

THE CORRESPONDENT BY DISPATCH

VOLUME 53, ISSUE 1. JOHN HERSEY HIGH SCHOOL, OCT. 2, 2020

COVID-19 Impacts Students Around the World

BY JIA SKRUDLAND

COVID-19 has taken a toll across the world. Every country has had its own way of handling the pandemic and, as a result, has had different results. In the last couple of years, the northwest suburbs have been lucky to host foreign exchange students from across the globe.

During the 2018-2019 school year, Hersey had the pleasure of hosting Anneken LeBouar from Germany and last year (2019-2020) Gustav Bak Grosen from Denmark. In the neighboring District 211, Fremd hosted Mathias Hansen from Norway also during the 2019-2020 school year.

However, Grosen and Hansen have a different story than LeBouar does; their exchange year was cut short due to the pandemic. These 3 former exchange students have provided their insights on how their countries have handled and been affected by COVID-19.

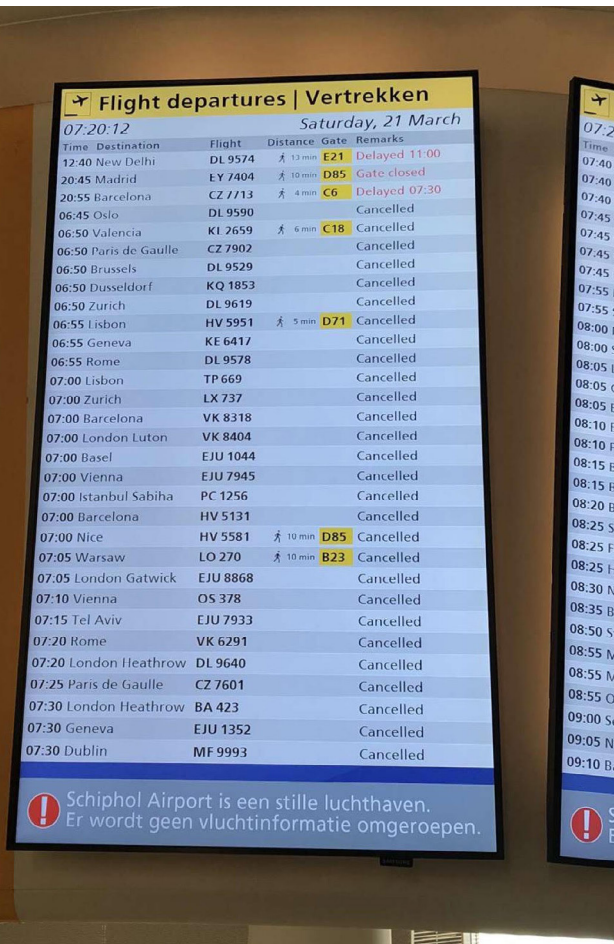


People gather for a protest in Germany while wearing masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANNEKEN LEBOUAR



Like many students at Hersey, international students have picked up spending time in nature as a hobby during quarantine.



A flight sign at an airport in Amsterdam indicates that almost every flight has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GUSTAV BAK GROSEN

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VIDEO BY JIA SKRUDLAND

District 214's Remote Learning Technology Sparks Mixed Opinions

BY AMELIA ZOLLNER

New technology within District 214 to assist the remote learning process is currently in the process of being implemented, yet teachers and students have raised concerns regarding the use of the systems.

Over the summer, an email was sent out regarding District 214's plan to reopen. It detailed the usage of a new technology system to aid in the blended learning model that the district initially planned to open the school year with. The new technology installed in each building is made up of three components: EPIC, Viewpath, and SAFE. EPIC is a replacement for the school's intercom and bell system, Viewpath is a classroom voice amplification and video recording system, and SAFE is an emergency call system. Together, these three systems will work together to improve communication within District 214.

Although these three systems were already in consideration four or five years ago, the installation was expedited in July to allow the technology to be used for the initial blended learning model in which some students would learn in person and others would remain at home. According to Tony Schlorff, District 214's Director of Technology Services, this technology is currently installed in every building except for Forest View, which he estimates to be around 90% completed.

Once the system is finalized and teachers receive training, Viewpath will impact the current remote learning system the most – it amplifies teachers' voices and enables teachers to record their classrooms from various angles in order to make sure everybody, regardless of

their location, is included in the classroom. "We can have a physics classroom and have a camera overhead of the teacher's workstation," Technology Systems Supervisor Jason Sendelbach said. "The camera can zoom, it can pivot, it can rotate. The views are endless, it's just using technology in a different way to teach."

Despite the positive aspects of the Viewpath system, some teachers have raised concerns about privacy. "If I'm wearing a microphone and we do have students in the classroom and I go up to a student who's maybe not looking so great and I say, 'Hey, do you need to take 5 minutes to go to the bathroom or go see a counselor?' All of a sudden, that's public information," English teacher Matthew Michelin said.

Additionally, students in classes that have begun to test Viewpath have reported less than favorable results, with the audio often sounding glitchy and distorted. To ensure that this does not happen during classes, the system is being tested in various circumstances. "We're seeing everything through and running through all scenarios (students in the room with earbuds on Zoom, not on Zoom, in breakout rooms, etc.)," Teaching and Learning Facilitator Laura Monahan said.

The concerns that have been brought up over the past few weeks are shared by many. However, for now, as administrators work to perfect the system, only time will tell. "I'm trying to reserve my judgement about the system until I actually see the system and how it functions," Michelin said.

AMC Is Back and Ready For Your Return

BY MAX GARCIA

2020 has been a horrible year for most businesses and companies while other companies have been profiting so much from the pandemic. Netflix, Disney+, Hulu, and many other streaming services have been booming, with Netflix gaining over 15 million new users due to the pandemic. The same goes for video game companies like Sony, Microsoft, and Nintendo, with Nintendo making 10.9 million more than last year. Unfortunately, many companies and businesses have not been so successful and have been affected hard by the pandemic, one business being AMC Theaters, one of the biggest theater companies in the United States. But now, AMC has opened back up its theaters, with the AMC in Randhurst Village opening up on August 28. What's it like in the theater and what's it like seeing a movie with social distancing and mask wearing enforced?

First of all, how does AMC run and how does the customer get to view their movie? AMC now has a no cash policy where customers can only use cards. Customers have to pay online to reserve their seats.

Now it's not a true movie experience if popcorn or concessions aren't around, but

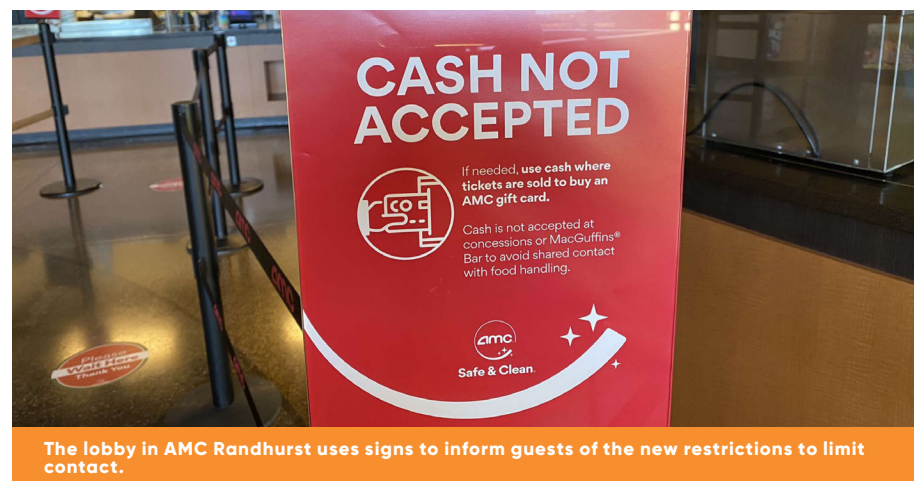
how can customers eat their food with a mask on? Only popcorn and drinks are available and there are no refills. Again, this is to limit human contact. While watching movies, customers will have to be six feet or more apart and can only take their masks off while eating or drinking. Once the movie is over, customers leave the screening with their masks and exit the building. What do the employee's think about this? "To be honest, AMC kinda sucks right now," senior Cormac O'Leary, who works at AMC, said "It's nothing compared to what it was before. I would definitely quit if it wasn't for the benefits."

Now, once the movie is over, what happens? Staff members must clean the theater up but now with an extra step added. Seats that have been used must be cleaned after every movie. Once the seats are cleaned, people can sit in them once again and the cycle continues.

Now, the big question is: How is AMC doing in terms of money? Will it even be able to stay open much longer? The film industry has lost seven billion U.S. dollars due to the pandemic. However, *Tenet*, a highly anticipated movie, just released on Sept. 3

of this year and made \$20 million in the United States and \$150 million globally during its opening weekend. This is fantastic for opening weekend, especially since theaters have been closed since March. What *Tenet* has shown is that theaters, including AMC, may not be done for just yet.

What about movies going straight to digital and streaming services? Films like *Scoob!* and *Mulan* did this and surprisingly didn't perform that well. Critiques believe the reason being is because of how they were priced. *Scoob!* was \$20 to rent and \$24.99 to own, but it would have cost \$11.99 to see it in theaters, so these prices are pretty high even for feature length movies. *Mulan* went straight to Disney+ and is only available on there with a catch: not only do viewers need a Disney+ subscription, but they also have to pay \$30 to own the movie. *Mulan* has only earned \$33.5 million and, to them, that is nothing. Now this could be because *Mulan* has been controversial. Still, this shows how movies have been performing when going straight to digital. Now this begs the question: Will theaters, including AMC, survive the pandemic? Only time will tell.



The lobby in AMC Randhurst uses signs to inform guests of the new restrictions to limit contact.



AMC Randhurst has limited concessions to aid in stopping the spread of COVID-19.

PHOTOS BY MAX GARCIA

'Among Us' Isn't Getting Voted Out Anytime Soon

BY AMELIA ZOLLNER

You're on a spaceship, making sure everything on the ship is working well with your fellow crew members. There's just one problem: one crewmate is an impostor and is out to bring the ship to a halt, whether it's by sabotaging the ship's operations, killing everybody on board, or voting crewmates off. Crewmates have to try to beat the impostor by voting them off. This is the concept behind *Among Us*, a game from 2018 that has recently taken the internet hostage.

"My friend has brought up *Among Us* in a group chat and asked if we all wanted to play," junior Taylor O'Donnell said. "I didn't

know what the game was at the time but I downloaded it anyways and was instantly hooked!"

The gameplay of *Among Us* is addictive (especially when playing as the impostor!). Aside from a few graphical flaws and occasional glitches in the online interfaces, it's also a great way to connect with friends during the pandemic – each game can house up to 10 players and allows for chatting in order to choose who to vote off the ship.

However, the best part of *Among Us* is its accessibility to large groups of people. It sells for \$5 on Steam and for free on the App and Play stores, which allows anybody with

an internet connection and a device to play. *Among Us* is also incredibly easy to play. It mirrors the structure of murder mystery party games like *Mafia*, something that's largely familiar to most people. Because of this, there's almost nothing to learn – players can simply jump right in.

Among Us is free, easy to learn, and appealing to everybody. Despite its sparse flaws, its accessibility has caused it to be one of the most popular games of the year, making it the perfect video game for people who don't play video games.



In a match of *Among Us*, player Amelia Zollner completes a task while keeping an eye out for the impostor.

SCREENSHOT BY AMELIA ZOLLNER

Learning from the Stars: Astrology and Tarot Cards Regain Popularity During the Pandemic

BY NATALIE WOZNY

Thanks to the coronavirus, life as everyone knew it was put on hold. Staying inside has its fair share of negatives, and definitely pushes the limits of boredom. However, there is always a silver lining. There is no better time to pick up new hobbies and interests than quarantine. Even during the summer, the cancelation of regular camps, activities, and jobs allowed for productivity in new areas. Learning a new subject can pass the time. Investing time in something new, like astrology, can even be a positive distraction from the struggles that come with the pandemic.

Astrology has been around for thousands of years, but recently it has become more relevant. Creators on apps like Instagram and TikTok share information about the signs in fun ways that draw the attention of many teens. Astrology accounts have risen in popularity on social media in the past couple of months. There are also hundreds of apps specifically for astrology. Learning about your birthday might not seem important or interesting, but the more you start reading, the more you want to know.

The app Co-star allows the user to put in their birth date, time, and place in order to receive a full astrological chart. The application also has other features such as quotes of the day and options to connect with friends to read about their charts and each other's compatibility.

Many people spark an interest in astrology due to the app. "I started getting into astrology probably a year and half ago when my friends showed me the app Co-star," senior Marianna Luciano said. Although Co-star does not provide the most detailed chart, it is a good way to understand basic astrology and check in with friends. "My favorite astrology app is Co-star because it shows compatibility with friends," senior Daniela Mancheva said.

If someone does not have applications specifically related to astrology on their phone, the chances that they follow at least one social media account that relates to the subject are almost one hundred percent. Social media astrology is less educational and more there for entertainment. Posts are not specific to anyone; instead they are based on signs. Occasionally, accounts will be dedicated towards a single sign. Otherwise, posts will be pretty general. Although social media astrology is posting for the masses, it is still enjoyable to read what it has to say about each individual sign.

Astrology can really help when it comes to analyzing personalities and understanding the reasons for what is happening. Reading a daily horoscope is known to give hints as to how the following day will pan out. Although that may be hard to believe, based on charts, horoscopes can make predictions for upcoming weeks and months. "The best thing about learning about astrology is learning that each individual is unique and there's a lot more to you than just your sun sign," Luciano said. "Once you have an

understanding of astrology, you start to feel bad for people who think this stuff is stupid, because it really reveals the truth. Astrology goes far beyond just the surface of someone's personality, it gives you the good and the bad."

Horoscopes are not the only readings that have sparked an interest among younger generations over the past summer. Tarot readings, even if done only over the internet, can provide hope and be the sign someone was looking for. Readers make spreads and post them on Youtube and TikTok, letting algorithms do the work and send out the videos to random users. Tarot became popular, especially on TikTok, because users who saw the readings would "claim" them, hoping it was the sign they needed. Tarot cards can tell users a lot about their future, so turning to the cards for guidance became a theme among teens.

YouTube and TikTok readings are general, just like astrology social media readings, so apps specifically focused on tarot readings exist. Faladdin is a free app that offers multiple kinds of readings, one of which is tarot. There are also options for different types of tarot readings, such as love and career, so that the cards can be more specific. Tarot readings on any sort of electronic devices are a great way to try and learn about oneself, but physical cards feel a lot more personal. If physical cards are available, readings can be done by hand, so drawing the cards really feels meant to be. "Tarot cards offer a sense of reassurance or direction when I ask about things that are stressing me out," Mancheva said.

Many have turned to the cards for signs during this time. Tarot can help open the readers eyes and change their outlook on life. There are many things to learn about the cards, so it really can become a hobby.

Astrology goes hand in hand with tarot, also changing readers perspectives in ways they never thought possible. Changing day to day, running out of things to learn about oneself or ones surroundings is not possible. In fact, the possibilities are endless when it comes to believing and learning about astrology and tarot.



Senior Marianna Luciano creates a tarot spread in the comfort of her own home.

COURTESY OF MARIANNA LUCIANO

Amelia's Albums: Zeros by Declan McKenna

BY AMELIA ZOLLNER

When Declan McKenna released his first album, *What Do You Think About The Car?*, he was 18. And releasing a critically acclaimed album at 18 is an anomaly, so, naturally, the focus of almost every interview and review was his age. Now, however, McKenna is 21. With age comes maturity, experience, and reflection, and McKenna's sophomore album is a perfect example of this. *Zeros*, released on September 4, is a political concept album that serves best as a testament to the British indie rock artist's growth both musically and personally.

Taking place in a dystopian parallel universe, *Zeros* warns of what's to come of Earth. McKenna speaks out against industrialism and overconsumption, two topics that parallel the political anguish presented in *What Do You Think About The Car?*

The album starts with polished, laid-back tracks like the folk-tinged track "Emily" and piano-laden ballads like "You Better Believe!!!" that call back to stars of the '70s. And sure, I'll admit his sound loses some of its lovability as it becomes more refined. It lacks some of the previous album's little quirks, like tiny speeches intertwined with instrumentals or backup vocals sung by a children's choir.

But as the album progresses, McKenna seems to become more honest with his anger. The album's run of its last four tracks feels like a grand finale that serves as a window into McKenna's anger with political systems. "Twice Your Size" houses a breakdown into a heavier, guitar-led section that continues through "Rapture." It's refreshing to hear this, especially in a breakdown that mirrors the album's proposed downfall of the world into chaos.

And, as McKenna suggests with *Zeros*, maybe chaos is where we're going. But music like *Zeros* helps make that a little less painful.



COURTESY OF COMPLICATED RECORDS

OPINIONS

Zooming With Friends: Supportive or Disruptive?

BY NATALIE WOZNY AND JENNY AN



Since the middle of second semester last year, students in District 214 were no longer allowed to attend classes in person. Going from being physically in classes everyday to suddenly having to attend classes online was a drastic change. Students adjusted to this change in different ways, one of them was meeting friends and attending Zoom classes together. Two writers, Natalie and Jenny, reveal their opposing takes on the subject.

Natalie's Take

On an average day at school last fall, a student at Hersey would most likely encounter at least a hundred different faces. Everyone would be ready to sink into their beds in the comfort of their own homes by the time the last bell rang. Due to no longer being in the building and the cancelation of many clubs and activities, interaction with other people has slimmed down immensely. Having to sit at home for extensive amounts of time can cause students to feel isolated and lonely, making every day feel the same.

All students have to do to enter class is click a button on their electronic devices, so getting ready takes a lot more motivation than before. Logging on to Zoom from bed minutes after waking up becomes tempting, so getting ready to go somewhere forces students to be productive. Personally, I feel much better when going to class from a friend's house because I am more awake and more productive when I put on a nice outfit instead of sweats. I actually get excited to get ready when I know I am going to

be seeing friends, even if it is just for Zoom. It gives me extra motivation to start my day and to start school. The positives of having friends around you during school hours outweighs this negative.

Although students and teachers argue that Zooming with friends in the same location or house can be a distraction, I believe that it can be refreshing and helpful every once in a while. Many are quick to say that Zooming with someone else is an awful distraction, but distractions are already surrounding you with or without the presence of other human beings. At home, many students have siblings, extra electronics, and plenty of other objects they could pick up instead of keeping their attention strictly on the class they are currently attending. If a kid does not want to pay attention, they won't pay attention one way or another.

To have the utmost attention during class, each friend can go into a separate room and put in headphones. Everyone has a different schedule, so they are minding their own business. Having company is more about hanging out during the breaks in between classes and before or after school. Zooming with friends should not be an everyday thing, but it can make life feel more normal. Too much time alone can be bad for your mental health, so having company every once in a while can be something positive when it is not abused.

Jenny's Take

When Hersey switched over to remote learning last year, the reality that the virus was a serious matter began to dawn on the students. Most students, in return, reacted cautiously by staying home or sticking to social distancing guidelines if there was a need to go out. But since several months have passed since the announcement of the pandemic, students have begun to act more recklessly.

Zoom classes were supposed to be attend-

ed on an individual basis, not an individual plus friends. Online classes were supposed to promote social distancing and subdue the spread of the virus, but students are beginning to hang out with each other during their classes.

Not only does this distract the students who are physically together, it also distracts the other students in the meeting room. When a student is talking or laughing with their friends, or even on mute, other students' attention is turned away from the teacher.

Along with silent distractions, there are also audible and tangible distractions too. When teachers assign their students into breakout rooms, students will typically unmute themselves to discuss the task at hand. But when there are multiple people, all attending different zooms in a single room, the background noise of the meetings gets obnoxious, especially when the people hanging out talk about something irrelevant to class or shift the focus from the discussion.

Besides students' behavior during the meetings being a distraction, there is also the problem of wifi connection. When there are multiple people connected to one wifi router, it can slow down the router's productivity a considerable amount, making a Zoom call lag or buffer. This causes issues when students miss discussions about class assignments or other valuable information due to the wifi connection constantly getting interrupted.

Students physically meeting up with each other during classes would be a mistake, especially when considering the fact that the school's main purpose for being held online is to abate contact between students to insure their safety. COVID-19 is still a very serious threat to society and hanging with friends during the school day is not helping the situation.

For the other classes to be held, making the week unbalanced. I think it would be a tremendous help if classes were only held four days of the week, consisting of two orange days and two brown days. This would give students an opportunity to have a bit more free time and take part in any engagements they have besides school. It would give students a much needed break from the stress of the new times and situations.

Having a sudden change in environment for school takes a huge mental tax on students, so allowing them more time to rest and to do things they find pleasurable would alleviate a huge weight on their shoulders. Being buried in school work while also having to deal with all these incidents around the world can get suffocating, so making some adjustments in the way classes are carried out would make a vast difference.

Colleges Deal Poorly with COVID-19



BY ALEXIS SANTIAGO

As I was scrolling through TikTok in the middle of the night, I came across a video of an NYU student showing what was in their meal box that was given to students who are quarantining in the dorms during COVID. The video showed the student receiving their meal box and the student was showing off what she got.

The student stated in the video that she was vegan and needed meal accommodations. When she opened her box, she was surprised by what she got. She received a plain steak salad. Many viewers were baffled by what she got. After looking at the quality of the salad, some compared it to airplane food, but to me, it looks like the school put no effort into it since it's just lettuce and overcooked steak.

These videos show how ridiculous this situation is. With more videos of students having similar experiences at NYU starting to pop up on everyone's TikTok feed, fast-food chains like Chipotle as well as students who live off campus are giving food to help those who are in quarantine in the NYU dorms. If students are paying about \$3,000 for their meal plan, then they should be receiving a decent meal, not a watery watermelon salad.

NYU helped bring light to a conversation about going to college during a pandemic. Different colleges have come up with different plans on how to tackle it, but some of their plans may come out to be ineffective, causing more people to be at risk for COVID-19. TikTok user @kikiio088, a student at ISU, showed a face mask provided by the school that was made with a cheap fabric shown to

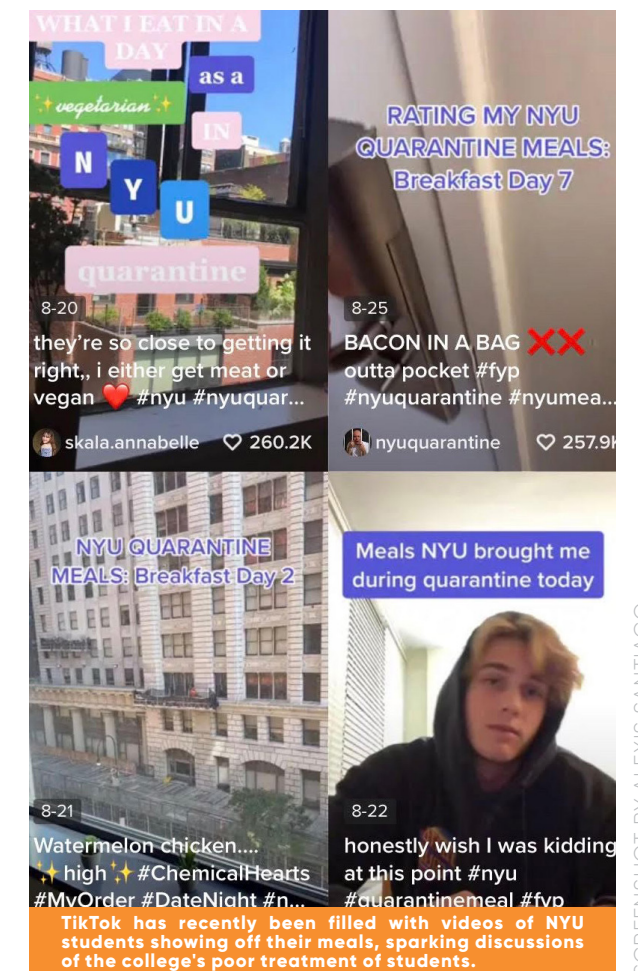
be useless and ineffective. @kikiio088 also commented that students were not required to get COVID tested.

Colleges should be enforcing COVID testing for everyone. As a result, a week later, she stated that the school had to go back to online schooling due to the rise of COVID. Students who are going to be quarantined at the dorm should be receiving a COVID care package with products that should be keeping the students safe. Instead of spending money on whatever, why not use the money to give the students an actual mask that can protect them?

Another issue that colleges should take action on is students hosting campus parties when they should be in quarantine. This issue came to light on every social media platform when many who partook in these parties were shown to not be social distancing or not wearing a mask. The University of Notre Dame was one of the victims of the spike in COVID due to the gatherings. A student at Notre Dame hosted a social gathering and no one was social distancing or wearing a mask, which caused the school to suspend in-person classes and kick students out of their dorms. Although this may be the host's fault, colleges need to start implementing rules on these students if they want to try to control the COVID cases.

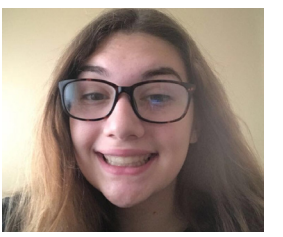
Colleges have shown how unprepared they are with this situation, and honestly, I'm not surprised by the fact. Although their unpreparedness is understandable due to this pandemic coming out of nowhere with no time for preparation, school was still canceled in the middle of the year, giving time

for schools to think of a plan on how to deal with the situation better. Of course not all plans go perfectly, but having a more structured plan would've immensely helped. Colleges should learn from their mistakes from dealing with COVID and try their best to protect the students' and staff's health.



SCREENSHOT BY ALEXIS SANTIAGO

Donald Trump's Plan for Winning the 2020 Election



BY TINA KRASNIQI

With the 2020 presidential election coming up this November and everything related to COVID-19 that is happening, while in person voting will still happen, voting for a candidate will mostly be through mail ballots. Trump is trying to defund the USPS so he can manipulate other companies into helping him rig the election. Trump wants to pay companies to send out ballots to people who they know will vote for Trump and/or also submit false votes according to CNN.

The USPS requested a loan for three and a half million dollars for the mail ballots. Trump is going against giving out a loan because, according to him, it would cause election problems and the USPS is fine just the way they are. In his opinion, if he gives them more money, more problems will appear with the election. Trump also rejected an emergency loan of twenty-five billion dollars re-

quested from USPS for extra help they needed to deliver all their packages.

USPS has been struggling, causing a delay or loss in delivering packages. This has to do with the fact that, at the start of COVID when we were all quarantined, people were doing an excessive amount of online shopping. USPS has had to take out multiple loans to cover the expenses for all the packages it was receiving, and now the government won't give it any more money to help. It is really childish of the government not to help support USPS. USPS is an essential service and many people rely on it to deliver their packages and mail. When items are delivered late, it could ruin a lot of plans, which wouldn't have to happen if the government approved their request for a loan.

Trump's chances of winning the 2020 election are unlikely, he's a terrible person whose true colors showed within these last

four years. Trump is declining to help the USPS, an essential business that we can not live without, along with trying to make America as culturally non-diverse as possible.

Trump declining its requests for money is so lame. We all rely on the USPS to deliver our mail, which includes a numerous amount of things. Trump should want to help the USPS as it is for the better good of Americans. He shouldn't have to rig the election just so he can win another term. He should be punished for attempting to rig the election; it is not fair to the citizens. By Trump attempting to rig the election, it takes away people's opportunity to vote for Biden or the third party, which is incredibly unfair. Trump should accept the USPS's request for money, so the USPS can help satisfy U.S. citizens and can all vote fairly on who we want to be our president for the 2020 election.

IN DEPTH

CREATIVE TIMES CALL FOR CREATIVE MEASURES



Shown on the left and right, Alyssa Roudabush crafts her own clothing and accessories to sell online. Shown in the center, Ally Ohr made crocheted bucket hats over the summer to fundraise for the Okra Project.

COURTESY OF ALYSSA ROUDABUSH AND ALLY OHR

How Huskie Students Stayed Busy During this Covid-19 Pandemic

BY TINA KRASNIQI

Covid-19 has brought on many struggles that have affected everyone but have also given us the opportunity to grow as people. Back in March when we were very restricted with what we could do, we had to get creative with what we did. Creative times call for creative measures, as they say. Sophomore Alyssa Roudabush and junior Ally Ohr were two students who worked on starting their own businesses during quarantine to keep themselves busy.

Alyssa and Ally are very similar with their reasonings to why they started their businesses, "Well so I got a sewing machine four years ago for christmas and I tried to use it and it kept breaking... But during quarantine I was like, 'You know what? I'm determined to fix it,'" and I ended up figuring out what was wrong and I just started to learn how to sew and that kind of just made me realize I could actually learn how to make my own clothes and it kind of took off from there," Roudabush said. On the other hand Ally stated, "So I was thinking about doing it for a long time but I never really had time and then like we had a lot of time all the sudden so I'd thought I would start," Ohr said. We were all given way too much free time during quarantine that was unusual but very beneficial.

Roudabush and Ohr seized the opportunity and started their own business. Roudabush currently sells her clothes on an Instagram page, @urban_touch_boutique, and is working on creating her own website.

Ohr sells through Depop but uses Instagram to communicate with some of her buyers, @buketup on Depop and @allymakesstuff on Instagram. But due to school starting back up in the fall they're working at slower paces. Roudabush was self taught, she "didn't look at any videos or anything I kinda just went through trial and error." while Ohr learned through her grandma. "She's been crocheting, knitting like for a really long time so I always wanted to learn and she gave me some supplies and I learned through her and like YouTube and like stuff like that."

Ohr and Roudabush both launched their shops in June after the spring semester was over. Both of their businesses are doing well. Starting their own businesses, they learned a lot and changed. "I guess I would have to say I've just become more confident ... but it's completely different from everyone else's style and ever since starting to make my own clothes and showing people what I like I've kinda just been like you know what I don't care its like nope im not I mean I kinda just got outta my comfort zone, once I got out of my comfort zone I was like this is okay and I'm going to keep doing it," Roudabush said. "I definitely think that I feel more motivated to create things and I just feel more responsible now since I've been through this," Ohr said. If covid hadn't happened, Roudabush and Ohr might never have been able to have this opportunity of starting their own businesses.

Ally Ohr often paints with Gouache paints, creating vivid landscapes in the comfort of her own home.



COURTESY OF ALLY OHR

BY ZELL KURTH, BECCA FEATHERSTONE, VIKTORIYA YUN & MICHAEL SHIRLEY

"I WENT TO A PROTEST IN ARLINGTON HEIGHTS FOR THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT. WE WERE WALKING AROUND THE PARK, BUT WE KEPT SPACE BETWEEN EACH OTHER AND WE WERE ALL WEARING MASKS AND HOLDING UP SIGNS."
- KEIRA SCHWARTZ, SOPHOMORE

WHAT DID YOU FEEL SAFE DOING DURING COVID?

"A PICNIC IN THE PARK. WE ALL STAYED SIX FEET APART, WE ALL WORE MASKS, AND WE DIDN'T HUG OR TOUCH EACH OTHER EITHER."
- GRACE RICHARDS, JUNIOR

"I WENT CAMPING IN MY BACKYARD. I DECIDED TO DO THIS ACTIVITY BECAUSE YOU HAD TO STAY SAFE AT HOME AND ME AND MY COUSIN AND SISTER WERE REALLY BORED."
- CLAUDIA KOWALCZEK, FRESHMAN

"OVER THE SUMMER, I GOT REALLY INTO RUNNING. WHAT I WOULD DO IS USUALLY LIKE, AROUND LIKE 9 OR 10 O'CLOCK, I WOULD GO TO LAKE ARLINGTON WHEN NO ONE'S REALLY THERE AND THEN I WOULD GO JUST RUN AROUND WHILE LISTENING TO SOME MUSIC."
- MAXIM CHERVAK, SENIOR

Enjoyable, Safe Activities To Do When Bored During this Pandemic

STARVED ROCK

Starved Rock in LaSalle County is an Illinois State Park. Visitors get to enjoy the beautiful nature while maintaining a socially distant, limited environment.

MCHENRY OUTDOOR THEATER

For only \$12 every Friday and Saturday, visitors can drive up north to McHenry, Illinois and enjoy the beautiful weather while it lasts and enjoy a movie from their cars.

CHINATOWN

Located in Chicago, Chinatown allows visitors to go to the city and enjoy and learn about Chinese culture.

BAHAÏ TEMPLE

This temple in Wilmette is a nonreligious temple. It's a great place if you ever want to connect spiritually and relax!

LINCOLN PARK ZOO

It has free admission and masks are required. Visitors get to walk around and see the animals and learn something new.

DOWNTOWN

You can take the train downtown for so many things to do and try while maintaining a safe environment. The sunset at North Avenue Beach is a must.

MILLENIUM PARK

It's free access and safe; you can walk around and take pictures.

BOTANIC GARDENS

With free inside access the Botanic Gardens, all you pay for it parking. A beautiful place if you want to get some fresh air or take pictures while maintaining safety guidelines.

BY JIA SKRUDLAND

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

BY CONNOR DURKIN



PHOTO BY TINA KRASNIGI

Anna Harden

Cross Country phenom Anna Harden continues to leave her mark on Hersey's cross country program. Despite being a Sophomore, her second year on varsity, she only continues to grow as a runner.

It wasn't until 4th grade when she started to have a passion for cross country; her siblings have played a huge role in her love for cross country. "I had seen all of my siblings run cross country and so that got me to start it and I just loved the sport once I tried it," Harden said.

Even though she's only been on the team for a season and a half, she's had a whole lot of achievements in her short career at Hersey thus far. Harden was All Conference, All Regional, All Sectional, placed 23rd at state and broke the school record for the 3 mile, all during her Freshman year. Regardless of her achievements, her hard work and dedication is what makes her improve every season. "On Sundays, we don't practice but I run to get some more miles. I'll go to a forest preserve with my parent's and run there."

Although she's an underclassman, she carries on her positive mindset to her teammates. "I like to encourage people. If they have a bad race I'll tell them to keep their heads up, but if they have a great race I'll also encourage them and tell them they did amazing."

With COVID-19 pushing multiple sports to a later season, Harden is grateful that she was able to continue her passion. "It's a little sad that we can't run in the bigger invites, but we're still positive because



PHOTO BY TIM PAK

Tyler Irwin

Senior Tyler Irwin is one of the many talented Hersey golfers this year. He has shown great traits such as being a natural leader during his Hersey athletic career.

"This year I was chosen to be team captain of the golf team. This is a big responsibility for me and I have learned how to be a leader of this team the factor that stands out in high school golf is the fact it is team golf. Playing for my team in the fall builds up so much emotion in me and it motivates me to play better for my team and coach I am always more passionate about my team score rather than my own score. High school golf is the best!" Says Irwin

After Tyler graduates he will be attending The University of Illinois Wesleyan where he will continue his golf career on the team. "I can't wait to play college golf! Illinois Wesleyan has such a great golf program the coach and players are super friendly and I can easily see myself playing golf with that team for the next four years I can't wait to play all the great courses down in Bloomington and throughout the country" he said

To prepare for college Irwin looks to improve even more this off-season to stay sharp and preform even better next fall.

College Football Continues

BY TYLER BEDNAR

Hersey students attend many different universities after high school. These schools range from major D1 schools to smaller division 3 schools. I had the opportunity to interview a Hersey alum who attends a school in one of the major power 5 conferences. The Hersey alum interviewed was Matt Bednar, who attends the University of Oklahoma, about his experience at the first home football game of the season.

Q: What precautions took place prior to entering the stadium?

A: Before entering the stadium the security lines were socially distant, lines separated groups of people: people with bags and people without bags. Besides for that, though, there wasn't much. It's an open street so you should be able to stay socially distant. There were also multiple entrances

to the stadium so the people entering the stadium were dispersed.

Q: Were there any required guidelines you had to follow while in the stadium?

A: We were required to wear a mask during the game at all times unless we were eating or drinking. Next week we are (students) going to be given assigned seats. When we got in, we were given stickers that determined where we could or could not go during the game.

Q: To what capacity was the stadium full?

A: Around 20-25 percent, so 17-20 thousand. I don't know the exact number but it definitely wasn't more than 20 thousand.

Q: Were there any restrictions players had to abide by during the game?

A: I believe any player who was not currently playing had to wear a mask. When the first-string players were taken out and the second-stringers went in, the first-stringers wore masks.

Schools, especially major D1 schools, have tedious protocols setup for sports games. These schools will continue to have protocols at games to allow college sports to thrive in 2020. If schools don't abide by these protocols, potentially millions of dollars could be lost if sports aren't played. If the guidelines aren't followed, it's possible that next year's freshman class will have to deal with them as well.

Chicago Pitchers Make History

BY JIA SKRUDLAND & TYLER BEDNAR

MEDIOCRE TO UNSTOPPABLE

All eyes were on White Sox pitcher Lucas Giolito during a quiet night on the South side of Chicago as he searched for the final three outs of a no-hitter against the Pittsburgh Pirates.

The likelihood of Giolito getting a no-hitter in his career would be very miniscule after a horrendous 2018 season. Giolito was arguably the worst pitcher in 2018 with an Earned Run Average (ERA) of 6.13 per game and at the bottom of the leaderboards, leading the league in stats pitchers want to avoid (walks, earned runs, etc).

For many athletes, the mental component of confidence tends to lack, which holds them back from performing their best. However, fortunately for Giolito, this was never the case. "We always tell them we can believe in them, but they've got to believe in themselves. We can't believe for them and he's [Giolito] always had that belief," manager Rick Renteria said about Giolito. He always knew he could accomplish great things, but it was his physical mechanics in his pitching that were keeping him from looking like a major league pitcher.

Despite Giolito's struggles in 2018, he turned his career around from being a potential, lost cause to a promising starting pitcher, with just a simple change in his pitching mechanics. In just one off season, Giolito cut his ERA in half, 3.14, shut out two of the toughest teams in baseball, that being the Houston Astros and Minnesota Twins, and became an All-Star for the first time. Most notably, he earned himself the title of "being the ace" on the Sox starting rotation. That's hard to accomplish all at once after having a dreadful season in the majors and that horrific season being his first full season with a new team.

Giolito has now become one of the best pitchers in the league and has solid performances that keeps his team in the game. That was no exception for Giolito against the Pirates.

It was a nail-biter for the final three outs for Giolito & staff. He retired the first two batters fairly easily and quickly. With the lead-off man coming up, fans waited anxiously for the final results as there was only one out to go. Luckily for Giolito, he had his battery mate James McCann behind the plate calling pitches that would "calm him down", as he would say. That would come in handy with the final out approaching and the adrenaline is high around the ballpark.

Giolito didn't want to be that guy that had two outs, an 0-2 count and lost the bid, but Erik Gonzalez hit a rifle, off of Giolito's simple (common) but highly effective high fastball, to right field. Thankfully Adam Engel got a good jump on the ball and was there to snag the ball.

History was just made.

Giolito became the 19th pitcher in White Sox history to throw a no-hitter, first to do so since Philip Humber in 2012, but is the first pitcher in franchise history to record 13 strikeouts and have a no-hitter. Not to mention, the first one of the condensed 2020 season due to COVID-19.

The only flaw in Giolito's outstanding performance was four

straight balls in the top of the fourth to Gonzalez, preventing him from the perfect game.

Just like any milestone pitching performance, the defense also deserves credit as they kept the no-hitter intact. Tim Anderson made a huge play that probably preserved the 1st hit. Anderson ran, scooped a ball that was a good 12 feet to his right and threw to first with Jose Abreu snagging the ball and getting the out. Giolito was ecstatically happy for that. "Obviously the defense behind me was unbelievable, especially the ground ball up the middle with TA [Tim Anderson] and Pito [Jose Abreu]," Giolito said via a postgame interview from MLB.com.

The ace of the talented but young pitching staff looks to help this newly rebuilt team for what appears to be a bright future in 2021.

IMPROBABLE NO-HITTER

On Sunday, it was likely the biggest story of Chicago sports was going to be whether or not the Bears won their season opener. Surprisingly, the biggest story came from the Cubs, where a lesser known pitcher was going to make history.

The starting pitcher for the game on Sunday was Alec Mills, the least known pitcher on the Cubs' staff. Mills has played in games for the Cubs since 2018. He was a relief pitcher and a starter for the Cubs in the 2019 season. In 2020, however, Cubs starter José Quintana was put on the injured list, opening a spot on the starting rotation. Mills was given that spot and played very well. This game, though, was different. In his 9th start of the season, Alec Mills tossed a no-hitter against the Brewers for the win with the Cubs scoring 12. In this game, he threw 5 strikeouts and walked only 3 hitters, placing the ball well enough to get ground out after ground out.

There are 3 reasons why this outing was so remarkable. To start off, the Brewers team he threw a no-hitter against had scored 19 runs in a game earlier that week. The most remarkable thing about this performance, though, was that this was Alec's first complete game in his major league career. Alec's path to the big leagues is a story of its own. He walked on at the University of Tennessee.

The night before, the Cubs created a huge story with one of the more improbable comebacks of the coronavirus-shortened season. The Cubs came back against Josh Hader, the hard-throwing set-up man/closer. Prior to the 9th inning, Hader had only given up 2 hits in his appearances this season. In the 9th inning, the Cubs got 4 hits, including 2 home runs. The first was a 3-run blast by Jason Heyward, who had two strikes on him in the at-bat. Heyward became the second lefty to hit a homer off Hader with two strikes in the at-bat. Ildemaro Vargas followed him with a solo shot of his own to cap off a 4 run inning, the only 4 runs the Cubs scored in the game. They won the game 4-2. However, the next day only held greater things for the Cubs.

To say the least, Alec Mills has left a great mark for the Cubs in the 2020 season and hopes to continue his dominance and help the Cubs compete in the second round of the playoffs.

PODCASTS

1. BEYOND THE GAME EP. 1 FEAT. CHICAGO BEAR'S WIDE RECEIVER COACH MIKE FURREY

Connor Durkin ('22) and Makayla Furrey ('23) sit down with Coach Furrey to talk about his early days in Ohio, his path to the NFL, and becoming the wide receivers coach for the Chicago Bears.

WATCH HERE
BY CONNOR DURKIN & MAKAYLA FURREY

2. CROSSTOWN TALK EP. 2

Jia Skrudland ('22) and Tyler Bednar ('21) reflect on the past week for both teams and identify players who are in the running for the American League and National League Rookie of the Year.

LISTEN HERE
BY JIA SKRUDLAND & TYLER BEDNAR

3. CROSSTOWN TALK EP. 3

Jia Skrudland ('22) and Tyler Bednar ('21) recap the last week of the regular season for both teams, key things for each team in the wildcard rounds, our predictions for American League and National League Cy Young, as well as our predictions for who will be 2020 World Series champs.

LISTEN HERE
BY JIA SKRUDLAND & TYLER BEDNAR

PHOTOS

Senior Tyler Irwin uses an iron for his approach shot during a match and victory against Rolling Meadows.



PHOTO BY TIM PAK

Wearing a mask to prevent the spread of COVID-19, senior Veronica Rokicki practices with the orchestra.



PHOTO BY BENJAMIN POPOVICI

Sophomore Mackenzie Ginder approaches the finish line against prospect high school in a meet that decided the division champion.



PHOTO BY TINA KRASNIQI

Ally Blumenfeld ('22) breaks the school diving record, helping her team win another divisional title against buffalo grove.



PHOTO BY BENJAMIN POPOVICI

Freshmen Billy Beck and Colin Stanhope take precautions during marching season.



PHOTO BY BENJAMIN POPOVICI

Frosh Anna Solvsberg is on the starting block for the 50-meter freestyle against Buffalo Grove.

PHOTO BY TIM PAK



Sophie Lee gets ready to serve during a winning singles match against Prospect.

PHOTO BY BENJAMIN POPOVICI

Hersey Dispatch produces a variety of mediums for students, staff, and community members to stay up to date on Hersey news. The Dispatch is created by journalism students at John Hersey High School, 1900 East Thomas Street, Arlington Heights, Illinois, 60004. Call for advertising rates. Phone (847) 718-5182. Hersey Dispatch welcomes a free exchange of ideas. Letters to the editor may be sent to jhhs.dispatch@d214.org. Because school officials do not engage in prior review, and the content of the Hersey Dispatch is determined by, and reflects only the views of the students & staff and not

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