconic hit during lockdown. “*Outer Banks* isn’t exactly wholesome, but there is something about its sun-soaked adventure that feels emotionally authentic to the teen experience”(*Paste Magazine*). While some critics were skeptical of the show, ultimately, most reactions were positive and fans were fired up for the next season. Soon after, season two was released, then three, and growing alongside the show was the *OBX* fanbase. Although *Outer Banks* seems like “paradise on Earth,” many messy mistakes appeared in the third season that made everyone wonder if the final cut of the show was thoroughly edited, and how the production team could have left in those very visible errors in such a large franchise.

With a budget of as much as 50 million dollars and leads being paid as much as 80 thousand dollars per episode, most would think no errors would be present in the final cut. In this case, most would be proven incorrect. While the acting and “vibes” of season three were on point, it was the cutting and clipping of certain scenes that was not so superb. These mistakes were pointed out and spread on social media, “with fans pointing out the times it was laughably obvious that a stunt double had taken over a part” (*Elite Daily*). One instance of this is when Kiara and Rafe are escaping Singh’s Mansion in

episode two. While they are climbing up a fence, viewers paused the clip to reveal doubles that do not look even remotely similar to the actors Madison Bailey or Drew Starkey, who play the characters. Stunt doubles obviously do not look exactly like their actor counterparts, so they normally appear in action scenes where their backs are facing the cameras, or from long distances in which their faces are not visible. But in this case, their faces are in the clip, and even though it’s only for a few seconds, it is noticeable. There are multiple scenes in the third season where stunt double errors like this can be pointed out.

However, it is not just the double’s scenes where mistakes are noticeable: there is a scene in episode one where the sound effects sound indisputably artificial. In the scene on the beach where JJ is fighting off crabs, an editor inserted a chomping sound effect that sounds almost cartoonish.

While fans are still excited for the next season to be announced, they are worried that more unpolished scenes will be put into *OBX4*. With the growth of new technology in the entertainment industry that allows media to be edited more easily, clips may not be looked over as thoroughly, which may be the cause of issues like these in TV series. Hopefully, the impending new season of *OBX* will be more carefully edited.

The sixteen Grammy award-winning artist Adele has taken the internet by storm thanks to the number of videos circulating on social media that focus on her Las Vegas residency at the Colosseum at Caesar’s Palace. Social media users witness Adele singing her hits on stage, as well as moments throughout the show where she walks through the aisles to sing and take photos with overjoyed fans.

The artist recently had “all 12 tracks from the standard edition of her new LP *30* on the latest Billboard Hot 100. Thus, a residency was born.

The stay was originally set to begin on, “Friday, January 21, 2022 and was titled “Weekends With Adele”; the singer [would] perform two shows each weekend through Saturday, April 16, 2022 for a total of 12 weeks” (*Variety*).

However, due to the overwhelming interest in this venture, “she has extended her Las Vegas residency, with 34 new dates beginning on June 16, 2023, and ending on November 4, 2023” (*TODAY*). As far as gaining access to tickets, fans are encouraged to “pre-register” for tickets to avoid missing out on

recipe?

HB: I want everyone to make these! They are delicious. You can save money, make a lot of them and use the leftovers for many different dishes. I LOVE salad with chicken cutlets and Caesar dressing. The cutlets can easily be frozen and saved. I usually spend about 3-4 hours between prepping, cooking, and cleaning, but it is so worth it!

Thank you, Mr. Bloom, for sharing your recipe with me and everyone else! Chicken cutlets are one of my favorite foods and I can’t wait to try them out. I hope everyone enjoys them!

Mr. Bloom’s Mystical Chicken Cutlets
Ingredients: (measurements vary by taste and amount of chicken cutlets you are cooking)

- Chicken breasts sliced thin into cutlets
- Seasoned breadcrumbs
- Lemon pepper
- Dried oregano
- Garlic powder
- Dried basil
- Onion powder
- Salt and pepper
- All-purpose flour
- Bowl of water

In my continued search for great recipes from my teachers, I decided to interview Mr. Howard Bloom, a teacher aide, and Mrs. Sara Masone, a Special Education teacher at North Shore High School. I chose Mr. Bloom because, like me, he loves to cook and eat! I chose Mrs. Masone because I know she is a great cook. After all, in December, she did win North Shore High School’s Holiday Cookie Bake-Off with her rainbow cookies!

KK: What is your favorite family recipe?

HB: Chicken cutlets for me and my kids, James, Michael, and Amanda. We like them SO much. They are all away at school now so when they come home, I make TONS for them to take back with them. I probably cook enough for ten people!

KK: Why is this your favorite recipe?

HB: Everyone eats it! And, I use just one set of pots, so it’s easy to clean up. Everyone is happy and smiling!

KK: What is your favorite thing about this dish?

HB: When everyone is home together, and my kids say “Thank you Dad! It’s delicious – yummy in the tummy!”

KK: Thank you for sharing with me – is there anything else you would like to tell me about this

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2023’s Oscars: Disappointing

By: Benjamin Cooper

In retrospect, 2022 was quite the year for movies, with cinematic giants like *Top Gun* and *The Batman* returning to theaters for another ride, as well as new directors like Jordan Peel and Robert Eggers solidifying themselves as future industry greats, both releasing their third films *with Nope* and *The Northman*. respectively. But my favorite of this year’s releases has to be *Babylon*, Damien Chazell’s fourth directorial edition to his filmography. After my first viewing I sat back and intently waited for the spew of awards I had imagined it would win to begin funneling in. When this did not happen I was left feeling confused, but accepting of the film’s lukewarm response and mainly critical disgorge of reviews. Due to the acquired taste necessary to enjoy the film and needless excess of the picture, I understood how one may have taken the film to be just another big Hollywood cash grab and not an ode to cinema like I thought it was. However, I was met with the harsh reality of it, thanks to the state of today’s Academy Awards.

After sitting through two hours of Will Smith jokes and an unrivaled level of industry bigotry, I can safely say this was one of the most “Timid” Academy Awards to date. Not to place all the blame on host Jimmy Kimmel and his never-ending quiver full of lifeless second rate nips, but his lazy performance added little to remember to this already unmemorable award season. Now I am in no way slandering this year’s films as I believe 2022 was actual quite a good year for cinema, with films like *Athena* by Romain Gravas and *Nope*, Jordan Peel’s newest film.

Years ago, the Academy Awards was a

respected and chaste ceremony that respected the art of filmmaking. Now however, it’s a let-down of an awards show. While simultaneously doing the dishes and attempting to finish an English project with this year’s Oscars on as background noise, my attention would occasionally drift to the screen; each time I was met by the same four or so films, such as *Everything, Everywhere, All at Once* and *All Quiet on the Western Front*, having their names called. Having seen and thoroughly enjoyed both of these films, I have no intention of slandering them. That being said, I still believe it was not right to have these two films be nominated for and win so many awards.

Unless you are Daniel Kwan or Scheinert of *Everything, Everywhere All At Once* fame, Oscar night most likely left you... disappointed, to say the least. With industry greats like Angela Bassett being snubbed, many have begun to lose faith in the awards as a whole.

However, this night was not all bad, as it had a few heartfelt and deserved moments, like what was portrayed as Jenny the Donkey’s appearance with the cast of *The Banshees of Inisherin* and Key Hu Kwan’s acceptance speech. These small, but meaningful moments brought a genuine feeling to the night, and reminded viewers, included myself, that there may be hope for the next generation of films.

it]” (*Harper’s Bazaar*).

As Adele continues to succeed in the music industry, the artist also plans to eventually take a break from her music career and pursue other interests. She would like to earn a degree in English Literature and perhaps even take on a movie role (*L.A. Times*). Adele said, “ ‘If I hadn’t made it in my singing, I think I would definitely have been a teacher. I think I’d be an English lit teacher’ ” (*L.A. TIMES*). Evidently, fans have a lot to be excited about when it comes to Adele.

Nana’s every weekend. We would work at her round table, with me standing on a chair, and rolling the meatballs that went into her secret sauce. My Nana passed away, but I got to keep her special sauce pot. It’s very important to me. **KK:** Is there anything else you would like to tell me about this recipe?

SM: I think they are the BEST meatballs ever! My Nana would cook the meatballs directly in her special homemade sauce in her special giant pot used ONLY for sauce. The trick was to not stir the meatballs. You have to pick up the pot and move it around every five minutes to make sure the meatballs cook properly! I usually make my husband do this now because it’s very heavy – haha!

KK: That is funny! Would you like to have your recipe published in the paper?

SM: The recipe is a secret, but I if anyone wants, I will share the ingredients, not the amounts OR Nana’s sauce, with him or her!

I hope you enjoyed learning more about some of North Shore High School’s staff and teachers’ favorite recipes. I know I will be making these meals at my house!

By: Liliana Stella

ticket sales.

As far as affordability is concerned, Adele’s residency comes at a costly price. Tickets are going for between \$600 to \$41,280 on the ticket resale platform Stubhub (Bloomberg).

Fans however, can still watch Adele at a much cheaper price, as the artist explains that one of the residency shows can be accessed and watched online at a later date. “I’m going to film it, and I’m going to release it to make sure that anyone who wants to see this [can see

Kyprian’s Recipe Corner

By: Kyprian Kallaur

-Oil (for frying)

Directions:

1. Combine seasoned breadcrumbs, lemon pepper, oregano, garlic powder.
2. Dip prepared chicken cutlet into bowl of water.
3. Then coat with all-purpose flour.
4. Dip the floured cutlet back into the bowl of water.
5. Coat the cutlet into the breadcrumb mixture. Let rest on plate.
6. Fry cutlets in oil and dry on paper towel.
7. Enjoy!

Next up is Mrs. Masone who was very excited to interview with me. She shared a very personal family recipe and would NOT give away all the secrets, but she shared enough for us to know that it is delicious!

KK: What is your favorite family recipe?

SM: My favorite family recipe is my Nana’s meatballs!

KK: Why is this your favorite family recipe?

SM: This is my favorite family recipe because I started making them with my Nana when I was a little girl. I still make them with my family today.

KK: What is your favorite family memory of this dish?

SM: My favorite memories involve going to my

Cosmetic's Flaws

By: Ava Gibstein and Gianna Stella

As the beauty and skincare industry continues to flourish, many celebrities are now hopping on this trend of creating their own skincare and cosmetic brands. However, their lack of knowledge and expertise is reflected based on the quality of their products and the ingredients they are putting into them. These celebrity skincare brands make customers question if they are really making sure the products being used are safe and beneficial, and not just being promoted for the money and fame. Are these celebrities, like dermatologist developed brands, really working with experts and 'putting their best foot forward' when it comes to making genuine and superior quality products?

Dermatologist developed brands, such as La Roche Posay, is a clear indication that their products are truly beneficial and contain ingredients that are safe and effective for the skin. An active ingredient used in many of their products is Niacinamide. According to La Roche Posay's website, niacinamide is "an active ingredient of interest thanks to its ability to: soothe the skin, strengthen skin barrier function, act as an anti-irritant agent, and provide a purifying effect". This shows how this one ingredient provides many benefits for the skin (La Roche Posay). La Roche Posay makes it clear as well that on its website, that its products are allergy-tested, and tested on extremely sensitive skin; also, as clear explanations of what and why certain ingredients are put into its products can be found. Another ingredient La Roche Posay puts in some of its products is glycerin. Glycerin is a "powerful moisturizer that helps relieve dryness and flaking by attracting its own weight in water to the skin's outer layer, leaving it smooth and hydrated for days," showing how it is used for a certain purpose (La Roche Posay). Due to the company's clear explanation as to what is used in its products, it is evident that its dermatologist-developed skincare brand contains clean ingredients that are beneficial and safe for the skin.

Another skincare brand that shows its efforts to use clean ingredients that are exceptional for the skin is Farmacy Beauty. On its website, this company also includes educational and resourceful descriptions of the key/main ingredients that it puts in its products. Two ingredients that are frequently put in some of Farmacy Beauty's skincare products is moringa

and papaya. This duo helps to "purify, clarify and refresh skin by removing impurities caused by pollution". This shows how these ingredients help the skin in more than one way (Farmacy Beauty). This company is also not only vegan and cruelty-free, but also paraben-free, mineral oil-free, synthetic fragrance-free, and free from so many other ingredients that are shown to be harmful for the skin. This not only benefits the environment, but also one's skin. These efforts to be a clean and good quality brand shows how Farmacy Beauty truly puts in an immense amount of effort in to make sure its products can be the best they can be for all users.

Camille Howard-Verovic, a dermatologist recently reviewed several celebrities' skincare lines such as Fenty Skin, JLO Beauty, and Humanrace. She mentioned many of these brands' benefits and drawbacks; however, more drawbacks were seen. Focusing on JLO beauty, Howard-Verovic pointed out that Jennifer Lopez included unnecessary products in her line. In response, Camille Howard-Verovic stated, "Eye cream is up for debate. Sometimes they are more of a marketing gimmick. If someone has sensitive eyes, I will recommend a hypoallergenic cream that is very gentle around the eyes" (Spencer). JLO has this eye cream that has no point or benefit; it is just on the line for her to make more money. This eye cream contains ingredients that are not beneficial or healthy for the skin. They dry out the skin. Additionally, Rhianna's skin care line Fenty Beauty also has many products in it that scare consumers due to the addition of fragrances. Dermatologist Camille Howard-Verovic explained, "There is something called allergic contact dermatitis, and it usually occurs when one's skin has an allergic reaction because of a particular compound" (Spencer). The dermatologist warns customers to be wary of products with fragrances, especially if you have sensitive skin.

Moreover, being aware of what chemicals and ingredients are inside of your everyday products, whether they be celebrity owned items or dermatologist developed br mindful of what you put on your body.

Adventures Beyond The Classroom

By: Ava Connolly

The bus moves up and down as it makes the turn. Your brown paper lunch bag crumples as the bus stops at its final destination. All of the students have their phones out and are ready to take pictures. It's field trip time.

As I have grown older, I have come to realize that field trips are a very important thing in order to add to a student's educational experience. They give children the opportunity to look at what they are learning in a different environment and from a different perspective. Therefore, school administration and teachers should want to give their students the chance to feel more engaged in their learning and understanding of a particular subject.

In order to gain a better idea as to how North Shore High School is when it comes to field trips, a survey was given to eight students in both the freshman and sophomore classes who have had the opportunity to attend at least one field trip while in attendance. Freshman, Sophia Ancona, has attended field trips in December of 2022 and January of 2023 for both

her English and Earth Science classes, and said that "The field trips that I have been on were helpful because it was all related to what we were doing in class; it was a fun experience outside of the classroom while still being able to learn." Ancona shared that the field trips were not only helpful towards the subject, but they were fun experiences. Another student who shared his experience on a field trip to New York City for his English class in January of 2023, is Chris Uryan: "the field trip was helpful to getting to know more and have a better understanding about the Greek Gods. It was fun to go with friends and learn." Students will clearly have a more memorable time when learning about their topic in a fun and hands-on learning environment.

After a few years of students feeling like they missed out on so many opportunities due to Covid, it is now more important than ever to allow them to learn outside of the school environment. Field trips give them this chance. Classroom learning can only do so much.

A Player Better Than "The Great Bambino"?

By: Alonzo Giancarlo Marte

Who is the best baseball player in Major League Baseball (MLB)? Some may answer Aaron Judge, Mike Trout, Mookie Betts, Juan Soto, Fernando Tatis JR, Manny Machado, Jacob DeGrom, Corbin Burnes, or Justin Verlander. All of the players I mentioned only either hit and field or pitch. In my opinion, the best player in MLB does both; in one particular inning he could strike out three out of the three batters he faces and the next inning he could hit a ball "to the moon"; for me, this man is Shohei Ohtani, who in 2021 won the MVP unanimously and put up ridiculous numbers.

Some may be asking what makes Shohei Ohtani so good. Well, the last person we have seen do what Shohei Ohtani is doing is Babe Ruth. Shohei Ohtani can throw 99 mph and then hit a ball 450 feet. He was born in Oshu Iwate, Japan and played in the Japanese baseball league before he came to the MLB. In 2016, he had his best season in Japan by hitting 22 home runs, having 67 RBI's, and a 1.004 OPS, which were his career highs in Japan. He was ultimately drafted to the Angels in 2018 and won AL Rookie of the year with 22 home runs, 61 RBI's, a .925 OPS and 4-2 with a 3.21 ERA. Ohtani then won MVP in 2021 as he hit 46 HR's, had 100 RBI's, a .257 BA, and a .965 OPS. As a pitcher he was 9-2 with a 3.18 era, 156 strikeouts. Mean-

while, when Babe Ruth won MVP, he hit 41 HR's, had 130 RBI's, a .393 BA, and a 1.309 OPS. Babe Ruth's numbers may be better, but he was facing players who played part-time. The players that Babe Ruth pitched against were not even full-time baseball players who practiced all of the time; they had nine to five jobs that they went to before they played. Baseball was not a focused career for them. In addition, Babe Ruth's fastball also averaged 91 mph while Shohei Ohtani's average is 98 mph.

Nowadays, Major League Baseball is packed with talent on each team. For the current baseball players, they eat, sleep and breathe baseball. Thus, they are playing the best they can. For Shohei Ohtani to have the numbers that he does in this scenario, that makes him pretty great. He is definitely someone who can give The Great Bambino a "run for his money".



Pride In The Pride

By: Robin Spieler

Hofstra University's athletics have experienced tremendous success in the last few years. The University, located in nearby Hempstead, flies under the radar in terms of publicity, which is not surprising given the number of professional sports teams in the Tri-State Area. Nevertheless, Hofstra's athletic accomplishments serve as a source of pride for our community. Coincidentally, the Pride is the rebranded nickname for the school replacing the historic Flying Dutchmen which told of its Dutch roots. Hofstra is a teaching and research university with over 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students; it includes the Maurice A. Deane Law School, Northwell Medical School, Frank G Zarb School of Business and renowned programs in nursing, education, journalism, communications, and fine arts. Hofstra has received global attention thanks to hosting the 2008, 2012, and 2016 presidential debates. There are also notable Hofstra sports alum including NFL Rookie of the Year Marquis Coulston. In addition, Wayne Chrebet was a fan favorite and star player for the New York Jets after walking on from the practice squad as a Hofstra player. Jay Wright, the former Hofstra basketball coach, left for Villanova and won the NCAA Men's College Basketball championship. Also, Robert Danowski went on to coach Duke's lacrosse team, which is consistently one the best programs in the country.

In recent years, the school has witnessed success across both team and individual sports, including Men's Soccer, Women's Soccer, Men's Lacrosse, Men's and Women's Basketball and Men's Baseball. Hofstra competes in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Conference with other schools such as Northeastern, Drexel, Stony Brook, University of Delaware, and William and Mary. The Women's Soccer Team sported the best conference record to win titles in 2021 and 2022. In fact, the women's team won the conference title five out of the past

six seasons – most impressive! The team advanced to the NCAA tournament, but lost in the first round. The men's team had its best season in 2021 by winning the regular season conference title and conference tournament. The team advanced to the NCAA tournament and racked up impressive victories over Lipscomb and Penn State before losing in the round of 16 to University of Pittsburgh. The core of the team returned for 2022 and won the conference tournament in order to participate in the NCAA tournament. Unfortunately, the team lost to the higher-ranked University of South Florida. In 2021 and 2022, the team was ranked in the top-20 nationally.

The Men's Basketball Team had exceptional seasons in 2020, 2021 and 2022. In 2020, Hofstra won its conference, but the NCAA tournament was canceled as a result of COVID-19. The following season saw a new basketball coach, Hofstra legend and former NBA player, Speedy Claxton. His experience and brash style drove the team to regular season conference titles again in 2021 and 2022. Unfortunately, the team did not win its Conference Championship and did not reach the NCAA tournament.

There are other success stories as well. The baseball team won its first conference championship last year and participated in the college World Series. The Women's Volleyball Team has even sent several players to play professional volleyball in Europe. Clearly, we have the opportunity to see some incredibly talented athletes right here in our own backyard (and usually for free!). As a community, we should be proud and supportive of the athletic program at Hofstra University.

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12 SPORTS

Addressing The Quarterback Situation Yet Again

By: Michael Ye

The 2021-22 NFL season was considered rock bottom for New York football. Both the Giants and Jets found themselves finishing last place in their respective divisions with measly 4-13 records, causing both fan bases to look ahead to the draft before the playoffs even began. After experiencing such a low quality on-field product, expectations were kept in check coming into this past season. It was viewed more as another step in each team's rebuilding process and a chance to see the growth and development of young players. Both teams however, were able to accomplish a lot more than expected. The Jets were able to stay competitive throughout the season and finish 7-10, while the Giants went 9-7-1 and ended up winning a playoff game against the Minnesota Vikings. Such a pleasant surprise has left fans wanting more. With the direction of both teams trending upwards, making acquisitions this off-season was the clear next step. So what have they done so far and will it be enough to make them legitimate playoff contenders next season?

As encouraging as this past season was for the Giants, it's obvious that their playoff caliber record was a fluke. They had one of the easiest schedules in the league, which allowed for six of their nine wins to come against teams with losing records and two of them to come against playoff teams that got eliminated in the first round. Beating up on teams tanking for a higher draft pick along while performing well against the Vikings' defense that had many holes are tasks that Daniel Jones was able to complete, which made him look like the long term solution at quarterback. After having his fifth-year option declined before the season, Jones was set to become a free agent. He picked the perfect time to have a career year, throwing for 3,205 yards, rushing for 708 yards, scoring 22 total TDs, and throwing just five interceptions to create a passer rating of 92.5. With this, the Giants essentially had no choice, but to retain him considering they didn't have a high first round pick like the year before to replace him. All of these circumstances resulted in Jones receiving a four-year \$160 million contract extension, one that he most definitely does not deserve. A contract like this only proves how inflated the quarterback market has become due to the scarcity and desperation of teams that are unable to find their answer at the position. Any competent quarterback is now able to demand between \$30-40 million a year once he hits the open market. The Giants just so happened to be the next victim of this, resulting in Jones now being the seventh highest paid quarterback on an average annual value basis. The reality is that he is nowhere near a top ten player at the position and should have been franchise tagged.

There are two main arguments against this hypothetical transaction, both of which are valid. The main reason fans have for justifying this extension is because it gives Jones a lower cap hit for this upcoming season; the franchise tag for quarterbacks is worth \$32.4 million while Jones is set to have a cap hit of \$21 million. This is a fair point due to the cap flexibility it gives the team right now, but it completely ignores the fact that Jones will now have a cap hit of \$45 million the following season and \$39.5 million the year after that with an \$18 million dead cap penalty if the Giants

choose to cut him. With the current state of this team, it is by no means in "win now" mode and is sacrificing years two to four of this contract for only next season. Placing the franchise tag on Jones would prevent overpaying him and force him to prove more in order to be worth franchise quarterback money. The second argument fans make is that the franchise tag would instead be used on running back Saquon Barkley, who is also coming off a stellar year where he rushed for 1,312 yards, 10 TDs, and averaged 4.4 yards per carry. Like the first argument mentioned, this one also makes sense. The running back position is such a replaceable one to the point where teams can either use a mid-round pick or sign cheap veterans to get the job done. Barkley also has an injury history and is now 26 years old, which is considered "old" for a running back due to the physicality they endure every time they touch the ball. The difference between these two players however, is that Barkley is a proven elite player that is clearly one of the best at his position, while Jones is just average. If anything, Barkley deserves a contract extension more than Jones does. Moreover, Barkley has already refused to sign his franchise tag and wants to get paid a long-term extension. This mismanagement by the Giants' front office not only keeps them fighting for third place in the NFC East Division, but also compromises their future.

The team's best move this off-season however, was trading a third round pick to the Las Vegas Raiders in exchange for Darren Waller. This was a great trade for the Giants, as Waller is an elite tight end who is one of few left at the position that can consistently produce in the receiving department. While he has dealt with injuries over the past two years, it shouldn't overshadow his consecutive 1,100 yard seasons the two years prior. Waller is a matchup nightmare who has the versatility to line up in the slot, which makes sense considering that he was drafted as a wide receiver before converting to tight end. With how weak the Giants' receiving options are, he immediately becomes Daniel Jones' number one target and should bounce back to being an annual 1,000 yard producer. Additionally, the Giants were also able to strengthen their linebacking core by signing Bobby Okereke to a four-year \$40 million contract. He is coming off of a solid year with the Indianapolis Colts, where he missed just 6.8% of his tackles and allowed a completion percentage of 70.7% and a passer rating of 91.3 to earn a PFF Grade of 73.3. With how little acquisitions the Giants have made over the past few months, Okereke will be the most impactful one and improve the weakest part of the defense.

Moving over to the Jets, they also had an off-season full of drama at the quarterback position. With the entire fanbase turning on former second overall pick Zach Wilson, the team was clearly willing to cut its losses and 'swing for the fences'. The dream was set on day one: go trade for a disgruntled Aaron Rodgers and turn the team into Super Bowl contenders. After years of tension between him and the Green Bay Packers' organization, they finally agreed to part ways after over a decade of success together. On paper, Rodgers is coming off one of the worst years of his career. He threw for just 3695 yards and had a touchdown to interception ratio of 26 to 12, amounting to a

Basketball Showdown!

By: Fergus O'Neill

On April 4, 2023, my classmates and I from North Shore High School's Daily Living Skills class, played basketball against the Locust Valley High School's Life Skills class. It was an amazing event, and I am so happy that I got to be a part of it!

Since last year, my classmates and I have been friends with the Locust Valley students. We have done many activities together including tie-dying t-shirts, making fall wreaths, playing soccer, and most recently our participating in the "March Madness" basketball game! I love it when we spend time together. Of course, the best part is that we always get to eat a delicious lunch together and just hang out! We are all thankful to our teachers, Mrs. Masone, Mr. Kozlowski, Mrs. Cavallini, Mrs. Roth, Mrs. Demmler, Mrs. Suraci, Mrs. Barwick, and Ms. DiVincenzo, for helping to make these events possible.

This basketball game was my favorite event of all! Other students came to cheer us on and some of our parents, too!



Also, it was so exciting because even North Shore High School's Principal Mr. Contreras, Assistant Principal Dr. Kurrus, Assistant Principal Ms. Imperial, Director of Special Education Mr. Marino, and Assistant Director of Special Education Mr. Kistingner came to support us! Our fabulous Physical Education teacher, Mr. Kozlowski, played awesome music to pump us up and kept score for us on the big scoreboard. Some of our peers also helped during the game - a special thank you to Meredith Papiro, grade 11, Alexandra Basile, grade 10, and Gabriella Basile, grade 12, for being our referees.

The game was very intense! It ended in a tie score: 28-28. After the game, we were tired and got to relax in the courtyard. It was a beautiful day outside and we planted seeds together in little pots at the courtyard tables. Mr. Levin, North Shore School District's Food Service Director, also made us delicious chicken tenders and fries for lunch! I know my classmates and I would love to do this again.

Best of Luck To The Viking View's Graduating Senior Editors:

Jessica Lillis,

Michael Ye

and

Liliana Stella

*Thank you for your
dedication to making
The Viking View the
wonderful publication it has
been for the past four years.*