

North Shore’s Senior Play Tradition

By: Sophia Marchioli

This year’s annual Senior Play took place on January 26th and 27th at the Glenwood Landing Elementary School’s theater. Roughly 35 seniors acted in the production which was student-written and directed by Charlotte Marchioli, Shea McDonnel, Henry Spina, and Joseph Winter. Every year, the North Shore community shows up for some laughs, as the play is usually a parody-like reproduction of some of the Seniors’ most memorable moments from their time in the school district. The title of this year’s play was, *Challenge Day: The Memories They Carried*, as the writers selected Challenge Day, a program which was tested on the current seniors’ during their seventh-grade year. The program was intended to bring classmates together through creating an understanding of one another’s personal struggles; thus, it placed the kids into small, randomized “therapy groups”, as the writers put it, in which students shared some of their “traumas and secrets”. When she was asked a few questions concerning the process of putting the production together, writer Charlotte Marchioli, spoke on behalf of her writing team.

Q: How did you each get involved in the writing of the play?

A: Although it ended up being a great experience, at the beginning, none of us had the desire to be [involved in the play]. Between playing leads in our Spring Musical, fulfilling duties [within other clubs] and applying to... colleges, all during the busiest time of the academic year, we thought it best to not take on another thing. [However], we were [eventually] asked [by our theater teacher, Mr. Brateman] to step up and take it on, so we did what had to be done.

Q: Explain the process of writing, directing, and organizing the Senior Play.

A: Due to our work in our theater elective last year in which we created and ran a theater company, we all had the experience to handle the task with expertise. The elective ‘Masquerade’ is taught by North Shore’s theater teacher and director, Mr. Brateman... As soon as we agreed to take on the Senior Play, we [took the duties] that we knew fit us best. I handled all organization and logistics. We know that Shea and Jojo have a knack for directing, and so they ran most of the blocking rehearsals. Henry did most of the production design. We already knew how to work as a team, and that made everything just a lot easier.

Q: How did you select specific vignettes of North Shore life to feature out of all the experiences you have had at North Shore?

A: We knew we wanted Challenge Day for

our concept right off the bat. It checked all the boxes as it was unique to our grade, had innate humor, and created a way to make the play a cohesive story while still consisting of skits. What was more challenging though was picking the best memories our grade had. We had sessions at Southdown Coffee in Glen Cove that lasted for hours just brainstorming. [Eventually], we decided that we’d use movie tropes to tell our stories, and that helped us a lot. We sat down and said, ‘Okay let’s have a horror one, a western one, a mad scientist one’ and then those pieces fell into place. For example, Dr. Kurrus taking phones was our Western, and a classmate setting off the fire alarm with Gatorade powder was our mad scientist.

Q: What were some challenges you faced throughout the whole production process?

A: For one, it was extremely difficult to cast over 40 people and then go on to schedule rehearsals for those actors around their sports and work schedules. When rehearsals got closer to the show, and we were actually rehearsing at the Glenwood Landing Theater, it became easier for everyone to come together with a unified goal; plus, the group became more receptive.

Q: Do you feel that this experience has bonded your classmates together more?

A: For sure. Those last rehearsals at Glenwood were a lot of fun. It’s rare that we’re all in one place and working together like that so it was nice to have that time together as we now begin to think about saying our goodbyes.

Q: What was it like getting non-thespians to act in the play? How did you help to make them comfortable on stage?

A: That aspect was a huge challenge. Directing non-thespians is something we had no experience with. We understood what they were feeling as they were scared to look foolish in front of their classmates. But that made it hard to create a funny show. In some of these moments, our director and the play’s advisor, Mr. Brateman, stepped in to do what he does best: bring out the goofy in people... [which] was kind of mind-blowing. He had this innate ability to make the actors, football players included, feel comfortable and supported enough to act in... hilarious ways.

Obviously the production process required countless hours of dedication, in which the team of writers worked closely to make the experience enjoyable for the viewers and the actors. Thus, several of the writers were asked a final question.

Q: What were the highlights of the experience and/or the best moments from the show?

A: Seeing our jokes and dialogue come to

(Continued On Page 2)

The District-Wide Lunar New Year Celebration

By: Kaitlin Ho

The District-wide Lunar New Year event, hosted by the Asian Student Alliance (ASA) at North Shore Middle School on February 27th, was a spectacular success. The Asian Student Alliance is a new and upcoming club at North Shore High School (NSHS) and its aims include: 1) bringing together, representing and celebrating all Asian people and cultures at NSHS 2) educating members, the school community and the broader community about Asian language, culture and history; and 3) fostering respect and appreciation for all Asian heritages and cultures through a variety of fun and exciting events (including volunteerism) throughout the year. The ASA’s club advisor, Asha Pollydore, who is also a Mandarin teacher at North Shore Middle School, said that, ever since the founder of the ASA, Kaitlin Ho, approached her last year to start the much-needed club at North Shore, as an individual who grew up in Asia and is not Asian, she has felt like the ASA is a space that is comfortable and one where she belongs.

With over 300 people in attendance at the event, it was a wonderful combination of traditional performances from all academic levels of the North Shore District; there were educational posters encompassing several Asian countries, delicious Asian cuisine, and hands-on stations that focused on calligraphy, paper

lantern making, paper cutting, model magic dumpling craft making, and more; this allowed kids and parents alike to enjoy and experience Lunar New Year traditions, together with friends and family. Many parents donated dumplings and cookies in celebration of the event which brought the community together in a beautiful way for a night filled with fun, joy, and the experiences of learning about cultures apart from its own. This will continue to be an annual event. According to Mr. Eric Contreras, North Shore High School’s principal, “I was overjoyed; it was a spectacular showing of our community’s enthusiasm in celebrating many things: student initiatives, teacher initiatives, and cultural diversity. It was an event that bridged our grades K-12; it had teachers from all our grades and it had students from all our grades. Both I and a number of parents, who gave positive exuberant feedback, said that this was the most-well attended event we have seen in our community. I commend the student leaders who helped create this event including Kaitlin Ho, Nora Solomon, and Sahana Gibbons.”

The Asian Student Alliance hopes to have a larger venue next year. Its members will also fundraise to make the next celebration even more wonderful. Ultimately, the ASA wants to thank the High School’s Mandarin Club, Culture Club, SGO, parents, administration, and teachers who helped make this event a success. What an inspiring way to kick off the Year of the Dragon!



From L to R Are The Asian Student Alliance Board Members and Advisor: Kaitlin Ho (President/ Founder), Asha Pollydore (Advisor), Nora Solomon (Co-Vice-President), and Sahana Gibbons (Co-Vice President)

The Viking View’s
Editorial Staff For
2023-2024:

Editor-in-Chief:

Sophia Marchioli

Assistant
Editor-in-Chief:

Kaitlin Ho

News Editor:

Veronica Frank

Assistant News
Editors:

Kalista Lin

Lucia Cagno

Features Editor:

Mia Perciballi

Elsa Lanne

Assistant Features
Editor:

Mae Curiale

Advisor:

Sara Millman

****Please note that in order to save room, some articles do not have a source list at the end of the piece. However, upon request, sources will be supplied. Every writer must submit his/her/their source list to the editors during the editing process. Thus, all source lists are on file.**

March 2024

Concert Ticket Prices On The Rise:
Have Documentaries Become The Most Affordable
Option To Experience Live Music

By: Veronica Frank

Live music has had a resurgence since the COVID-19 pandemic, with mainstream artists such as Taylor Swift and Beyonce breaking tour records left and right. These music industry icons have taken the world by storm, with Beyonce performing 56 shows and Taylor Swift scheduled to perform 151 shows across five continents. These concert experiences, lasting over two hours per show, have been recognized as “once-in-a-lifetime experiences”. Yet, for many, they are opportunities that cannot be afforded. With Taylor Swift tickets reaching a high price of \$11,000 sold on StubHub, “buying a ticket is now often frustrating and an anxiety-inducing competition” (Sisario). Mainstream pop concerts are becoming increasingly inaccessible to the public, who cannot spend thousands of dollars on one night; therefore, artists have leaned into a new form of media to make their “concert experience” accessible: documentaries.

Concert documentaries have been used since the 1970s, when the Warner Bros documentary *Woodstock* was released; it was about the 1969 Woodstock Music and Art Fair which attracted more than 400,000 attendees (Palmer). This film appealed to attendees and non-attendees alike, as “concert documentaries only are a fraction of live-music tour costs” (Palmer). *The Eras Tour* by Taylor Swift and *Renaissance* by Beyonce are concert documentaries that function similarly to bring profit to the artist and experience to the consumer.

As seen through the *Woodstock* documentary, using film to make the concert experience more accessible and profitable to the public has been highly effective. *The Eras Tour Movie* grossed \$92.8 million in the first week of its opening, filling around 11.5 million seats and selling for about \$20 per adult ticket (Braverman). While a ticket for *The Eras Tour Movie* is almost ten dollars more than the national average for movie tickets (\$11.25), the price is only a fraction of the concert itself.

It has been hard to beat the overwhelming excitement of Swift’s three-hour setlist, the exchange of friendship bracelets, and the intense solidarity of Taylor Swift fans. Yet, “Swifties” have somehow brought a taste of that experience to their local movie theatres. The movie contains all the songs performed at the concert, and comes in at a three hour run-time. But critics have said that the documentary is missing “the community and in-person magic that cannot be recreated” (Qureshi).

This spring and summer, Swift and fellow mainstream artists like Noah Kahan, Nicki Minaj, Olivia Rodrigo, and Adele are scheduled to start their tours, and it is apparent that pop isn’t the only genre in which concert ticket prices have skyrocketed. For example, Noah

Kahan, a relatively new indie-folk artist with the hit single “Stick Season,” sells tickets for a minimum of \$197 and an average price of almost \$500 (Seat Geek).

There may however, be a justifiable reason for the increase in ticket prices. Each gig can take a couple of days to a couple of weeks to set up, and for “a festival, you are building a small town” (Lewis). Dave Lewis, a manager and director of DJL events for over 35 years, explains that “that’s before you even get to the performances, you have maybe a couple of hundred dollars’ worth of setting up light sound, TV, stage, etc.”. In addition, there are rising fuel costs for transportation of equipment and the soaring price of electricity for lights. It seems the cause of these high prices are the costs of external needs rather than the profit of “greedy artists.” Still, there is a significant disparity between artists like Taylor Swift, who reached billionaire status in October 2023 after the North American leg of The Eras Tour, and more minor acts. So, while industry giants benefit from ticket sales, smaller indie artists may be struggling to make a profit from their events because of the large costs for the artist to make these live events occur (Meissner).

Although the reasons for the ticket price increases are valid, consumers must also consider the cost of their necessities such as groceries, rent, and gas. Therefore, concert tickets have become an expense that is not a financial priority for most Americans. As “higher prices may simply be here to stay” (Sisario), concerts have now become another indication of the intense wealth gap that has inhabited the United States. So, although concert documentaries will never replace the magic and excitement of live music, they may become a reasonable alternative to being in-person.

Sources:

Braverman, Beth. “This Is How Much It Costs to See Taylor Swift on the Eras Tour ...” *US News*, money.usnews.com/money/personal-finance/spending/articles/this-is-how-much-it-costs-to-see-taylor-swift-on-the-eras-tour. Accessed 3 Mar. 2024.

Meissner, Greta. “How Concert Films Are Changing Modern Concert Going.” *The Southerner*, www.shsoutherner.net/a-e/2024/02/02/how-concert-films-are-changing-modern-concert-going/. Accessed 12 Feb. 2024.

Qureshi, Bilal. “Now in Theaters: A Three-Hour Testament to Taylor Swift’s Titan Era.” *NPR*, *NPR*, 13 Oct. 2023, www.npr.org/2023/10/13/1205690822/taylor-swift-eras-tour-movie.

Sisario, Ben. “Live Music Is Roaring Back, but Fans Are Reeling from Sticker Shock.” *The New York Times*, *The New York Times*, 7 Apr. 2023, www.nytimes.com/2023/04/07/arts/music/concert-ticket-prices.html.

Oh, The Memories That
Were Made

(Continued From Front Page)

life will never not be cool.

- Charlotte Marchioli

A: When the seniors started to feel comfortable taking artistic liberties, it really came together. Seeing that from the wings backstage was something special.

- Henry Spina

A: My favorite moment had to be Luke Potapov’s Gatorade powder scene; when he put on the accent, spilled the actual Kool Aid powder all over the stage, and [came] back on [stage] with that stance, that had to be the epitome of the show’s outlandishness.

- Shea McDonnel

The Senior Play is an iconic North Shore tradition that unifies the Senior Class during its last few months at North Shore, by bringing together all different kinds of students in a collective effort. Rehearsals are timed during an exciting transitional period for these seniors, in which they are receiving college decisions, and studying for their last North Shore midterms; they must look to their unknown futures whilst also trying to keep their heads in the familiar cinderblock walls of the High School. This show was only the first of many upcoming events for the Senior Class such as Sports Night, the Senior Fashion Show, College Decision Day, Senior Prom, the Moving Up Day Ceremony, and Graduation; the school year is quickly progressing and the Senior Class is getting ready to wave goodbye. But, not before so many memories are made.



The Writers Of This Year’s Senior Play:
Challenge Day: The Memories They Carried.

N. S. H.S.’s Science Research
Program Once Again Shines

On Tuesday March 5th, 2024 at the regional Long Island Science Engineering Fair held at Crest Hollow Country Club, which leads to the International Science Engineering Fair (ISEF), North Shore High School’s Eli Weseley-Jones won third place in Behavioral and Social Sciences for his research in improving the understanding of conditional probability in medical screening tests.

In the category Animal Sciences, North Shore High School’s Kaitlin Ho was awarded first place and named an International Science Engineering Fair (ISEF) finalist; she will compete in Los Angeles in May for her research in which she rescued the Alzheimer’s model of fruit flies with theobroma cacao (cocoa) supplementation.

Both Weseley-Jones and Ho are currently members of the Class of 2025. Dr. Molly Mordechai is their research teacher.

AP Vs. IB: What Are The Differences?

By: Lucia Cagno

Educational programs that offer high school students the opportunity to earn college credits have long been valued. In 1952, “The Advanced Placement Program” was piloted in order to teach college-level courses in high schools (collegeboard); ultimately, a new system of advanced courses began. Then, in 1968, the “International Baccalaureate” program was created so that high school students could receive higher-level education world-wide (ibo.org). Now, each of these programs can be found at North Shore High School. But what really are the differences between these programs? And which courses are actually worth taking?

For starters, Advanced Placement, or AP, started as a study by an organization called the CollegeBoard in order to observe the effects of learning at an advanced pace; it focused on 11 academic areas such as Literature, French, Spanish, Biology and Mathematics (collegeboard). Classes that are typically taught during one’s first year of college were introduced to high school students in an attempt to later save the students both time and money. During the initial pilot study in 1952, AP credit was accepted by 12 different universities and colleges. These institutions, which included Brown, Oberlin and M.I.T, made up the Committee on Admission with Advanced Standing (collegeboard). The pilot study created an official score range for the AP final exam of 1-5 to help manage college credit (collegeboard). Eventually, a large number of educational institutions offered college credit for AP scores over a 3. Thus, the AP program soon spread across more than 22,800 high schools by 2021 (usnews.com). College Board states that nearly all colleges will offer credit for popular AP classes depending on the final score exam (collegeboard). Today, North Shore High School offers approximately ten AP courses; each one has its own rigorous challenges.

Now, International Baccalaureate, which is otherwise known as IB, is a European-based educational program that was created to take an “international approach to education which would equip young people with the skills, values and knowledge” (ibo.org). Mrs. Joanne Fawcett, a guidance counselor at NSHS, stated that IB aims to take a global approach to subject matters, valuing broader and more holistic approaches. Since the introduction of IB in the 1960’s, the program has spread to over 4,775 high schools as of 2017 (ibo.org). The IB program started at North Shore in 2015, and has since taken off, as about 15 classes are currently offered at the school. I was able to interview Dr. Dan Doherty, the Director of Counseling at North Shore High School. He explained that IB typically offers one-year “Standard Level” courses or two-year “Higher Level courses”, which cover a variety of subjects like World Languages, math, and sciences. The final IB exam is out of 7 points, with some colleges accepting credit for scores above 5 and others accepting scores only above 6.

So what are some additional differences between AP and IB? A major difference between these programs is the assessments. The AP exam is graded on a 5-point scale, while the IB exam is graded on a 7-point scale. The AP exam usually consists of both open response questions and multiple-choice questions, while the IB exam consists of open response questions, data response questions, and essays. Due to the amount of independent thinking and writing in the IB program, some think that it is much more analytical than the AP program. Mr. Tim Shea, another

counselor at NSHS, however, believes that AP also has a heavy focus on analytical thinking within its multiple choice questions, making AP equally as challenging. Mr. Andrew Cross, who teaches both AP World History and IB Wars Across Twentieth Century History (WATCH), states that AP classes seem to have a stricter curriculum, covering a wide variety of information. Mr. Cross has been teaching AP World History to tenth graders for approximately 22 years, and he says that AP provides him with a very structured timeline and curriculum, making teaching it a unique experience. Additionally, each of these programs provides an optional final project. Some high schools with an AP curriculum offer the AP Capstone Diploma. According to Mrs. Fawcett, students need to take two required AP classes, called AP Seminar and AP Research, along with any other four AP classes to earn this diploma. High schools with an IB program typically offer something similar, called the IB Diploma. Mrs. Fawcett described how the IB diploma requires students to complete CAS (Creativity, Action, and Service) requirements by taking specific courses such as “Theory of Knowledge,” and those in six different disciplines. Students who aim to earn an IB diploma must also complete an Extended Essay, which is a 4,000 word written piece on a chosen topic, outside of class. Mr. Shea said that some colleges, such as Binghamton University, may offer additional college credits for the completion of the IB Diploma.

Another difference between the AP and IB programs is that AP classes are offered to 10th, 11th, and 12th graders at NSHS, while IB classes are only offered to 11th and 12th graders. This is because IB has a minimum age requirement of 16 years old that must be met for students to be able to take an IB exam; there is a concern about a possible lack of maturity in younger students. Thus, while many high school students typically take a mix of both AP and IB classes, they are able to begin taking AP earlier. Most importantly though, colleges seem to have no preference over the AP versus IB program. According to Dr. Doherty, last year the District performed a review of the AP and IB programs and asked colleges if they favor a specific program. There was an overwhelming response that they have little preference, as taking any course within either program displays advanced academic thinking and maturity. The college level courses from each program are difficult and demanding. They are unlike many other typical courses offered at high schools, and ultimately present a number of benefits.

Going forward, NSHS plans to continue to offer both AP and IB courses. In the 2024-2025 school year, there may be fun, new college-level courses offered to students, like AP European History. According to Mr. Cross, who would be teaching this class, AP European History was previously offered a number of years ago, but was stopped after some time. AP classes may stop being offered for a variety of reasons, like a lack of student interest. There is now a possibility though that AP European History will return depending on the amount of students planning on taking the course. Mr. Shea explained that there has been an ongoing conversation of whether or not to fully commit to one program, but as of now, both will remain. North Shore continuously places the needs of the students first, and will continue to do so when it comes to its course selection.

A Paper Tiger

By: Raymond Lin

Following the ascension of Deng Xiaoping, who was a paramount leader of the People’s Republic of China, in the 1970s, China opened up to the world economically and politically, breaking with its previously communist policies. As a result, China rapidly began growing and modernizing, becoming extremely economically and geopolitically prominent. To match its growing role on the world stage, China has been modernizing and expanding its military to project power in the Asia-Pacific region, with the People’s Liberation Army’s budget growing tenfold in constant dollars from \$21 billion to \$239 billion from 1990 to 2018. Furthermore, the budget doubled between 2008 and 2018 in constant dollars alone (Maizland). The usage of constant dollars is important because it adjusts for inflation, showcasing the true extent to which China has gone above and beyond to transform its military. Using this increased budget, China has managed to rapidly develop its army, navy, air force, and rocket force. The strategically vital rocket force has been of special importance to China and has grown extensively in recent years. China sees it as imperative to regional power projection and strategic deterrence, especially regarding Taiwan and the South China Sea (Mihal). With this massive growth in military spending and expansion, China has been able to project its status as a global superpower militarily as well as economically.

However, this expansion has not gone smoothly. In December 2023, China ousted nine senior military officials from the national legislature and stripped three military-industrial complex executives of their roles as government advisers. Some of the officials ousted include former generals of China’s rocket force, an admiral of the politically important South China Sea, a former air force chief, among others (Gan). While China has remained opaque about the reason, analysts believe it to be the result of corruption, a problem that’s unsurprising given how quickly the Chinese military has grown recently and how poorly Chinese military officials are paid. Additionally, several of the officials

ousted were involved with equipment procurement, strengthening the view that corruption was the driving force behind these removals. This view is furthered by the fact that China’s official military newspaper pledged a “war on graft”, which suggests that China is not done with its corruption crackdowns (Bloomberg).

At first, this seemingly prominent corruption and purge of military and industry leaders appears to be a sign of China’s weakness. After all, if one heard the same thing about the U.S. military, it would be an embarrassing demonstration of infirmity. However, China is not the U.S. and believing the same thing for China’s military would be unwise. While these recent purges raise some genuine questions about China’s military expansion, especially for China’s vital rocket force, China’s military should not be seen as some kind of paper tiger. James Char, a research fellow at the Nanyang Technological University, believes that “the PLA’s overall combat capabilities have unlikely been compromised to any great extent”. Rather, China may be “[taking] note of the poor performance of some Russian weapons systems—due to systemic corruption—in the ongoing war in Ukraine” (Wong). Believing China to be weak is a mistake. Its battle with corruption is a sign that, while China’s military is currently facing problems that render it temporarily weaker and unable to fulfill its modernization, it is actively trying to root out its defense and corruption issues to strengthen its military, pathing the way for it to reach its goal of becoming a modernized military by 2049. In the face of this, the U.S. should not remain complacent or ambivalent about the very genuine security threat posed by China in the coming years. We must maintain our vigilance and investments in the defense of our country and our allies because if we do not, and China continues to modernize and expand, we may find out that we are in fact the real paper tiger.

An Affair To Remember

By: Ava Connelly and Lucas Schimsky

As the flash goes off, everyone’s smiling and looking forward to making memories at the junior prom, which brings the entire grade together to celebrate the ending of a successful year in high school. This formal event has been taking place since North Shore High School first opened. However, it used to be quite different in terms of the location and theme. The school used to hold the prom in the main courtyard under a tent and a theme was chosen. When a theme was decided, the tent was decorated based on whatever it was. Administration, during those years, felt that the school made the event more accessible and easier for the kids who attended. But after many years passed by, the students wanted some different scenery other than the school. Thus, since 2021, the Crescent Beach Club in Bayville has hosted the event. Since this venue is right on the water, the event is now viewed as more of a “beach bash” than a formal prom like the seniors experience. The Class of 2022 seemed to enjoy its time at this new location so the Junior Prom has been there since then. Another change that came with the new venue is the time of the party. The Junior Prom now starts at 12:00pm and ends at 4pm, while it used to start at 7:00pm and end at 11pm.

In order to find out more about just how some students feel about the changes, we asked them three questions. The majority of students shared that holding the prom later in the day would be more enjoyable. For example, Junior Caroline Ledden shared that the prom should be a little later in the day so there is enough time to get ready. After

all, many junior girls need to get their hair and makeup done before attending the event. Also, typically before the prom, the students have a pre-prom gathering at someone’s house where they take pictures, have some appetizers and exchange corsages and boutonnières. Since the Junior Prom is now so early in the afternoon, it is difficult for the juniors to attend a pre-prom. Another Junior student, Marco Giannola, mentioned that the prom should be later in the day so he and other students can get more sleep. Everyone needs to be well-rested before a long day. No one likes to be rushed, especially when pictures are going to be taken. Students need time to prepare to look and feel their best.

After sharing these thoughts about the time of the prom with Ms. Halloran, the Junior Class Advisor, we learned that holding an evening prom is far more expensive. Also, a Saturday night is usually booked so holding this event earlier in the day is just easier. We then raised the question of whether or not the earlier time has anything to do with what people think some Juniors might do after the prom ends. The answer was no.

It might now be too far into the year for any changes to be made for this year’s Junior class’ prom, but there is always next year. For example, Junior class students could hold more fundraisers to help assuage the cost of an evening prom. No matter what though, the current Juniors are excited by the idea that their first high school prom is rapidly approaching. And, it will be an afternoon to remember.



VOLVO CARS

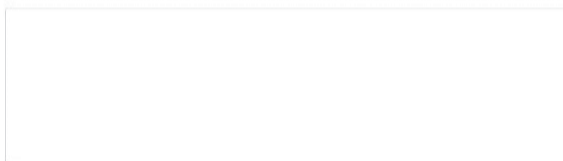
GLEN COVE

79 CEDAR SWAMP RD, GLEN COVE NY 11542

WWW.VOLVOCARSGLENCOVE.COM

516.880.8421

MAKING THE WORLD SAFER 1 VOLVO AT A TIME



Hofstra University Vs. Nassau County: The Casino Scandal

By: Kalista Lin

In a recent turn of events, the feud between Nassau County and Hofstra University, which erupted in late January of this year, seems to be escalating beyond just legal tension in the courtroom. County Executive Bruce Blakeman has made headlines by serving a subpoena to Hofstra University President Susan Poser, alleging collusion with a rival casino group to thwart redevelopment plans of the Nassau Coliseum. Blakeman suspects that Poser worked with another casino group to stop Las Vegas Sands from renovating the arena.

A few weeks ago, Blakeman unveiled what he claims to be an incriminating email sent by Michael McKeon, whom he identified as a lobbyist for Hard Rock Cafe Inc., which is based in Florida. The email was allegedly addressed to a senior vice president at Hard Rock as well as another individual who is associated with an asset management firm. Containing a link to a news article discussing the Las Vegas Sands' efforts to control the site, the email entailed McKeon indicating his intention to consult with Hofstra regarding potential opposition to this move. Blakeman interprets this correspondence as evidence of a collaboration between Hofstra and Hard Rock aimed at obstructing the plans of the Las Vegas Sands and the County. It is suggested that Hofstra may be seeking to promote an alternative casino project as part of an eight billion dollar venture by Hard Rock and New York Mets' owner Steve Cohen near Citi Field in Queens.

The contention arises from the limited opportunities for establishing casinos authorized by the state, with many speculating that a casino in Uniondale could thwart similar efforts in Queens. Blakeman voiced his concerns, stating, "I believe this is evidence of improper behavior, and I am very troubled by this. If they [opponents of the Nassau County casino] are against all of the things they claim to be against—and all of the concerns they had—they certainly weren't concerned about students in Queens". This recent development also adds to the legal battles that are already underway.

In November of 2023, a New York State Supreme Court Judge ruled in favor of Hofstra's lawsuit against the County citing violations of the Open Meetings Law, allowing the public the right to attend and listen to meetings of public bodies, and the State Environmental Quality Review Act, which requires all local regional, and state government agencies to equally examine environmental impacts. Despite the County's appeals, a failure to overturn the ruling could necessitate a repetition of the planning process involving the County commission and legislature.

In the midst of these legal complexities, the proposed four billion dollar redevelopment project by the Las Vegas Sands, at the core, promises significant economic benefits, including the creation of jobs and amazing levels of support from various local institutions and organizations. However, Hofstra's President Poser and others have concerns about potential negative impacts on the community if the casino is built in Uniondale; these range from increased levels of crime to traffic congestion and environmental degradation. The battle between the economic potential and community's well-being is clearly only getting started in regards to this particular project.

Sources:

Bamberger, Cayla. "Ny Casino License Wars Spark a Battle between Nassau County and Hofstra University." *New York Daily News*, *New York Daily News*, 20 Jan. 2024, www.nydailynews.com/2024/01/20/ny-casino-wars-battle-nassau-county-hofstra-university-sands-hard-rock-mets/.

Goldberg, Jodi. "Hofstra University Subpoenaed over Alleged Coordination with Hard Rock on Casino Project." *FOX 5 New York*, *FOX 5 New York*, 17 Jan. 2024, www.fox5ny.com/news/hofstra-university-hard-rock-casino-project.

Lans, Chant  . "Nassau County Accuses Hofstra University of Colluding with Casino Competitor." *ABC7 New York*, 17 Jan. 2024, abc7ny.com/hofstra-university-las-vegas-sands-nassau-casino-bruce-blakeman/14333951/.

The Boycotting Of Big Businesses

By: Elsa Lanne and Mae Curiale

As the orders pile up, workers are scrambling behind the counter; feelings of anxiety and frustration fill the air as customers complain about the wait. Outside, is an even bigger crowd holding signs that read "Free Palestine" as protesters bang on the windows and shame customers for walking into the store. These recent tense scenes can be traced back to the stance that Starbucks, the popular coffee company, publicly took online in regards to the conflicts in the Middle East. Clearly, social media has become a dangerous threat to companies as any slightly opinionated statement they make can set off a battle; with the click of a button, companies can fall thanks to the wrath of the public eye. The most recent issue in the Gaza Strip has led to an extreme divide between the supporters of Israel and the supporters of Palestine. And, as certain businesses voice their opinions, their relationship with consumers is often damaged.

On October 7th, 2023, Hamas, a terrorist group within Palestine, launched an attack on Israel which quickly sparked a full-fledged war. During the initial attack, about 1,200 people were killed and 240 people were taken hostage. In response, Israel's counterattack led to the death of over 13,000 civilians in Gaza (Saafan and Al-Khalidi). This then caused the development of a humanitarian crisis, as the number of innocent civilians that are being killed is increasing by the day. Many countries have even taken sides and given financial and military support to the side of their choosing: the U.S. is one of Israel's allies, while other countries like Iran are acting in support of Hamas.

Before the outbreak of Israeli/Hamas conflict, Starbucks was already facing an immense amount of backlash from its workers. Due to issues such as low wages, hour cuts, wage reductions and unfair treatment from the company, a union called Starbucks Workers United was created. The unionization started with a small store in Buffalo, New York in December 2021, and to this day, "more than 380 of its 9,000 stores have unionized" (Toussaint), with many workers participating in strikes that pressure the company to fulfill their demands. On July 6th, 2023 Arthur J. Amchan, a Deputy Chief Administrative Law Judge, found that Starbucks was "guilty of violating U.S. labor laws in its treatment of employees across unionized Ithaca locations" (Mu  oz and Senzon). The union retaliated against Starbucks through protests like the Red Cup Day strike. Red Cup Day, an annual event in November, is an opportunity for consumers to get a free red cup with every seasonal drink they purchase, which leads to a huge influx of mobile and in-person orders. This puts immense pressure on employees who are already mentally affected in stressful short-staffed environments (Nerkar). The union and Starbucks are still fighting to come to an agreement, but to no avail.

The involvement of Starbucks in the Israel-Hamas conflict began "Shortly after the October 7th attack... the union's official account on X featured a message expressing "'Solidarity with Palestine!'" (Scheiber). In response, Starbucks then openly commented by criticizing the Starbucks Workers' Union's support for violence in the Middle East. Because of the union's controversial statement, people associated Starbucks with the comment which then resulted in a public uproar even after the comment was deleted. This led to the union being sued for trademark infringement because of its use of the Starbucks' logos, as public backlash could endanger Starbucks employees (Scheiber). Negative opinions had obviously already been

forming due to the company's suppression of the Starbucks Workers' Union, after the union members spoke out against the mistreatment they faced from Starbucks as a company (Tenbarge). On top of that, the confusion led to social media exploding with trending hashtags, comments, and posts supporting a boycott of Starbucks and other businesses and attacking supporters of both sides of the Israel-Hamas conflict. Popular influencers on Tik Tok such as Mikayla Nogueira, who has 15.5 Million followers, has her comment section filled with Palestine-supporting comments that have pressured her to voice her opinion.

McDonald's, the fast food chain, has also been a victim of boycotts as there were reports that "a franchise owner in Israel said that its restaurants would be providing free meals to Israel Defense Forces soldiers and Israeli hospitals" (Tenbarge). This decision was made without consent from McDonald's as almost 100,000 meals were donated. Even though the company tried to distance itself from the choices made by the employees of those individual stores to donate to soldiers, it still led to more protests and boycotts.

Despite the idea that one wrong move by a company in regards to a controversial conflict, there is still mixed evidence that boycotts have any major effect. However, boycotters of both Starbucks and McDonald's are keeping up the efforts, hoping they will have more of an impact in the long run. Some are encouraging others to stay away from Starbucks. For example, one ex-Starbucks barista posted instructional videos on TikTok about how to make your own version of staple Starbucks' drinks at home (Tenbarge). Also, there has been a notable decline in "foot traffic" in some Starbucks locations in the U.S. (Lucas). Additionally, some sources say that despite the overall impact of the boycotts being minor, there has still been an effect on sales for McDonald's, especially in locations in the Middle East and Indonesia, which has a major Muslim population. In Egypt, there was also a 70% decrease in sales in October and November of 2023, when compared to 2022, according to McDonald's corporate employees (Farah and Suleiman).

In response to the boycotts, to try to keep up sales, Starbucks is "looking to revive demand by offering more targeted promotions and introducing new drinks" (Lucas). Starbucks has also claimed that its a "nonpolitical organization and [it has] dismissed rumors that it had provided support to the Israeli government or army." A Malaysian McDonald's even claimed that it would give financial aid to Palestine as it wants to try and stop the boycotts (Farah and Suleiman).

Social media is a clear factor in the spread of boycotts of particular companies, as many comments can be misinterpreted and rumors can be spread very easily. As the Israeli/Hamas war rages on, more companies are treading lightly when making public statements, as a wrong move could lead to a backlash that ultimately ruins their reputation/customer base. Instead of taking sides though, it is apparent that companies should advocate for the innocent people who are on both sides and support the idea of keeping the peace.

Upcoming Events @ N.S.H.S.:

April 3rd: Dance Symposium 6:30pm

April 6th: Senior Fashion Show 6:30pm

April 10th: HS Jazz Concert 6:30pm

April 17th: HS Choral Concert 6:30pm

May 1st: HS Spring Concert 6:30pm

May 3rd: HS Masquers Cabaret Performance 6:30pm

May 10th: HS Spring Concert II 6:30pm

May 18th: HS Junior Prom

May 27th: Local Memorial Day Parade

May 29th: HS Acoustic Cafe 6:15pm

June 18th: HS Senior Prom

Stanley Cups : A Concerning Obsession

By: Kaitlin Ho

Walls of rainbow ordered \$45 huge and heavy tumblers are displayed in the rooms of women and adolescent girls across the country. Gen Z and Gen Alpha are obsessed with the trendy cups by Stanley. The cups have been on the market since 2016; however, their popularity has only recently skyrocketed and developed a cult-like following (Jansen). Millions of Stanley fans love the stainless steel cups for their looks, easy to carry handle and ability to keep liquids hot or cold for two days. According to Courtney Spritzer, the Chief Executive Officer and Co-founder of Socialfly, a women-led digital marketing agency based in Manhattan and Miami, Stanley cups have “become some sort of status symbol that makes you cool” (Yan).

The Stanley tumbler’s rise to fame happened when a woman’s car caught fire; in a TikTok video with currently over 39 million views, she showed that her Stanley tumbler, which had been inside the cup holder, not only survived, but miraculously still had ice in it after the fire was extinguished. The President of Stanley, Terence Reilly, was so impressed at how the Stanley tumbler fared in the fire that he offered to buy the woman a new car (Pace and Ellis). This marketing tactic only inspired millions more to ‘jump on the Stanley cup bandwagon,’ which resulted in chaos.

When two sets of special-edition cups were released on December 31, 2023, as part of a Stanley collaboration with Starbucks for Valentine’s Day, tumult ensued at multiple Target stores across the country. There are hundreds of social-media videos showing hordes of customers overrunning Target and even resorting to violence to get their hands on a cup. The desperation for the Stanley cup even extends to numerous devout fans who camp outside of Target before it opens, sometimes in freezing weather (Deb).

As a result of its crazed fan base, a plethora of people, often women, have begun to collect the Stanley tumblers like they are figurines. Stanley prides itself on stability, claiming this mission of sustainability is a core value and that [it] prioritizes [the] use of recycled materials in [its] products, eliminating the need for single-use plastics and increasing recycled content every year” (Livingston). However, the cup really only encourages a need for overconsumption in society. While the Stanley cup is reusable and environmentally friendly in that it is made of metal, as Nicole Darnall, Director and Co-founder of the Sustainable Purchasing Research Initiative at Arizona State University states: “You might have a really great product that is more sustainable, but what good is it if it sits in a person’s home and collects dust” (Chow).

Additionally, Stanley cups have become a status symbol, causing unfortunate cases of bullying. A video posted by an Ohio mom on TikTok went viral after she said her 9-year-old daughter was bullied for her off-brand \$10 tumbler cup from Walmart. According to mom Dayna Motycka, when talking about her daughter’s experience, “All the other girls in the grade... they got Stanley’s for Christmas [...] They made sure to let her know that this is not a real Stanley and this is fake. It’s not cool” (Shaw and Beal).

March 2024

Also, there have been recent concerns over the fact that Stanley tumblers may contain the hazardous heavy metal, lead. In January, it was revealed that Stanley uses a lead pellet in the base of its cups to seal insulation for its vacuum-insulated bottles. Despite concerns, Stanley asserts that the lead, which is encased under stainless steel, doesn’t pose a risk of contaminating the drink inside. The company maintains that its products meet U.S. regulations, including California Proposition 65, that ensures no lead exposure risk to consumers; Stanley even acknowledged on social media that there is potential lead exposure if the flask’s base is damaged, but offered replacements under a lifetime warranty. Regardless, Stanley’s products are FDA-approved and BPS/BPA-free. Unfortunately, the revelation has sparked skepticism and debate on social media about the necessity and safety of using lead in consumer products, highlighting the tension between traditional manufacturing practices and public expectations for safety and transparency (Placido).

Ultimately, the Stanley cup saga is a multifaceted narrative that reflects the complexities of modern consumer culture, highlighting the clash between the allure of trendy products and the need for sustainable, safe consumer goods. As this story continues to unfold, it serves as a reminder of the evolving expectations consumers have for the products they embrace and the companies behind them.

Sources:

Chow, Denise. “The Thirst for Stanley Cups Raises Questions on How Green Stainless Steel Water Bottles Really Are.” *NBC News*, 10 Feb. 2024, www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/thirst-stanley-cups-raises-questions-green-stainless-steel-water-bottl-rcna136166. Accessed 12 Feb. 2024.

Deb, Sopan. “Why People Are Camping out at Target for the Valentine’s Stanley Tumbler.” *The New York Times*, 5 Jan. 2024, www.nytimes.com/2024/01/05/us/stanley-cup-target-pink-starbucks.html.

Jansen, Caroline. “The Rise of the Stanley Tumbler: How a 110-Year-Old Brand Achieved Viral Success.” *Retail Dive*, 14 Nov. 2023, www.retaildive.com/news/stanley-quencher-tumblers-#:~:text=But%20the%20cup%2C%20which%20was.

Livingston, Kelly. “As Some Consumers Ditch Stanley Cups, Experts Weigh Overconsumption Risks.” *ABC News*, 2 Feb. 2024, abcnews.go.com/Politics/consumers-ditch-stanley-cups-experts-weigh-overconsumption-risks/story?id=106873913.

Pace, Eliza. “Stanley Brand Offers to Replace Woman’s Car after Viral Video Shows Cup Surviving Car Fire.” *KSLTV.com*, 17 Nov. 2023, ksltv.com/602343/stanley-brand-offers-to-replace-womans-car-after-viral-video-shows-cup-surviving-car-fire/. Accessed 12 Feb. 2024.

Placido, Dani Di. “TikTok’s Stanley Cup Craze Has Hit a Wall — of Lead.” *Forbes*, 29 Jan. 2024, www.forbes.com/sites/danidiplacido/2024/01/29/stanley-cup-tiktok-craze-has-hit-a-wall—of-lead/?sh=2fbbb82a2250. Accessed 12 Feb. 2024.

Shaw, Amanda, and Kari Beal. “Talking to Kids about Trends, Bullying, and the Stanley Cup Craze.” <https://www.foxcarolina.com>, 17 Jan. 2024, www.foxcarolina.com/2024/01/17/talking-kids-about-trends-bullying-stanley-cup-craze/. Accessed 12 Feb. 2024.

Yan, Ellen. “Stanley Cups Are Still Selling out at Long Island Stores. Here’s Why.” *Newsday*, 26 Feb. 2024, www.newsday.com/lifestyle/fashion-and-shopping/stanley-cups-b7y1cvrm. Accessed 1 Mar. 2024.

The Not-So Golden Globes

By: Ava Varasano

This year’s Golden Globes, which aired on January 7th, 2024, created a great deal of controversy thanks to its culturally- insulting and not-so-funny jokes. The award show is iconic in the television and film industries, with many known and accomplished actors and directors in attendance. Jo Koy, the comedian who hosted this year’s prestigious award show, disappointed the crowd and at-home viewers with his monologue. He targeted everyone from *Saltdorn*’s Barry Kiogen to superstar Taylor Swift, who was seen frowning at the comedian. When Koy was on the stage, the crowd in the room was so quiet that it was uncomfortable to watch. While many of Koy’s jokes were offensive, a joke about the *Barbie* movie could have won the prize for the worst joke of the night.

Koy’s joke accented the sexist attitudes that the *Barbie* movie spoke out against. Since the summer, two monumental films that have been extremely successful are *Barbie* and *Oppenheimer*. Many have called this phenomenon “Barbenheimer” due to the impact the two movies have had on the film industry and society. When addressing this fact, Koy said, “*Oppenheimer* is based on a 721-page Pulitzer Prize-winning book about the Manhattan Project, and *Barbie* is based on a plastic doll with big boobies”. He continued on by saying “The key moment in *Barbie* is when she goes from perfect beauty to bad breath, cellulite, and flat feet. Or what casting directors call character actor!” The comment left the audience in the theater feeling uncomfortable and it ultimately caused an uproar online. Many from the *Barbie* movie cast were in attendance that night, and the camera panned to Ryan Gossling, who played Ken; he looked quite upset. The *Barbie* movie itself is a commentary on the sexism found in modern society, and Koy’s remarks led people to believe that he probably did not even watch the movie.

While Koy stated he was assigned his role as host late in the game, only about 10 days before the show in fact, many expressed the sentiment that this was no excuse for the inappropriate jokes he told on live television. In response to the backlash he received, Koy replied, “I got the gig 10 days ago! You want a perfect monologue? Yo, shut up.” His rude response only caused the public to become even more outraged, and many ran to social media to share their opinions on the comedian. Even with short notice, making a joke sexualizing the lead in a feminist movie should undisputedly not be tolerated, and Koy offering no sincere apology for his remarks caused even more anger from the viewers of the award show. He followed up his response with, “Yo, shut up. You’re kidding me, right. Slow down. I wrote some of these, and they’re the ones you’re laughing at,” seemingly addressing the problem as if his jokes just weren’t funny, which wasn’t the main issue. He also seemed to blame the

writers of his jokes. Simply put though, it seemed as if he was not willing to own up to what he had said on television in front of so many people.

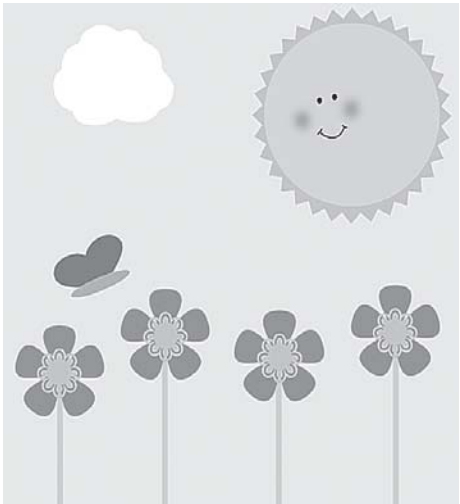
While some may not believe that *Barbie* was the cinematic masterpiece that many built it up to be, the film’s message is one that needed to get out in modern-day media. By further raising the troubling questions that have been brought up by women every day, *Barbie* highlighted what it is like to be a woman in a man’s world. *Barbie*’s director, Greta Gerwig, who directed other influential movies such as the 2019 rendition of *Little Women*, played a monumental role in the production and writing of *Barbie*. And, she wanted to reinvent the “Barbie Doll” into something that is more applicable to modern day society. One goal of the movie was to make women and girls feel validated and recognized for the sexism they face, while potentially changing how society views them. To reduce this movie to a work in which the main focus is just a girl with “big boobies” is outrageous. To make matters worse, this happened at an awards show where the film was meant to be celebrated; instead, it was mocked, alongside the feminist movements that it brought into the light.

After the show, Koy said he “loved” the jokes he had made, despite the negative feedback. However, the Golden Globes would have been an amazing opportunity to show people how women, despite the odds, brought to life an amazing movie that represents how women persist despite living in a society that sometimes degrades them, and how these women turned their struggles into art. Instead, the Golden Globes became another opportunity to diminish successful women and make them feel less than.

Sources:

Dockerman, Eliana. “How Barbie Came To Life.” *TIME*, 27 June 2023, <https://time.com/6289864/barbie-time-cover-story/>. Accessed 8 Feb. 2024.

Lang, Cady. “The Golden Globes Monologue Was Bad- But One Joke in Particular Sank Jo Koy.” *TIME*, 8 Jan. 2024, <https://time.com/6553085/jo-koy-golden-globes-barbie-joke/>. Accessed 5 Feb. 2024.



Cozy Up With Good Company At Campground Coffee

By: Sophia Marchioli

A familiar favorite of adults in Sea Cliff finally opened its doors to community members under the age of 21. Campground Beer Market recently converted the back of its shop, which is located on Sea Cliff Avenue, into Campground Coffee; it opened on February 8th, 2024 and can be visited every day of the week from 7am to 3pm, at which time the establishment turns back into a beer market. The shop is guaranteed to draw crowds with its warm, retro ambiance. I recently had the opportunity to speak with Emil Lanne, one of the owners, about this Sea Cliff hot spot.

Q: First, what inspired you to open up Campground Beer Market?

A: First and foremost, we were inspired by the building. It had been abandoned for many years, but we saw great potential in doing something with it that would benefit Sea Cliff. We contacted the woman who owns the building and pitched her the idea of Campground; things snowballed from there!

Q: What made you decide to add a coffee shop?

A: From the start, it was always about creating a “third place”, meaning something that isn’t work, school or home, but a different type of environment where you could see friends and have social interactions with the rest of the community. We always dreamed of making a coffee shop out of Campground. Beer isn’t for everyone, so our hope is that coffee means more people will come and spend time at Campground.

Q: How will running the beer end of the business differ from the coffee end of the business?

A: They really aren’t so different if you think about it. Coffee and beer are all about variety and taste preferences, so there are a lot of similarities between the two. But I think the main difference is probably around timing. Coffee is a morning or day thing, while beer is more of an afternoon or evening thing. That will probably affect the overall atmosphere.

Q: What kind of preparation did the coffee shop require?

A: We had to go to Sea Cliff Village to amend our special use permit and get them to allow us to do it... We also formed a partnership with a roaster up in Vermont called Little Seed... [which is run by our] friends, Maggie & Anthony, who used to live in Glen Cove; they now live in Vermont where they operate the roastery... They helped us a lot with figuring out all of the equipment and recipes; they also helped us understand the overall operation of the coffee shop.

Q: How accessible will the coffee shop be to underaged customers?

A: We welcome people who are not of the legal drinking age to spend time at Campground and use the coffee service whenever that is open. There is not a lot of overlap when we serve both coffee and beer, so there is a natural change that happens. We think it would be great to see the teenagers of Sea Cliff and beyond hang out at our place.

Q: What do you plan to sell at the coffee shop,

besides coffee? What kind of coffee is being sold?

A: Our primary coffee that we sell [obviously] comes from Little Seed Coffee in Vermont, but we also plan to feature beans from a multitude of roasters in New York and beyond, just like we do with the beer breweries.... So, we think of ourselves as a “multi-roaster” coffee shop. In addition to coffee, we have been trying to find the best possible pastries and croissants that we get delivered fresh every day from... Pain D’avignon and Hungry Gnome... [in] New York City.

Q: How will this coffee shop be unique from the other local coffee shops in Sea Cliff?

A: First and foremost, we are aiming for a high-quality craft coffee that is primarily espresso-based. There really isn’t much of that around. We’re also trying to offer things that are a bit harder to find, like Nitro cold brew and really good Matcha. I think what sets us apart though is the space and the vibe that we offer. We have a lot of room for people to hang out, work, study, and socialize in a setting that is fresh and inviting.

Q: I am aware that the Village of Sea Cliff would not grant you a permit to create an outdoor area. Why was it refused? How do you feel about that? Will you keep trying? What were the plans?

A: Campground has always had the purpose of being a gathering place for the people of Sea Cliff and beyond. What makes Sea Cliff special is the community and bond that has always existed. That’s why we always thought the outside area of our property would be the perfect place for people to come together in a central location in our village. We had proposed adding beautiful landscaping, pergolas, seating and a Bacci ball court. The Village’s reasoning for not wanting to work with us to make this happen is unfortunately unknown to us, and it has not been very willing to even [discuss] it. We find this unfortunate and hope that we can open the Village’s eyes to the importance of a community having places to come together; hopefully we work together to make what an overwhelming majority of Sea Cliff is wishing for, come to life.

Q: Who are your partners in this business? What part of the business are you responsible for?

A: Campground was started by Me (Emil Lanne) and Pete Johnson. We used to work together a long time ago, but now we both live in Sea Cliff. For the coffee service, we brought in our General Manager Sean McCalmont, who is one of the owners of Sid’s [in Glen Cove], to be a partner with us.

Locals should certainly look to Campground Coffee for any of their socializing, or caffeinating needs as it welcomes in “a bigger audience” for some unique sips and tastes. As it’s located in the center of the buzzing town of Sea Cliff, Campground offers a creative approach to the typical coffee shop.



Campground Coffee Only Adds To The :Positive Vibes Of Sea Cliff

BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS

679 Glen Cove Avenue
Glen Head, NY, 11545

(516) 801-3937

beautifulflowersny@gmail.com

LOOKING FORWARD
TO SEEING YOU
FOR ALL YOUR
FLORAL NEEDS

VIVIAN AND CHRISTINA

<https://beautifulflowersny.com>

The 2024 NBA All-Star Game: A Guide To The Best Of The Best

By: Abby Reisberg

All basketball fans know that the NBA All-Star Weekend is one of the most exciting events during the season. It is a time for the fans, even if they are watching at home, to see their favorite NBA greats compete. Running from a Friday to a Sunday, there are always fun-filled events before the big game. Most years, the location of the All-Star Weekend changes as different venues host. This year it took place in Indiana at Gainbridge Fieldhouse and ran from February 16th to the 18th.

For 2024, the NBA decided to bring back the traditional Eastern Conference vs. Western Conference format which began in 1951 at the first NBA All-Star Game. In 2018 though, the NBA moved to a draft format in which the captains picked the teams. And so, Team Stephen and Team LeBron were brought to fruition that year. The NBA Commissioner, Adam Silver, wanted to revert back to the previous way of doing things as he felt things were getting stale. He wanted the All-Star Game to look more like ‘traditional basketball’. In addition, in 2024, the starters for the NBA All-Star Game were selected by fans, current NBA players and a media panel. Fan voting, which made up 50 percent of the vote, was a way for the onlookers to get involved in the selection of who was playing in the All-Star game rather than just having the NBA’s coaches and commissioner decide. Prior to this change, a “panel of sportswriters and broadcasters were responsible for selecting each Conference’s starting five and three bench players” (NBA).

In addition, if there are chosen players who ultimately end up injured or are unable to participate in the game for some other reason, Commissioner Silver must select a replacement. For example, in January, before a game against the Utah Jazz, chosen All-Star starter Joel Embiid, of the Philadelphia 76ers, was averaging 35 points per game with an historic 70-point game this season against the San Antonio Spurs, thus making it his career-high and franchise record in points; he, however, injured the lateral meniscus in his left knee. He sat out for a few regular season games, but ended up re-injuring himself on January 30th in a loss against the Golden State Warriors. It was recently reported by *Philly Voice* that there is hope for Embiid to return in late March, but a replacement clearly had to be chosen for him for the All-Star Game. Also, at the end of January, All-Star reserve Julius Randle of the New York Knicks, “Dislocated his shoulder bracing himself after a fall during the fourth quarter of the Knicks’ 125-109 victory over the Miami Heat” (CBS Sports). Reports from *Bleacher Sports* have shared that “Randle’s rehab is going well, and his goal is to play again this season.” But, he too had to be replaced for the big game. Trae Young of the Atlanta Hawks and Scottie Barnes of the Toronto Raptors were therefore tapped for the Eastern Conference team.

As far as the rest of the Eastern
March 2024

Conference 2024 All-Star team was concerned, Giannis Antetokounmpo of the Milwaukee Bucks was chosen to be the captain. This was his eighth consecutive All-Star appearance. He has averaged around 30 points per game, with 11 rebounds. Forward Jayson Tatum of the Boston Celtics was named a starter for four consecutive years and this season he has averaged 26 points per game in 35 minutes. Indiana Pacers Guard Tyrese Haliburton, who is in his fourth NBA season, has consistently been at the top of the assists leaderboard averaging 12 assists per game. Lastly, the second starter who is currently on the Milwaukee Bucks was guard Damian Lillard, who is known for his ability to shoot; he worked his way to being named fifth for all-time three-pointers made.

As for the Western Conference starters, there was not much guessing as to who would be named captain. LeBron James, of the Los Angeles Lakers, is the oldest active player in the NBA; at 39 years old, James is in his 21st NBA season, with an all-time high of 20 consecutive All-Star appearances. He has averaged 25 points per game on seven assists this season. James is like no other player, and he is not quite finished yet as he hopes to play in the League with his son, Bronny James, who currently plays for the USC Trojans. In addition, from the Dallas Mavericks, Luka Doncic has had a career-high in points at almost 35 a game on nine assists in his sixth NBA season. Phoenix Suns Kevin Durant made it into his 14th All-Star Game with an average of 28 points per game. Oklahoma City Guard pick Shai Gilgeous-Alexander is averaging 31 points per game for his team. And the final pick for the Conference was 2023 NBA champion, Nikola Jokic of the Denver Nuggets who is averaging 26 points; he even has 136 career triple-doubles making him one of only a couple of NBA players to accomplish this feat.

Along with the starters who were selected for the Eastern and Western Conferences, there were seven reserve players selected for each team. For the East, they included Bam Adebayo of the Miami Heat, Paolo Banchero of the Orlando Magic, Jaylen Brown of the Boston Celtics, Jalen Brunson of the New York Knicks, Tyrese Maxey of the Philadelphia 76ers, Donovan Mitchell of the Cleveland Cavaliers, and Julius Randle of the New York Knicks.

Some may wonder why one particular reserve for the Western Conference was not a starter. After all, Golden State Warrior Stephen Curry is the all-time leading three-point shooter; however, this year it was not enough. Therefore, Curry made his first All-Star appearance as a reserve. The other six reserve players for the Western Conference were: Devin Booker of the Phoenix Suns, Anthony Davis of the Los Angeles Lakers,

Anthony Edwards of the Minnesota Timberwolves, Paul George of the Los Angeles Clippers, Kawhi Leonard of the Los Angeles Clippers, and Karl-Anthony Towns of the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Besides the All-Star Game, the major highlights of the weekend included the Celebrity Game, the Rising Stars Challenge, the AT&T Slam Dunk, the Kia Skills Challenge, and the Starry 3-Point Contest. Also, for the very first time, an NBA vs. WNBA 3-point contest was held; it included the NBA’s all-time 3-point leader, Steph Curry, and WNBA single-season 3-point record holder, Sabrina Ionescu of the New York Liberty. Ionescu caught Curry’s attention after she won the Starry 3-Point Contest during the WNBA All-Star weekend in the Summer of 2023, setting a new record of 37 points; she only missed two shots. This time around, Curry was supposed to shoot from the NBA line and Ionescu was to shoot from the WNBA line. After hearing these rules, Ionescu said “I’ll shoot from the NBA line [which is not as close to the net]...LET’S GET IT”. She ended up earning 26 points, while Curry earned 29.

At the end of this amazing All-Star Weekend, the final score of the All-Star Game was East 211 and West 186 with Karl-Anthony Towns having a 50-point game.

There is so much great talent that can be seen during the NBA All-Star Weekend. Whether it’s an NBA or WNBA player, a rookie, or even a G-League player, it’s amazing to see it all displayed. Definitely do not hesitate to check this particular weekend out in 2025.

Sources:

Andrews, Kendra. “NBA All-Star Game returns to original East vs. West format.” *ESPN*. *ESPN*, www.espn.com/nba/story/_/id/38744898/nba-all-star-game-returns-original-east-vs-west-format. Accessed 11 Feb. 2024.

NBA.com Contributors. “Stephen Curry vs. Sabrina Ionescu 3-point challenge set for 2024 NBA All-Star Weekend.” *NBA.com*. *NBA*, www.nba.com/news/2024-stephen-vs-sabrina-3-point-challenge. Accessed 11 Feb. 2024.

NBA.com News Services. “Knicks’ Julius Randle (shoulder) to miss 2-3 weeks.” *NBA.com*. *NBA.com*, www.nba.com/news/knicks-julius-randle-shoulder-injury. Accessed 11 Feb. 2024.

NBA.com Staff. “History of NBA All-Star selection process, roster and format changes.” *NBA.com*. *NBA.com*, www.nba.com/all-star-voting-format-explained. Accessed 11 Feb. 2024.

—. “2024 All-Star Roster.” *NBA.com*. *NBA*, www.nba.com/allstar/2024/roster. Accessed 11 Feb. 2024.

—. “2024 NBA All-Star starters announced.” *NBA.com*. *NBA.com*, www.nba.com/news/2024-nba-all-star-starters-announced. Accessed 11 Feb. 2024.

Quinn, Sam. “2024 NBA All-Star Game: Trae Young, Scottie Barnes added to East roster as injury replacements.” *CBS Sports*. *CBS*, www.cbssports.com/nba/news/2024-nba-all-star-game-trae-young-scottie-barnes-added-to-east-roster-as-injury-replacements/. Accessed 11 Feb. 2024.

Reilly, Bridget. “Joel Embiid has left meniscus injury in latest 76ers concern.” *New York Post*. *New York Post*, nypost.com/2024/02/01/sports/joel-embiid-has-left-meniscus-injury-in-latest-76ers-concern/. Accessed 11 Feb. 2024.

Anchoring Hope: Introducing the Islanders’ New Head Coach

By: Brian Kraupner

There is no question that the New York Islanders have been struggling this season, but that could change with the Islanders’ new head coach. On January 20th, the Islanders welcomed a fresh face in Patrick Roy who would take charge of the Islanders after its former head coach, Lane Lambert, was fired. It was his second season. Since the team struggled to hold onto leads and star players weren’t performing how they should have been, fans expected Lambert to be let go. For example, on Friday January 19th, the Islanders faced the Chicago Blackhawks, who are currently in last place in the Central Division. The Islanders had been on a 3-game losing streak and were hungry for this favored win. However, for the 16th time this season, the Islanders lost their lead and entered into overtime. The Islanders then fell short during overtime for the 11th time this season which resulted in the team losing against the Chicago Blackhawks. The following day, Lane Lambert was fired and Patrick Roy was introduced as the Islanders new head coach.

Patrick Roy is a former goaltender who played for the Montreal Canadiens and the Colorado Avalanche. He previously served as the head coach of the Colorado Avalanche in the NHL for three seasons and the Quebec Remparts in the Québec Major Junior Hockey League for 13 seasons. Roy led the Quebec Remparts success after winning the 2023 Memorial Cup Championship. Plus, he won four Stanley Cups during his hockey career and was given the nickname “King of Goaltenders” ‘due to his incredible skills in goal. In 2017, Patrick Roy was named 100 of the Greatest NHL Players in history, thus making him a legend in the world of hockey. He clearly has had a successful career both as a player and as a coach. So, due to Patrick Roy’s background, there is no doubt he can help bring success and positivity to the Islanders.

In fact, about a decade ago, during Roy’s first NHL game as head coach, he screamed at the opponent’s head coach, Bruce Boudreau, because of unfair calls being made against his team. Although he was fined 10,000 dollars for the outburst and later regretted letting his anger get the best of him, the following day in an interview he said “I guess I have to change a few things,” “I got the \$10,000 fine by the League for that. I understand it now. At the same time, I will always defend my players. ... This is the way I dealt with this one. Will I deal with it differently next time? Maybe. Or maybe not” (NHL). Clearly, Roy will fight for what he believes is right, and he will not be put down without a fight. He will defend and support his players when necessary. Therefore, with a new mindset and energy being brought to the Islanders, fans are hoping that with Patrick Roy at the helm, the Islanders can clinch the playoffs this season. The team certainly still has a shot at making the playoffs because as of March 31st, it is ranked fifth in the NHL Metropolitan Division with a record of 31-27-15.