



More Accolades For North Shore High School's Science Research Program

By: Kaitlin Ho

Every year, numerous incoming high school seniors sacrifice their summer to dedicate time to their science research, which is then submitted to the Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS). Regeneron STS is the nation's oldest and most prestigious science research competition for high school students. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are awarded to the most promising young scientists.

This year, two North Shore High School Vikings, Claire Tao and Michelle Yu, were recognized as Regeneron STS Top 300 Scholars out of 2,162 applicants; each of them was individually awarded \$2,000, as well as \$2,000 for North Shore High School. Both received immense guidance from Dr. Molly Mordechai, the head of the Science Research Department at North Shore, who has worked with each science research student since her freshman year. I had the pleasure of interviewing both Dr. Mordechai and the 2024 scholars. When asked about their experience with Regeneron, here's what the scholars had to say:

Claire Tao

Project Title: TIGIT is Highly Expressed Across Various Types of Immunosuppressive Myeloid Cells Induced by Glioblastoma Extracellular Vesicles

Q: What was it like finding a mentor?

A: Working with my mentor, Dr. Benjamin Himes, was a really great opportunity for me because the institution was not too far away and I got really lucky that I did not have to contact hundreds of professors to find one.

Q: What was your research on?

A: My research was on glioblastoma, a type of brain tumor that is often difficult to treat because it evades many of the conventional treatments. The main goal of my research was to search for common biological markers on tumor related cells and find a possible therapy route for the cancer.

Q: Why did you choose this topic?

A: A big factor was that my mentor, Dr. Himes, was already researching the topic I was interested in. The other reason is a little personal... My grandparents, who I'm very close with, both had cancer—my grandfather had lymphoma and my grandmother had leukemia; they both fortunately survived. I've always been interested in cancer research because of these specific events in my life and being able to experience first-hand the impact science research can have on lives.

Q: Where did you conduct your research and how was it going to the lab?

A: I did my research at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx. I got to work with people in so many different stages of education: undergrad students, doctors, and pre-med students. My commute was made easier because I stayed with my grandmother in Flushing, Queens. I would go four times a week on the bus, often spending on average 3-7 hours

per day depending upon what I was doing that day. My mentor had complete faith in me to independently conduct my experiment and I was directly involved in my project.

Q: What was your favorite part of the research?

A: Just being able to work with all of the lab equipment and the experiments involving blood, centrifusion... It was a really long process, but so worth it. I think the fact that I did everything independently made me feel incredibly accomplished and I'm also happy to know that the data I'm collecting can help my mentor with their research.

Q: What are you looking forward to researching in the future?

A: I'm interested in researching prions and protein folding, especially with all the news about mad cow disease and the deers in Yellowstone. It's really difficult to model protein folding—I would be really honored to have the opportunity to explore this. I'm so thankful to Dr. Mordechai and for being able to learn about science research; I plan to go pre-med in college and research is an essential skill. I really love our Science Research Program at North Shore; she [Dr. Mordechai] really guided me and my fellow senior classmates throughout our high school years. She introduced me to all of the competitions and she taught me how to write a paper; we also spent hours practicing for presentations, editing and revising our projects. She spends so much time making sure all of her students present their best work. I just wish there were more resources for the program because the Science Research Room is really just a small crevice near the bathroom. It would be great to have a bigger room with more scientific equipment, such as a hood, so the Introduction and Intermediate Science Research classes can do actual chemical experiments. I hope that future Viking science researchers can have a bigger facility where they can conduct their experiments.

Michelle Yu

Project Title: Salvia hispanica L. Ameliorates the Effects of Alzheimer's Disease in Drosophila melanogaster

Q: What was it like finding a mentor?

A: I found my mentor by asking former students for input. I ultimately picked Dr. Theodore J. Brummel because I knew I would have the freedom to create my own project, and also receive guidance from him as a mentor. This led to me contact him through Dr. Mordechai.

Q: What was your research on?

A: So, my research was on how chia seeds affected a fruit fly Alzheimer's disease model. I basically tested how incorporating chia seed oil would affect the flies' lifespan and neuromuscular fitness.

Q: Why did you choose this topic?

A: I chose this topic because my grandfather had dementia and he passed away almost two years ago. This motivated me to want to do

research on a neurodegenerative disease and with this new wave of being health and supplement-focused, I wanted to explore more natural potential therapies for neurodegenerative diseases.

Q: Where did you conduct your research and how was going to the lab?

A: I did my research at Long Island University and started researching my topic in early 2023. I went to the lab almost every day for about six hours per day from late June to the end of September. It took a lot of time to prepare for the project.

Q: What was your favorite part of the research?

A: Definitely the people—me and the other high school students there became like a family. Like when I got into the top 300, everyone from the lab congratulated me. We would do things for each other, laugh... You know, while we were working, we would talk and it would help the time move faster. It was like talking to your friends!

Q: What are you looking forward to researching in the future?

A: Well, I just got into Cornell, so I'm looking forward to utilizing the research opportunities there. Maybe if the opportunity to work with fruit flies comes up—I'll take it. At least I have some prior knowledge on that; the four years of Science Research at North Shore have helped me. I just want to thank my mentor, Dr. Brummel, and Dr. Mordechai for guiding me through my research and helping me edit and revise my project.

Currently, each scholar is eagerly awaiting the end of January, which is when the top 40 Regeneron Scholars are announced. Dr. Mordechai continues to utilize her knowledge of research and her PhD in Molecular Biology to educate and help Vikings succeed in the process of science research. Dr. Mordechai believes that, "regardless of whether my students who submitted to the program won or not, they should feel a lot of pride for even submitting to the competition; when they win, it is a great recognition of their hard work. They've [her students] all dedicated their summers to doing research and completing a research paper in such a short amount of time." When asked about what would improve the future of the Science Research Program at North Shore, Dr. Mordechai responded by stating, "I think there are a lot of creative, motivated, intelligent students in the building who aren't taking Research, so I would love to increase the number of students in the program. Aside from that, we are doing a lot of projects in-house with the freshmen and the sophomores and it becomes a bit of a challenge to conduct the experiments in such a small space. We also do not have all of the proper equipment. So, I would love to see the space grow into a more usable and welcoming environment."

Science research is definitely an integral part of the curriculum at North Shore—hopefully there will be more Viking Regeneron STS scholars in the future and the program will continue to grow!

Sea Cliff's New Coffee Shop: A Welcome Addition

By: Sophia Marchioli

There's a new coffee shop in Sea Cliff! The Daily Grind opened on December 17th filling in the empty spot where the infamous Sea Cliff Bistro used to be. The Sea Cliff Bistro had been a staple in the community up until it closed in 2023. Locals were then left under-caffeinated, and as Jamie Glowinski, the wife of Terrence Cave, who is the owner of The Daily Grind, stated, "there [was] no restaurant to grab a bite... and coffee at [in the heart of Sea Cliff]." So, the previous owners of Sea Cliff Bistro reached out to Cave, knowing that he has had extensive experience as a chef working for "full-service restaurants... [such as the] Barclays Center, Nassau Coliseum... and [running] large events" such as the "U.S. Open and D.C. Open." With the intention of bringing a coffee shop back into Sea Cliff, Cave and Glowinski worked together to complete the necessary steps to open The Daily Grind.

The preparation was a lot of work, as they built everything from scratch. Cave stated, "We literally had three white boards in our living room that we went over every night to see where we were on all aspects of preparation." That list included looking at "uniforms, a point of sale (POS) system...décor, smallwares licenses, the menu, employees, music, a schedule matrix" and more. However, Cave added that this was all necessary to "get the basics ready so we are not burning money" when it's time to open. In addition to the typical preparations that a business owner must make, Cave decided that a few renovations were also needed. For instance, they "installed a new ceiling, rebuilt the bar, repainted the entire restaurant, and put in all new equipment."

All of that hard work finally paid off after the couple ran a few successful friends and family events in the new space to "[practice] and [make] mistakes" before opening. The Daily Grind now sells "espresso, cappuccino, regular coffee, tea, hot chocolate, cold brew, and a host of other drinks" in addition to their fresh baked goods, sandwiches and specials such as "lobster [rolls]... duck club [sandwiches], and warm bread pudding with whipped cream, caramel and cinnamon."

Overall, Cave hopes to replenish the unique and artsy Sea Cliff community even more with his artistic expression: food. He explained that "A chef is an artist [too]; the medium he uses is food. The techniques are technical just like a brush stroke, but the creativity depends on his life experience." The sleek interior, delicious food, and idyllic location right on Sea Cliff Avenue definitely help to build the lovely ambiance that can be found inside The Daily Grind. It is easy to feel the love and dedication that Cave and Glowinski have poured into their new space, all while Glowinski runs Glowinski Esthetics, a skin care clinic, that is just down the road. Together, the couple is clearly helping to revive the business side of Sea Cliff Avenue.

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January 2024

**A Speaker From Left Field:
How The Republican Party Chose Mike
Johnson As Its Speaker Of The House**

By: Veronica Frank

As of October 2023, Mike Johnson is the newly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives, filling the shoes of Representative Kevin McCarthy and representing the majority Republican Party. A new Speaker of the House was urgently required after Republican Rep. Kevin McCarthy was removed. In the 22-day paralysis of the House, starting on October 3rd and ending on October 25th, the Republican Party struggled to find a representative who would advocate for all of the ideals of the Republican Party.

To compensate for the government shutdown, Patrick Henry of North Carolina was elected as speaker Pro Tempore to fill McCarthy’s place for the time being. Since Henry had obtained the position of temporary Speaker, it was assumed that he would also win the majority vote of the Republican Party to maintain his role as permanent Speaker of the House. However, in the final vote on October 25th, Mike Johnson of Louisiana was nominated as the 56th Speaker of the House. It is theorized that he obtained this position because he could unify Republican factions by winning votes from far right-wing representatives who despised Republican representative McCarthy of California and more moderate Republicans who hated Republican Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio (Kaplan).

The American public was surprised how Johnson, a little-known congressman, could be the perfect candidate for the Republican party, representing both the far right and moderates. Johnson was first elected in 2016 to represent the Republican parts of northern and western Louisiana (Kapur). Since 2016, he has worked his way up the ranks by holding positions in various committees, such as the Republican Study Committee and House Republican Vice Chair. Directly before earning his place as Speaker of the House, Johnson had previously sat on the Judiciary Committee, the Armed Services Committee, and a select committee on “Weaponization of the Federal Government.” Throughout his time in Congress, Johnson slowly worked his way up the ranks in the Republican party, making a credible and reliable name for himself. Fellow Louisiana Governor-Elect Jeff Landry praised Johnson, saying he is “well-liked by everyone” and that “he has the work ethic and tenacity to lead our country in this prestigious position!” (Ryan).

What makes Johnson a perfect choice to represent the Republican party are his ideals, which appealed to factions like far-right Republicans and most center-leaning Republicans. However, his actions display a more far-right-leaning representative in his time as a Representative. One of the most notable and controversial moments when Johnson truly appealed to the far right was during the 2020 election, helping Donald Trump devise an argument denying the results of the 2020 election. *The New York Times* even called Johnson “the most important architect of the Electoral College objections” on January 6th, 2021—his argument denying the election convinced 147 Republicans to block the certification of Joe Biden electors. However,

on October 25th, after being nominated Speaker of the House, Johnson declined to respond to a question about his role in the election objections.

In addition, Mike Johnson’s voting record has been strictly Republican, earning him a lifetime rating of 92% from the American Conservative Union and 90% from Heritage Action, both political organizations that advocate for conservative politics (conservatism.org). In President Biden’s first two years, Johnson voted against an abundance of bipartisan bills, including the Violence Against Women Act, the CHIPS and Science Act, a modest gun law, and for establishing a January 6th independent commission. In October 2023, Johnson was among 93 Republicans who voted for an amendment to cut off U.S. military assistance for Ukraine.

Despite strong support from the Republican party, many Democrats are worried about his strong position on restricting access to abortions and against LGBTQ rights. Johnson advocates for the criminalization of abortion in Congress and on Twitter, declaring that he “wants to ban all abortions without exception to the point of criminalization with prison sentences.” Further, in 2022, Johnson sponsored a bill known as the “Don’t Say Gay” bill in Florida, which bans education on gender identity and sexual orientation in some elementary school grades (Ryan).

Finally, what gives Johnson the final stamp of Republican approval is the blessing of former Republican president Donald Trump. Although not technically endorsing Johnson, Trump, being the de-facto leader of the Republican party, advocated for the vote to favor Johnson. On social media, Trump wrote, “My strong suggestion is to go with the leading candidate, Mike Johnson” (Twitter.com). Then, after Johnson was elected, Trump posted: “Congratulations to Rep. Mike Johnson. He will be a Great Speaker!”.

Now, although Johnson is the supposed “perfect” candidate for the Republican party, he was, in the past, never a notable figure in Congress. Compared to past speakers, he has been in Congress for a significantly shorter period of time: less than seven years. Kevin McCarthy, Nancy Pelosi, Paul Ryan, and John Boehner all served at least 15 years before ascending to the position. Therefore, now that the inexperienced and little-known congressman from Louisiana has taken on the role of lead Republican representative for the Republican party and Congress itself, Republicans and Democrats alike are questioning his inexperience and anticipating what he will do with his new position.

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A Disgrace

By: Raymond Lin

Normally, military promotions are done en masse via a unanimous vote in the Senate (Watson). This is largely done for convenience as voting on each individual promotion, which the Senate could theoretically do, would take hundreds of hours over the course of a year, needlessly wasting the limited time the Senate has. So, these kinds of en masse promotions go through the Senate quickly and without much controversy, allowing the U.S. military to promote talented individuals and be prepared to defend America and its interests. However, for most of 2023, Republican Senator Tommy Tuberville of Alabama, a former football coach, has been recklessly blocking these promotions because he opposes the military’s policy of providing abortion-seeking service members 21 days of leave and travel expense reimbursement, even though this policy does not actually cover the cost of the abortion (Demirjian). This ideologically-inspired blocking of promotions has led to hundreds of military positions not being properly filled and the U.S. military being caught in a leadership crisis when conflicts, such as those in Ukraine and Taiwan, remain as prolific and serious as ever.

Using the word crisis is no exaggeration either. Integral positions like the leaders of the Marines, Navy, and Air Force were blocked. Furthermore, positions like admiral of the 5th Fleet, which operates in the Middle East, and deputy commander of U.S. Central Command, which oversees the Middle East, were similarly blocked and left officially vacant (Perano, et al). Of course, there were acting replacements for some positions, but this situation has nevertheless compromised U.S. military readiness when considering the hundreds of other positions that were blocked. In addition to punishing innocent service members for policies they cannot change, Senator Tuberville’s disgraceful blocking of promotions has led to stressful working environments for acting replacements who often had to work two jobs because they kept their original position. It also disturbed military families since many of them had to wait for months to hear news of promotion and possible relocation. Furthermore, some talented junior officers began leaving the military because of instability and a lack of opportunities (Freking).

Fortunately, after pressure from the Democrats and members of the Republican party, Senator Tuberville recently decided to stop blocking most of the promotions he had previously been preventing (Watson and He). This led to 425 unobstructed promotions occurring via unanimous vote, granting relief to hundreds of service members and their families as well as the overall security of the United States. However, Senator Tuberville continues to block 11 key four-star positions, such as the heads of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, U.S. Pacific Air Force, U.S. Cyber Command, U.S. Space Command, etc. He seems to have chosen to scrutinize them further and continue to inhibit U.S. military readiness.

Even when ignoring this continued weakening of U.S. military leadership, the effects of Senator Tuberville’s actions still linger. He has caused major military unpreparedness and the U.S. Armed Forces to scramble to deal with a backlog of promotions to approve and prioritize. The biggest effect, however, is the bad precedent Senator Tuberville has set (Myers). His actions demonstrate that, for partisan reasons, a single senator can independently choose to block critical military promotions and jeopardize national security, and there is little the other party or even the dissident senator’s own party can do to force a change. One can only hope a repeat of what Senator Tuberville has done does not come to pass again and that national security is prioritized over petty partisanship.

Get To Know The Top 2024 Presidential Candidates

By: Mia Perciballi

There is an overload of information about the presidential candidates involved in the upcoming 2024 election and it can be overwhelming. Since so many of North Shore High School’s seniors will be eighteen and granted voting rights this November, it is important that they become informed about how they can register to vote and furthermore, who could be getting their vote.

Students can register to vote in a few different ways. They can register online by using the New York State Board of Elections’ Online Voter Registration portal. In-person registration is also an option at one’s county board of elections or at any New York State Agency-Based voter registration center. Voter application forms are available through the Department of Motor Vehicles as well. All of this information is available on the New York State Board of Elections’ website.

In terms of candidates, thus far, the polls are in favor of two familiar men: Former President Donald Trump and President Joe Biden, who ran against each other in the 2020 election. However, there are other candidates in the race for the presidency. The following quick facts about the top candidates should be helpful for students who are looking for more information regarding the election.

Democrats:

President Joe Biden

Age: 81
Current Occupation: President of the United States
Offices Held: 46th President of the United States (2021-present), 47th Vice President of the United States (2009-2017), U.S. Senator from Delaware (1973-2009)
Campaign Positions: Protect social security and medicare; control the cost of insulin for diabetic Americans; continue providing assistance to Ukraine in its war efforts; institute a “billionaire minimum tax” (NBC) and control taxing on the poor.

Marianne Williamson

Age: 71
Current Occupation: Author and spiritual adviser
Offices Held: none
Campaign Positions: gain control on the gun violence issue in the country by expanding background checks and banning what are referred to as “straw purchases”; prioritize renewable energy and reduce CO2 emissions by the U.S.

Dean Phillips

Age: 54
Current Occupation: U.S. Representative
Offices Held: U.S. Representative from Minnesota’s 3rd district (2019-present)
Campaign Positions: increase funding for the police in order to “enhance

public safety” (Phillips); increase border security and institute a more efficient process for people wanting to legally enter the U.S. and become citizens.

Republicans:

Donald Trump

Age: 77
Current Occupation: Businessman
Former President of the United States
Office Held: 45th President of the U.S. (2017-2021)
Campaign Positions: “Support legislation that represents a ‘record investment’ in police” (NBC); “Pardon ‘a large portion’ of the people convicted of federal offenses for their participation in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol” (NBC).

Nikki Haley

Age: 51
Occupation: Former Ambassador to the United Nations
Offices Held: U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations (2017-2018), Governor of South Carolina (2011-2017)
Campaign Positions: Strictly control the border between the US and Mexico; mandate a program that will prevent businesses from hiring illegal immigrants; encourage term limits for members of Congress, and incorporate a “mental competency tests for politicians older than 75” (Haley).

Vivek Ramaswamy

Age: 38
Current Occupation: Entrepreneur
Offices Held: None
Campaign Positions: increase the voting age to 25 (Civics test or national service requirement for voters under 25); shut down and possibly rebuild the Department of Education, the FBI and the IRS; “Pardon ‘defendants of politicized prosecutions’ including Trump and ‘peaceful Jan. 6 protesters.’” (NBC).

Ron DeSantis

Age: 45
Current Occupation: Governor of Florida
Offices Held: Governor of Florida (2019-present), U.S. Representative from Florida’s 6th District (2013-2018)
Campaign Positions: Send more resources to the US-Mexico border; construction of the border wall is one of his top concerns; “support[s] national school choice legislation” (DeSantis).

It’s quite important for all voters and potential voters to be informed in regard to a candidate of any election and what his/her platform is and what his/her background is. This person will make so many important decisions that ultimately have an impact. Thus, reading and learning all a person can prior to an election is of the highest importance. See you at the polls.

The Mockery That George Santos Made Of NY’s 3rd Congressional District

By: Sophia Marchioli

If you pay any attention to happenings on either a local, or national level, you most likely know the name George Santos. As a former Republican Congressman for New York’s 3rd Congressional District, where our North Shore community sits, Santos put a national spotlight on this area. The flamboyant Santos had had no previous experience in government, and his campaign website claims that he is a “first-generation American born in Queens... who grew up in a basement apartment in Jackson Heights” (George Santos for Congress). He lied on his resume, falsely claiming he graduated from Baruch College, and worked for Goldman Sachs and Citigroup; these fallacies helped earn him a seat in Congress. He then denied these wrongdoings, and refused to resign (Rozner). Santos concerned the nation while simultaneously putting it into hysterics (Stieb). This man’s lies slowly escalated in extremity, to the point where his words became so ridiculous that the entire country couldn’t help but laugh at him. As his true identity was gradually revealed, he quickly became the country’s punching bag. However, this mockery somehow brought unity, in a sense, to the country, as all political parties were able to agree that Santos did not belong in Congress: the issue became nonpartisan (Gusoff).

Despite being ousted from the political scene by his fellow representatives after it had come out that he used campaign donors’ money to fund his OnlyFans obsession, former Congressman Santos has continued to provide new material for the nation to ridicule him; however, his time in Congress brought the desperation out of Santos, causing him to meld into the absurdity surrounding his name (Fandos). Let us reflect on some of the most laughable moments of Santos’ time in Congress.

As George Santos was constantly trolled by reporters during his time in Congress, due to the early exposure of his made-up resume, he quickly became tired of them drilling into him. Thus, one day, he tried to shake things up. So, he bought Chik-Fil-A for the reporters (Stieb). Although Santos is an openly gay man, he supports the popular fast-food chain which is known for providing funds to homophobic organizations, like the Salvation Army and Fellowship of Christian Athletes (National LGBTQ Task Force; Valinsky).

Once when Santos exited his office only to find the usual swarm of journalists, he came out with a baby. This “mystery baby”, as it became known on social media, went viral in a short video. Reporters questioned the context of the situation, and asked if the baby was his. He replied, “not yet” (Stieb).

In addition, when speaking with a *New York Times* reporter for an interview in October of 2023, Santos discussed how his niece was kidnapped by the Chinese Communist Party in Queens (Ashford). This was quickly discredited by local police officials (Levin).

Although Santos has made quite a few entertaining remarks, many of his actions had much more serious context implications. His campaign website claimed that his mother had died in 9/11, which, with a quick Google search can be found false (Levin). In one of his

campaign videos in 2021, Santos stated that his grandparents “[fled] Hitler” during the Holocaust (Levin). These are just a few of the more insensitive remarks that Santos made during his time in Congress. By saying these things, he was able to offend people and unify many in the campaign against him (Skelley). Therefore, he was eventually expelled from Congress on December 1st, 2023 (McDaniel).

Today, as the over-the-top, character that he is, George Santos is turning to social media and other digital platforms to truly “milk” the fame he was able to gain from his quick stunt in Congress. The former congressman has now entered the world of Cameo, a digital platform where people pay celebrities for personalized video messages. His recordings have been going viral across all social media platforms, as his image is becoming increasingly absurd. With these messages increasing in popularity, the price per video has increased from \$75 to \$400: he now makes more money than his congressional salary of \$174,000 (McCann; Ramirez). Here are some examples of the valuable messages he has sent via Cameo in the past month.

Television talk-show host Jimmy Kimmel of *Jimmy Kimmel, Live!* sent Santos several requests for videos which he then aired on his show. In one of these videos, Santos responded to a request by Kimmel with “Hey Brenda, I wanted to congratulate you on successfully cloning your beloved schnauzer, Adolf. I know it was a lot of trials and tribulations, but you finally did it.” Of course, he ended his message with the, now iconic and uniquely Santos, “Mwah” coming from his full lips (Blanchet; Metzger).

In another video, Santos sent a message to Senator Bob Mendez (D-N.J.), as per the request Senator John Fetterman (D-Pa.). Mendez, who was charged with corruption within his campaign, including bribery, has been receiving criticism from his fellow senators and the U.S. public (U.S. Attorney’s Office). Santos told him to “make em’ [haters] put up or shut up” (Watson).

Although completely absurd, and not entirely shocking, these Cameo videos are ethical: they do not expose anything about Congress, and unlike his past endeavors, they do not take money from sponsors for the wrong reasons (Frazier). However, Long Island Republicans, in addition to the predictable Long Island Democrats, do not support him (Gusoff). After his lies and deceitful nature were made public, Santos leaves New York’s 3rd Congressional District representative-less and hopeless. By making a fool of himself, the former congressman has also made a fool of the community that elected him, and our country’s election system. A new election to fill this vacant seat will be held on February 13th, 2024.



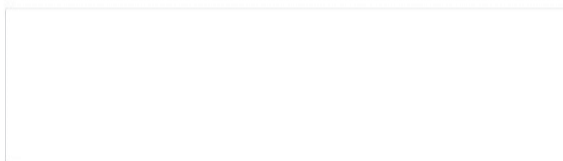
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Supreme Court’s Ethics Code: Progress Amid Doubts

By: Kalista Lin

On November 13th, 2023, the Supreme Court revealed its adoption of a new code of conduct in response to allegations of ethical breaches. This marked a significant move by the justices to address concerns, although this action’s effectiveness remains questionable due to the self-enforcement nature of the code, meaning that the Supreme Court justices would have to enforce this code onto themselves. Contained within a 14-page document were five canons of conduct, covering areas such as guidelines for recusal, the disqualification of a judge. The justices emphasized the fact that the code’s purpose is to consolidate the court’s ethical standards in a singular document guiding conduct.

While the statement signed by all nine justices stressed the familiar nature of most rules outlined in the code—ones to uphold honesty, integrity, and professionalism—it aimed to dispel the misconception that the justices perceived themselves as exempt from ethical regulations, unlike other judicial figures. Derived from standards observed by court judges from lower leveled courts, this code appeared to expand upon a previous statement by the justices in April reaffirming their commitment to ethical principles, which failed to assuage criticism. Key provisions in the code mandated justices to uphold judicial integrity and avoid impropriety—improper behavior and acts.

Pressure had mounted on the court following reports questioning justices’ adherence to regulations. Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee proposed legislation to impose a new ethics code on the court, expressing dissatisfaction with the justices’ self-regulation. Senator Dick Durbin acknowledged the court’s step forward while highlighting its limitations, specifically citing the considerable discretion left to individual justices in decision-making. In addition to that, critics, including Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and ethics watchdog “Fix the Court”’s executive director Gabe Roth, noted the absence of an enforcement

mechanism for investigating and addressing ethics violations. He expressed skepticism about the efficacy of the self-regulated “honor system”. Furthermore, progressives, specifically the People’s Parity Project—an organization dedicated to ending injustice in the government and law—dismissed the court’s move as a mere symbolic gesture aimed at alleviating concerns surrounding sitting justices’ alleged unethical behavior.

While Supreme Court justices adhere to some rules akin to those governing lower court judges, they are not bound by the same code of conduct. Recent scrutiny stemmed from reports alleging non-disclosure of trips by Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito. Efforts to subpoena individuals involved in these alleged ethical beaches were also postponed, further fueling debates around the necessity for a more robust enforcement mechanism for ethical oversight within the Supreme Court. With this, Republicans criticized what they perceived as a disproportionate focus on conservative judges regarding ethics allegations, attributing it to efforts to discredit the court’s conservative majority.

Distinguishing itself from rules applied to lower court judges, the new code addresses specific issues relevant only to the Supreme Court, particularly in its approach to recusal in cases where multiple justices might need to step aside. The absence of a strict enforcement mechanism and lingering ambiguities about its application pose challenges to ensuring accountability and restoring public trust. As debates persist over the need for an external oversight mechanism and with continued scrutiny of justices’ adherence to ethical standards, the evolution of this code and its practical impact on the court’s integrity will undoubtedly remain a subject of ongoing scrutiny and debate in legal and political circles alike.

A Magical Holiday Season In The “City That Never Sleeps”

By: Abby Reisberg

The Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree Lighting is the true start of what New York City (NYC) calls the holiday season. The 89th annual tree lighting ceremony took place on November 29, 2023.

No matter when you believe the holidays begin, the Rockefeller Christmas tree is a staple of NYC’s holiday traditions. The acts of picking out the tree, bringing it to the City and lighting it have been around for almost nine decades, since the peak of the Great Depression. At the time, “64 percent of building trade workers in NYC were unemployed” (NY Historical Society). And, on Christmas Eve of 1931, workers at Rockefeller Center decided to pool their money together and buy a 20-foot-tall Christmas tree for the holidays. Along with their loved ones, they decorated the tree with cranberries and garland. This special moment brought a great amount of joy and unity to these people, despite the unfortunate

financial circumstances at that time.

Two years later, this Christmas tree became a grand tradition in New York City as Rockefeller Center had its first lighting in December of 1933. According to *Thrillist*, the historic tree was “A 50 ft pine decorated with 700 lights.” As the tradition evolved, Rockefeller Center became more creative. In the 1950s, workers started using scaffolding to decorate the tree, which became an extensive process, getting more people on board as the tree grew taller. In the late 1990s, the tree traveled by barge and even plane to get to NYC. Once, the tree was even brought in on the “World’s largest transport plane, the Anatov An-124 Ruslan” (*The Center Magazine*). The tree made history again, in December of 1999 standing at an incredible height of 100 feet, which is just about as tall as a ten-story building!

Today, hundreds of thousands of

Temu: The Good And The Questionable

By: Kaitlin Ho

At some point, Temu, an online marketplace akin to former internet sensation Wish or fast-fashion brand SHEIN, was the only advertisement shown on all of my social media platforms. I initially ignored the advertisements until one day, my friend sent me a message; she wanted to gain extra coupon codes and texted, “Can you help me out? This would mean so much to me! Search my code in Temu or tap my link to download & accept my invite.” Thus began my journey down the ‘rabbit-hole’ of Temu.

As the most downloaded app in the U.S. in both 2022 and 2023, Temu offers heavily discounted goods which are mostly shipped to consumers directly from China (Toh). With heavy advertising on social media platforms such as TikTok, Temu’s popularity skyrocketed within a few months of the app’s launch in September of 2022. People can purchase virtually anything heavily-discounted from a hand-held blender to a sauna. However, Temu’s lightning deals that promise extra savings beg the question of whether or not the site is legitimate.

Temu is, in fact, a legitimate website, but it has gamified its site. As soon as the app is opened, pop-ups with wheels to spin for discounts and countdown clocks make it seem like time on offers is running out, but these graphics are designed to encourage customers to make purchases. Temu also has games on the site in which if a person collects enough tokens through sharing the app with new users or purchasing items, he can win free items without ever giving away his credit card information. But how is Temu capable of giving away free items? According to Douglas Schmidt, a professor of computer science at Vanderbilt University, Temu’s business model works by subsidizing the costs of the heavily discounted items “in order to gain market share” (Chow). Apparently, some people have received their items from Temu; however, some have not (Chow).

In fact, Temu has already been subject to over 30 complaints to the Better Business Bureau with a

customer rating of less than 1.5 stars due to undelivered packages, mysterious charges, incorrect orders being sent, and unresponsive customer service (Chow). Additionally, concerns over user data and privacy have arisen due to Temu’s overseas origin. Temu is a sister company to the Chinese e-commerce giant Pinduoduo, sharing the common parent entity of Chinese tech giant PDD Holdings. Previously, Pinduoduo was suspended from the Google Play Store for allegedly installing malware that is capable of bypassing users’ mobile security software to monitor activities on other apps. This includes checking notifications and reading private messages which has led to the U.S. government accusing Temu of creating possible data risks (Chiang). Also, U.S. lawmakers warn that Temu products are “extremely high risk” as they may be made using forced labor; these claims arose from an ongoing investigation into compliance with a 2021 U.S. law which bars the import of goods made using forced Uyghur, a Chinese ethnic minority, labor (BBC). Additionally, sellers on Temu often steal designs to cut down the cost of developing intellectual property of their own. Therefore, many businesses and artists, such as Australian artist Tank, share the sentiment that they are being taken advantage of and if they “have a product out there and it is good, it will be reproduced [and] possibly branded as the same thing and sold online” (Carroll).

As of 2023, over 130 million users have downloaded Temu’s app and abide by Temu’s motto of “shopping like a billionaire” (Koenig). Despite the moral and ethical concerns surrounding Temu’s business practices, users seem to seek refuge in this site as a crucial resource for holiday shopping amidst increasing inflation. Thus, as the cost of living increases, more people may find themselves “shopping like a billionaire.”

right underneath the tree. Only three short years after Rockefeller Center’s first tree lighting ceremony, on Christmas Day in 1936, the first temporary ice-skating rink was opened, or as it was called by *The New Yorker*, “The skating pond.” It wasn’t until a skate salesman during the Great Depression took matters into his own hands to keep the skating rink around. Within the next year, it became a permanent feature of New York City’s holiday experience. Many famous figures even came to skate and entertain tourists, including figure skater Sonja Henie, who was well-known during the 1930’s and 40’s; also, this location, at Christmas time can also be seen in a number of modern films and television shows.

So, if you did not get to see the tree this year, add it to your list of things to do during the 2024 holiday season. You won’t regret it.

The Tour Of '24: N.S.H.S.' Music Department Goes To Europe

By: Mae Curiale

For the first time since February of 2020, North Shore High School's Music Department is traveling abroad on its typically biannual International Performance Tour. This February, students in all three of North Shore High School's performing ensembles, the Band, Choir, and Orchestra, have the opportunity to watch and participate in concerts in Croatia, Italy and Slovenia. Traveling in a large group of 109 students in order to perform in three countries in the span of about a week, it is a major undertaking, designed to make a lasting impression on all of the students who attend.

Organized by Tour Coordinator and North Shore High School's Orchestra Director Jason Domingo, this upcoming tour is a continuation of a long-standing tradition that began as a much smaller exchange and quickly evolved into a much bigger and wider-ranging excursion. Initially, there was a tour in which students would travel to England and stay with host families. The trip was replicated a few times before it grew to be what it is today – the North Shore International Performance Tour. The first city that was visited under the name of the International Performance Tour was Montreal. Domingo explained that this tradition has been around for at least 15 years, which is prior to him becoming a part of the North Shore School District and it has been a “huge identity piece for what our music department does.”

The itinerary for the 2024 tour consists of activities that encompass both music and culture; performances at concert venues in the cities of Ljubljana, Venice, and Zagreb will take place. Students will also tour parts of the Ljubljana Castle, watch a concert at the La Fenice Opera House, a world-renowned center for music, and take a tour of Lake Bled, a beautiful body of water in Slovenia. According to Domingo, one of the first activities students will partake in is a “side-by-side concert” with Italian high school students in a city outside of Venice. His hope for that concert is that “students will actually start to realize why they’re going on tour,”: to see the “edges of two cultures coinciding and synthesizing into a whole new experience.”

The destinations of Croatia, Italy, and Slovenia were chosen with the help of “our tour company,” according to Brandon Bromsey, North Shore High School's Band Director. He stated that many things are considered when making a decision about destinations, such as the pricing and general logistics. Plus, differentiating this tour from previous North Shore Performance Tours is important. North Shore High School's Music Directors try to choose a new destination every few years; the previous tour in 2020 was to Greece; before that was Portugal, and before that was Cuba. Domingo shared that the Music Directors also factored in what would be the “right balance of outside our comfort zone,” meaning that as

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residents of Long Island who live quite close to New York City, many North Shore students have had the privilege of regularly immersing themselves in other cultures; thus, introducing them to even more cultures and experiences is an additional goal this tour hopes to achieve. Domingo added that the cities were also chosen based on the fact that they are “rich in music and history.”

Another necessary component of the organization of the tour was finding a place to stay for the students and chaperones. In Domingo's words, “in a city like Venice, the hotels are typically very small,” which complicated things due to the size of the group. Hotels that are “able to accommodate such a large tour” are a necessity, although according to Domingo, downtime will not be a priority because of the action-packed schedule.

And so, after over a year of planning, choosing destinations, and setting goals, the next thing on the table was fundraising. A tour of this magnitude is not inexpensive, so fundraisers were organized in order to assuage the cost. The focus was more on individual fundraising, rather than group fundraising, in order to maximize how much of the cost was alleviated for each student. One fundraiser that was organized by the Tour Committee, including the three Music Directors, was a “practice-a-thon” where students got sponsorships from friends and family for the practice they were doing in preparation for the performances,” Domingo stated. He also described another fundraiser that was done in which students used an app to sell popcorn to raise money for the tour. The results seemed to be positive, as students' profits ranged from “a few hundred to a few thousand dollars, based on their efforts.”

In the eyes of the music teachers such as David Catalano, North Shore High School's Choir Director, all the energy, time, and money put that was into fundraising was worth the experience students will have going on this tour. Catalano reminisced about his experience going on a very similar tour to both Italy and Slovenia as a high school student himself. He recalled a memory of placing a lock on a bridge in Ljubljana that represented his friendship with a few other students and shared that he looks forward to returning to the bridge and finding the lock he placed there years ago: “I distinctly remember being in Ljubljana, with my high school buddies, a good chunk of whom were just groomsmen in my wedding.” Catalano expressed the impact that traveling abroad for music had on his life, hoping that it will similarly affect students: “I'm excited to share that moment with students; hopefully they secure some friendships of their own and place a lock.”

Despite the tour's main focus being to perform music, the social impact the tour will have for the students is unmatched. Domingo expressed the idea that “a lot of the

A Season Of Sound And Dance For NSHS

By: Lucia Cagno

This school year marked the start of something new at North Shore High School (NSHS). The Dance program joined the Choir, Orchestra, and Band at the Winter Music Concert. This concert is a staple of the High School's holiday season, and took place on December 13th, 2023.

The idea to bring the Dance program into this annual event was brought up during a conversation with the performing ensembles' directors about connecting the various departments. There is typically a repertoire written for an orchestra, band, and choir to perform together, so previous concerts have only included those ensembles. However, the bridge of all four departments, including the dance program, is new. Mrs. Kuranishi, NSHS's Dance Director of five years, said that “we typically do one-to-one collaborations within shows, but have never collaborated with all four disciplines together”. Additionally, Mr. Bromsey, the Band Director at NSHS, described the concert as a “full culmination of many months of hard work, practice, and artistic endeavors, both personally and collectively.”

During the concert, the Orchestra, Band, and Choir performed “Variations of Jingle Bells,” an “upbeat-style piece,” as described by Mrs. Kuranishi. At the same time, a group of students from the Advanced Dance class and Studio Dance classes

performed in a way that was inspired by the Rockettes, thus, fully connecting all four of the ensembles.

There are many challenges presented with a project that is so complex. Creating rehearsal time for the ensembles to work together is difficult, as the group has over 150 students enrolled. Each ensemble requires a specific set-up, whether that includes microphones, risers, or seating. Each ensemble also worked on other projects, as most performed separate pieces in addition to “Variations of Jingle Bells”. The process of learning and fine-tuning individual pieces happens over the course of many months. However, the joint rehearsals were vital for not only creating a cohesive piece, but for also giving students the opportunity to better appreciate and see what the other ensembles are doing. This allows students to further respect the work of each department.

Overall, the concert, which had many friends and family in attendance, was a huge success. In fact, my own father, Joe Cagno, thought that the concert was “very festive” and “captured the holiday spirit perfectly”. Mae Curiale, a sophomore who both danced and sang in the concert, thought that it was fun to have “something like that throughout December specifically to work on,” because everyone was in such a festive mood. Hopefully these joint concerts continue in the future!



students are going to be away from their families for the first time ever for eight nights.” He emphasized not only the “beautiful shared experiences” students will have creating art on a different continent, but also the more simple experiences like “eating gelato in Venice.” Bromsey expressed his eagerness to “experience culture first-hand” and to “give students a new perspective on music-making, music-performing, and music-collaborating.” Students will not only have the opportunity to display their craft for a completely new kind of audience, but they will also be able to work with musicians from other countries during the combined concert with Italian students as well as when local musicians are the opening acts for the North Shore ensembles. Catalano said, “We are experiencing spaces and environments that some of the music that we’ve studied came from.” When given the chance to perform in such amazing venues, his hope is that students will gain a new understanding and appreciation for the music they have spent countless hours working on.

Clearly, all three music ensemble leaders aim to create a formative and rewarding experience for their students that will be difficult to forget. And with the opportunities the students have to witness and experience new cultures first-hand, form lifelong bonds and friendships, and travel to beautiful and fascinating new places, North Shore High School's 2024 International Performance Tour will definitely be remembered.



A Dream To Watch

By: Elsa Lanne

A production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was brought to life by North Shore High School's theatre department, which is also known as the North Shore Masquers, on the 17th and 18th of November. The comedic play was written by William Shakespeare in 1595 and takes place in the city of Athens. It is about four rebellious Athenians who run away from their parents due to the disapproval of their impulsive engagements. Throughout the play, the characters encounter obstacles that involve magic and trickery, but in the end, all is set right and the characters find their way back to the people they love.

Due to the length of Shakespeare's plays in their written form, an adaptation published by the Globe Theater Company in London was the baseline for North Shore's Director Aaron Brateman's creativity. His thought-process while turning the set into a camp was that "a summer camp is a place where kids dream". The chaos created with mystical and magical elements in the play supported the messy and dream-like storyline. This also contributed to the time period being shifted to the 1980s, as it was considered a "time of great hope...and the discovery of what it means to be American," said Brateman.

Not only did the 1980's play a role in the storyline, but it was also expressed through the costumes and characters' roles. Brateman explained, "We want every element we are working with in the theatre such as the lights, the sound, the costumes, the actors, the sets, and the props to be moving in the same direction". With all of these components having a similar theme, it built up the story. Some actors embodied cultural touchstones from the Eighties; some of these included Bon Jovi, Axl Rose, Divo, and David Burton. Brateman did this because, "These are references that some of the audience members such as the high school students would not get, perhaps their parents would". Thus, the play was appealing to a larger audience. These references were portrayed through costumes with elements such as electric colorways and interesting patterns. If the audience recognized them, it created a deeper meaning and understanding of the play.

The way that Brateman chooses who plays what character is also something that has a huge role in the success of a production. Brateman said, "I usually have a vague idea of what a character might be like, but what I love to see in auditions is when actors come in to show you a way to play a role that you haven't thought about". He finds that molding a character to the actor just really lets one's personality shine through.

One challenge that this particular production faced was the renovations that were going on in the Music Wing at the start of the school year. This caused the Music Department to be temporarily placed in the Theater. The Crew got the stage back in mid-October but Brateman knew it would only have about two and a half weeks to build the set, which is about half the time it usually gets. "It was a challenge, but one that we were ready to take on," said Brateman. Some of the things they built in that short period were the large realistic-looking trees. They "were wooden beams and random pieces of cardboard that were eventually covered in paper mache". The stage and props' crew led by Mr. Anderson, Mr. Chillemi, and Ms. DeLima, were made up of about 20 students who produced an

impressive set in the time they had.

Other elements, such as the rustling tree branches, helped bring the set alive and make the play more of a sensory experience for the audience. An example of this is when the fairy Puck, a mischievous henchman to the king of the fairies, was using magic to put the runaway Athenians to sleep. Brateman found inspiration for this from a production he saw of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* that was performed at the Globe Theater. A unique aspect of the productions performed in this theatre is that they are carried out on a bare stage. The story is portrayed by only using props and the actors, as opposed to building a fully developed set. In fact, in North Shore's production, in Act Three scene two, actors playing counselors shook tree branches together so it could be imagined that the fairy Puck was pushing through dense forest bushes. "The rustling sounds and movements of these branches helped the momentum of the act, which was this big chase," said Brateman. This also helped to avoid creating an extensive amount of props in the short amount of time the crew and its faculty advisors had.

Another fabulous thing that was created on the set was the colorful backdrop. About this Brateman said, "I wanted to create a backdrop that could serve at the camp itself and when the scene shifted to the forest". With the help of Ms. DeLima, an Art teacher at North Shore, the stage crew intentionally chose specific colors, especially those that painted the sky so, "the lighting could be tweaked to make it look like all different times of day". As the story of the play developed, the backdrop of scenes that were set in different places and at different times seemed to shift and perfectly set the mood. Brighter colors such as pinks and yellows were utilized to portray earlier times of day as they lightened the atmosphere. Meanwhile, darker purple colors helped get across later times of day and gave an ominous sense of night to the audience.

Finally, before the play even started there was a pre-show that consisted of all of the actors dancing and singing around a campfire. This is something that Brateman had never tried before in his productions at North Shore High School. He did this to, "Both acclimate the audience to the world of the play and give it something right away that was familiar and enjoyable". Shakespeare can be daunting for some people as it is often considered complex and hard to understand due to the language and deeper meaning. By playing certain songs from the Eighties, such as, "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go" by Wham!, this allowed the audience to sing along to 'feel-good' songs they have heard before. Brateman explained how "This helped the audience feel comfortable in the space, and helped the actors interact with it in a way that was familiar to it". This small pre-show show not only started the play, but also ended it. By framing the story, Brateman wanted the audience to wonder if the whole play had just been a dream.

Overall, the outcome of the three shows the Masquers performed was excellent. Brateman has noticed that "Our audience has grown each year". These promising numbers make it more exciting for the performers. And, all of their hard work paid off as Brateman concluded that he, "Was really proud of the work that our cast and crew did on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*".

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Swimming Has Become ‘A Shore Thing’

By: Ava Varasano

As of late, North Shore High School’s Varsity Swim Teams have been improving and growing in size; the swimmers are not only proud of their accomplishments, but they are also excited for what is to come. The women’s season is in the Fall and the men’s is in the Winter; both teams have moved up a conference this school year, and are only gaining momentum.

At the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, the Women’s Team practiced at SUNY Old Westbury due to the pool renovations that were taking place at the previously used LIU Post’s Athletic Center. These updates were very much needed for the outdated pool. Even though this change in venue was not well received by the girls, they made the most of it and persisted. Practices every weekday at SUNY Old Westbury’s pool and weight training on Saturday mornings at North Shore High School ultimately prepared the Women’s Team for competition. Now, with LIU’s pool renovated and better than ever, the Men’s Team gets to swim there.

Pete Scala, or “Coach Pete” as the swimmers call him, has been the coach of the team for the past six years. He is a teacher at Portledge, and is quite involved in the swim community. In a single season he is known for helping kids go from having no swim experience and barely surviving a 100 backstroke to becoming comfortable with every stroke. The relationships the swimmers build on the team and the environment Coach Scala fosters ensure that everyone involved finds enjoyment in the challenging sport that competitive swimming is. “Pete is very funny and motivating,” says North Shore High School Junior Maya Samuels, one of the captains of the team. Coach Scala is always there when the swimmers need him, both in and out of the pool. By creating fun games for the swimmers and always reaching out to them, he seems to be the perfect coach. He is always optimistic, and “getting to work and hang out with Pete is always so much fun,” Lucia Cagno, a North Shore High School sophomore and swimmer adds. As to why Coach Pete Scala coaches the team, he said: “I love swimming, but I also like to share my love of swimming with kids”. He helps the swimmers become proud of their skills and love the sport while they achieve their best.

This year the Women’s Swim

Team earned 13th place in its relay at Counties and set new records for its school. Lucia Cagno, a swimmer in these record-breaking relays, states, “Our relay teams were able to break new records, and everyone on the team is so talented and supportive of each other.” She believes that there is a very bright future for the team, and thanks to Coach Pete Scala’s help, this team might be the best-performing Women’s Swim Team at North Shore High School in a long time. The Women’s Team not only did amazingly well in relays, but it was also very successful individually; and, individual Swimmers also qualified for Counties.

The Men’s Swim season just started, but everybody can’t wait to see what this team accomplishes. Both teams moved up into Conference 2 this year, and despite not having divers, the teams have won plenty of meets. Since North Shore does not have divers because of a lack of diving equipment, if the opposing team has divers it automatically earns more points. Thus, in order to win, North Shore swimmers need to make up for these lost points by surpassing the other team with faster times. Against these odds, North Shore Swimming seems to succeed in winning plenty of their meets.

The Women’s Team is especially proud of its accomplishments and feel as if its tradition called “Swim Sisters,” which is when upperclassmen and underclassmen gift each other treats before a meet, plays a big part in this. It is a way that the Women’s Swim Team not only boosts team spirit, but also builds relationships within the team. Swimming games and team-created music playlists are also some other ways the team comes together. Overall, practices and meets seem to turn the swimmers into a family.

While swimming is not an easy sport to become adept in and excel at, anyone who joins the North Shore High School’s Team is guaranteed to end up finding a passion in the sport. The swimmers on the team are always pushing towards improvement, and nothing beats seeing their hard work and determination help them earn personal records during a meet. While fast times are important, the team also emphasizes having fun. At the end of the day, everyone on the team is just proud of the work she or he puts into making the group better overall.



The Womens’s Swim Team Is Out To Excel

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Leveling In College Sports: Is It Necessary?

By: Brian Kraupner

Imagine you are at a stadium where the crowd roars with excitement as the game grows closer and closer in score. College sports has blown up in popularity because of the excitement it brings to the fans and the upsets in scores they often witness. In addition, the level of play that is often seen is amazing. Therefore, in a joint survey by Sportitico and The Harris Poll, it was discovered that 67% of U.S. adults believe college athletes should be compensated by their schools for their efforts. However, on the flip side, some people think the college opportunity is enough for these athletes. In fact, Former University of Florida football star Tim Tebow spoke up about this issue when he stated “...when I was at the University of Florida, I think my jersey was one of the top jerseys around the world ... and I didn’t make a dollar from it, but nor did I want to. Because I knew, going into college, what it was all about” (*USA Today*).

From fans going to the stadiums to fans who are watching from their living rooms, college sports have become a huge industry, making tons of money for the educational institutions, as well as the merchandising world. Like professional sports, college sports have made tremendous profits off of games that have sponsorships like Coca-Cola, Nike, and Pepsi. The difference between professional and college athletics though is that professional athletes earn salaries while college athletes receive no compensation.

College athletes, day in and day out, push their minds and bodies further and further. They practice every day throughout the year to become greater players, but for whose benefit? The schools’? In 2022, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) reported that 1.14 billion dollars was made from college sports. (Grand Canyon University). Understandably, college athletes would be upset with not earning a salary while the NCAA makes an absurd amount of money off of them. How can the NCAA justify making such insane profits off of college sports, when college athletes sacrifice their time all year just to make no money? On top of being full-time college athletes, these people need to juggle the responsibilities of being a student too. College athletes must travel for games, attend practices, and fulfill their academic requirements. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar an NBA icon who once played basketball at UCLA said “Despite the hours I put in every day, practicing, learning plays, and traveling around the country to play games, and despite the millions of dollars our team generated for UCLA —both in cash and in recruiting students to attend the university—I was always too broke to do much but study, practice, and play” (*The Root*). More stress is clearly put on college athletes due to their dual responsibility when compared to a full-time student. In addition to having similar responsibilities to a full-time job, college athletes also put themselves at risk for possible life or career-threatening injuries. “Among the

500,000 or so college athletes who compete annually under the auspices of the NCAA, there are more than 210,000 injuries per year, according to one estimate, ranging from minor to catastrophic and fatal” (*The Guardian*). Many college athletes continue on with their sport into the professional league. Playing college sports could ultimately jeopardize the chance of an athlete playing at a higher level of competition. This is not fair to college athletes as it could disturb their future and negatively affect them financially. So, not only do colleges and businesses reap all of the profits off of the skills of the athletes, but playing college sports adds stress to their daily lives and could possibly end their opportunity to play in the future.

On the other hand, even though there are a number of reasons why college athletes should receive compensation for playing college sports, there are also reasons why they should not get paid. The main point of going to college is to receive an education, which will hopefully prepare students for the “real world”. If college athletes start to earn money for playing sports, this can distract them from the primary reason why they are in attendance, which is to receive an education. They might possibly shift their focus to sports only since they are making money. In addition, many college athletes receive scholarships to play. According to the NCAA, “57% of all student-athletes receive some level of athletics aid.” This creates a form of compensation for playing sports since college athletes are not paying full tuition. Also, compensating college athletes could also reduce competition between schools. “Even worse, [schools] can expect reduced funding and fewer scholarships due to the increased focus on paying big-revenue sports superstars.” (American Institution for Econmic Research). Less wealthy colleges would have trouble recruiting talented athletes since they won’t be able to match the ‘salaries’ being offered by more financially stable colleges. Thus, they might not recruit the best athletes they can.

The question of whether college athletes should be paid or not will continue to be a major discussion, especially as the industry grows. Yes, college athletes give their all to the sports they play while still balancing school and their personal lives. However, paying these student athletes could create major problems for both the student athlete and the school.

