

# THE CORRESPONDENT BY DISPATCH

VOLUME 53, ISSUE 4. JOHN HERSEY HIGH SCHOOL, APRIL 30, 2021

## In-Person Learning Perseveres Despite Notable Number of COVID-19 Cases

BY AMELIA ZOLLNER



PHOTO BY JA BRUEND

Although Hersey has implemented one-way hallways, it's still difficult to follow social distancing guidelines during passing periods, causing many students to stay home.

Nearly a month after Hersey opened its doors to all students interested in returning to in-person learning, the number of COVID-19 cases within Hersey is notably higher than other District 214 buildings. As of April 30, the District 214 COVID-19 dashboard reported six cases within Hersey, making up nearly half of District 214's 14 active cases.

Just last week, Hersey was the focus of many local news stations due to its high number of students in quarantine, which reached 155 after Hersey reported 13 positive student cases on April 19. However, administrators urged students not to worry, as quarantining is solely a preventative measure. "In those scenarios where you have a student that might be mixing with

20, 30, 40 other kids, you can't be accurate with your contact tracing, so you end up putting all of them in quarantine," Principal Gordon Sisson said. According to Sisson, no transmissions occurred within the school, with every case being linked to social activities outside of Hersey.

Despite administrators' intentions to get students back in classrooms, many students still feel unsafe going into school. As Hersey opened up to everybody on April 5, temperature checks at the door were eliminated and the length between students recommended for social distancing was reduced from 6 feet to 3 feet.

Although these measures were reduced due to CDC recommendations, some students were still concerned about safety. "My family has been very cautious throughout the pandemic, so it was very shocking to suddenly be elbow to elbow with a ton of kids in the hallways," senior Catherine O'Dell said. "I know I saw a concerning amount of people either having their masks under their nose, and some even down to their chin when they thought no one was looking."

According to Division Head of Success, Safety & Wellness Matt Norris, attendance (not including CLS students) decreased drastically during the week of April 19, with average daily attendance dropping from 1,200 the week of April 5 to 750 the week of April 19. As COVID-19 cases decrease and more students return to the building, attendance numbers are increasing, however, and Norris estimated that the current average is around 815.

Although this is a significant decrease from April 5, the students that are still participating through in-person learning have reported great experiences. "I feel that I learn better while in-person," freshman

Robert Martin said. "I feel very safe from COVID-19 and know if I am exposed, the school will act very quickly to ensure mine and other's safety."

While different students have expressed different levels of comfort regarding safety within Hersey, administrators are urging students to recognize that Hersey is taking the necessary precautions against the coronavirus. "If we have 15-20 positive cases out of 1,200 to 1,300 kids, that's less than normal," Norris said, referencing Illinois's average positivity rate of 5%. "We do understand that it's stressful, it's hard, we get it, but we like to see all the smiling faces back in the building."

### Building Data

Building	Active Infections
John Hersey High School	8
Rolling Meadows High School	3
Prospect High School	2
Buffalo Grove High School	2
Wheeling High School	1
FVEC / Specialized Schools	1
Elk Grove High School	0
Grand Total	17

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Data Update Date & Time

A screenshot from the District 214 Covid Mitigation Dashboard from April 18 depicts Hersey as having 8 cases, making up nearly half of District 214's cases at the time.

SCREENSHOT BY AMELIA ZOLLNER

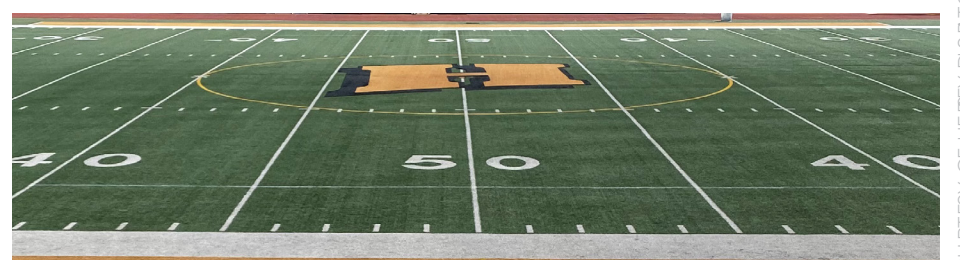
## Prom: A Time To Let Loose

BY MADISEN ANDERSKOW

Prom season is the time where senior girls get excited to dress in elegant dresses, have a makeover, get their nails done, and go to the hair salon. They get to dress up for the boys or girls that they think are the love of their lives. It's the night they've dreamt of since they were little girls. They get to party hard and live the feeling of being a princess. It's the time they know high school is finally over and they get to go onto college. However, the coronavirus has changed that dream just a little.

Hersey has traditionally help prom at Chevy Chase Country Club. Last year, there was no prom; this year, there is one, but it's informal. It's a unique, two-part event on May 22: the event begins with the sunrise at Nickol Knoll Golf Course and continues with the sunset in the Roland Goins Stadium. Seniors will sit with a group of 4 friends and get to enjoy the views of the sun. During the sunset, there will be a live band and fireworks followed with a slideshow filled with memories

of seniors. The seniors are at least getting some type of celebration to end their time at Hersey. "I'm excited that the seniors are getting some recognition," senior Victoria Babinski said.



Doors open at 6pm at Roland Goins Stadium for the sunset with the fireworks and slideshow starting at 9:30pm.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HERSEY DISPATCH

## Amelia's Albums: 'Illinois' by Sufjan Stevens

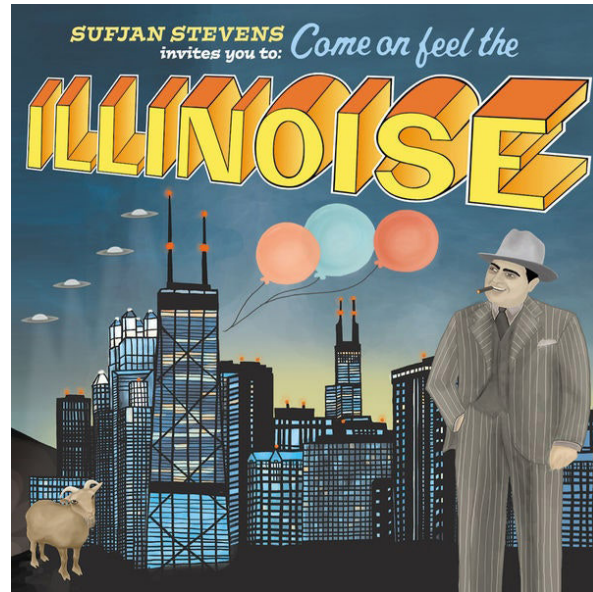
BY AMELIA ZOLLNER

During the past year of this very short-lived album review column, I've always tried to review new albums. However, in honor of this being my last issue of the Correspondent before I graduate, I've decided to sentimentally throw it back to a classic album that got me through my four years at Hersey (and is quite possibly my favorite album of all time).

Growing up in a Chicago suburb can be painfully mundane. In a town where ditching a football game to walk across the street and aimlessly stroll around Target was seemingly the most fun activity, it was hard to feel special. Enter Sufjan Stevens's *Illinois*.

I first discovered *Illinois* long after its 2005 release – the first time I listened to the album, I was a freshman who was desperate to blend in with my bland suburban surroundings.

However, in Stevens's second album, *Illinois* is unsettlingly beautiful. It takes monotonous cities like Peoria and turns them into the backdrops of epic tales and introspection: a doubt-filled self-comparison to a serial killer ("John Wayne Gacy, Jr."), a retrospection on forbidden gay love at a Christian summer camp ("The Predatory



ALBUM COVER COURTESY OF ASTHMATIC KITTY RECORDS

Wasp of the Palisades"), or even an ode to The World's Fair of 1893 for some reason in the absurdly lengthy titled "Come On! Feel the Illinois! (Part I: The World's Columbian Exposition - Part II: Carl Sandburg Visits Me in a Dream)" – who wouldn't want to sing along to a seven-minute song about Sandburg?

In all seriousness, despite most of the places mentioned in the album being locat-

ed either in Chicago or southern Illinois, the album's geography resonated with me – so much so that even on a trip to California intended to serve as an escape from Illinois, I couldn't help but snag a copy of the album on vinyl to bring back to the suburbs that I so desperately wanted to despise.

Because of *Illinois* and the love letter to this state it so precisely weaves, my high school experience has been so much better. There's always something to do here – whether it's listening to "Chicago" on repeat while taking the L into the city or unearthing weird histories that this seemingly tiresome state holds.

Although I'll never forgive Stevens for writing a song about Adlai Stevenson, the namesake of Stevenson High School, and not John Hersey, this album strangely became the soundtrack of my four years in high school. When I move away for college next fall, I know I'll be bringing some unexpectedly fond memories of my time during high school with me, packed in tightly with my vinyl copy of *Illinois*.

## The Van Gogh Exhibit: Is It Worth Goghing?

BY JENNY AN

After receiving well deserved recognition in Paris, the "Immersive Exhibit" was replicated in the Germania Club Building in Chicago. On Feb. 11, 2021, the much raved about Van Gogh Exhibit in Chicago finally opened its doors to the public. Tickets became more and more limited as people rushed to get a taste of the new experience.

The process of buying tickets was not easy. Tickets were being sold on a daily basis, and most days got fully booked very quickly. The days that appeared to still have room would almost always end up having only one or two adult tickets remaining. But after scrolling and scrolling, more and more spots were open for days in April and May.

Tickets ranged from \$25 to \$100 depending on the type of ticket purchased. The most expensive tickets were the VIP tickets, which offered flexible times, priority access, and souvenirs; the cheapest tickets were the children tickets, which offered basic admission to individuals under the age of 16.

I purchased two Premium Timed and one Child ticket for my mom, sister, and myself. Although we arrived at the exhibit later than our scheduled time, we were able to get in fairly quickly. As soon as we stepped into the building, the experience already started; the staff wore Van Gogh themed masks, the walls were painted, and guidance signs and stickers were all Van Gogh themed.

Once entering the main exhibit, we quickly scurried to one of the socially distanced spots, which looked like white circles on the floors for

each party to sit or stand in. Most people were respectful of this rule and stayed within the circles, with only a few people walking around the room for a couple minutes.

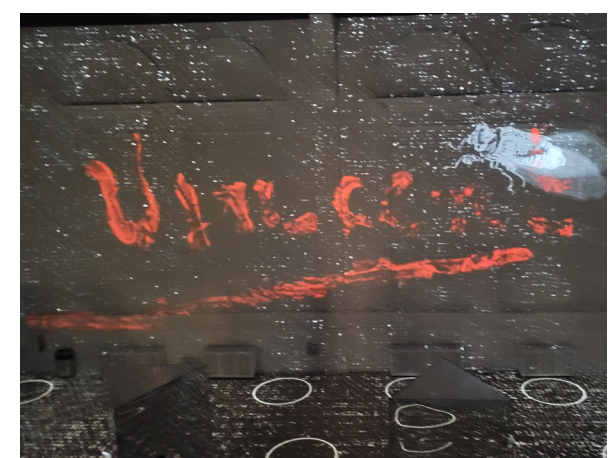
Although there were scheduled times for each guest to arrive at, the main exhibit could be enjoyed even upon late arrival. The exhibit was a series of projections of Van Gogh paintings that were accompanied by a soundtrack from Luca Longobardi. Van Gogh paintings appeared and disappeared in front of my eyes, loud but fitting music echoed in my ears- there was no other option but to be completely immersed in the experience, hence it being an "Immersive Exhibit."

After seeing the film loop a couple of times, we finally left the exhibit and visited the gift shop. Like most gift shops, the items were grossly overpriced but of good quality. We also received very large posters that were included with the Premium Timed tickets.

Overall, the exhibit was very clean and COVID friendly. The content of the exhibit was also really cool to see since there aren't many other exhibits quite like this one. The graphics were extremely well produced and put together. Although I don't think it's worth purchasing a VIP or Premium Flex ticket that costs \$50+, the basic and Premium Timed tickets are definitely worth it. The exhibit may seem a little underwhelming at first when considering it's one film being played on repeat in a single room, but the amount of work and effort put into creating the reel and soundtrack is evident, making the exhibit worth every penny and a need-to-visit place!



Visitors at the Van Gogh Exhibit are asked to stay in socially distanced circles.



Accompanied by an original soundtrack, a film of Van Gogh's paintings is projected onto the walls.

PHOTOS BY JENNY AN

## Lana Del Rey Releases her Seventh Romantic Melodrama Album, 'Chemtrails Over the Country Club'

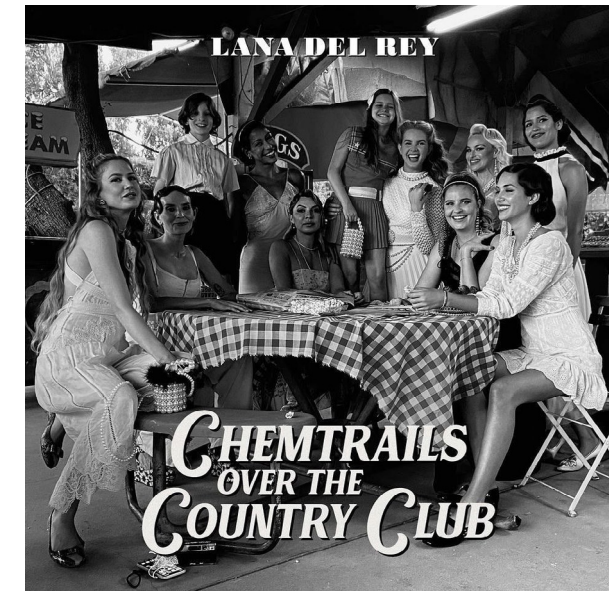
BY MOSELLE KURTH

Lana Del Rey once again delivers a musically-inclined album, *Chemtrails Over the Country Club*, with its beautiful score along with her unique sound. The indie pop icon has been releasing music since the 2000s, but March 19 of this year marked the date for her 7th album release that fans had been waiting for. Much of Del Rey's music is described as nostalgic with her vintage ballads and emphasis on orchestration, making her music much more enjoyable for a broader audience.

The album opens with its titular track, "Chemtrails Over the Country Club," being one of the three singles off the album along with "Let Me Love You like a Woman" and "White Dress." Del Rey excited fans by releasing the "Let Me Love You like a Woman" and "Chemtrails Over the Country Club" singles prior to the March 19 release of the album, along with creating music videos for all of her singles off her recent work. Even as an indie rock artist, Del Rey had managed to have "Let Me Love You like a Woman" peak at number eleven on the Billboard Hot 100 this year.

The first four tracks on the album feature beautiful piano melodies to back up Del Rey's vocals. It isn't until the fifth track, "Wild at Heart," where some of the music is shifted towards guitar picking and strumming to aid her singing and set a different shift of tone in the album. The last two songs of the album, "Dance Till We Die" and "For Free (feat. Zella Day & Weyes Blood)," highlight more of the orchestra to close the album, thus having the album smoothly change in sound when listened chronologically.

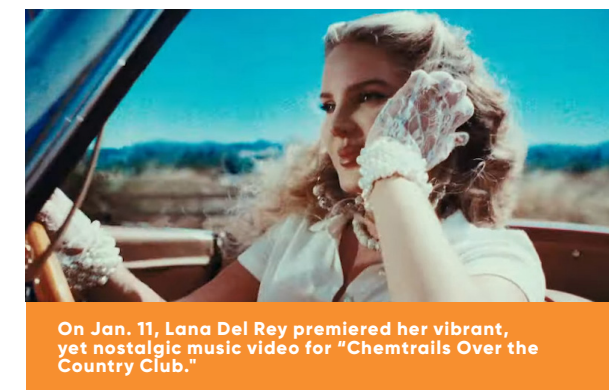
Prior to her recent album, Del Rey has been nominated for a total of five Grammys since 2014. Her last album, *Norman F\*\*\*ing Rockwell*, was nominated for best album as well as best song for the 62nd Annual Grammy Awards. Furthermore, Del Rey has been



ALBUM COVER COURTESY OF LANA DEL REY

nominated for a total of six, and won two awards for the MTV Europe Music Awards, both winning Best Alternative Artist.

The Manhattan native currently resides in her Hollywood Hills home where she is still creating music to further implement in her variety of songs. *Chemtrails Over the Country Club* displays a more intimate sound than Del Rey's past work, but still holds its similarities with her unique music. *Chemtrails Over the Country Club* can be streamed on Apple Music, Spotify, YouTube, and other music services.



STILL COURTESY OF LANA DEL REY

On Jan. 11, Lana Del Rey premiered her vibrant, yet nostalgic music video for "Chemtrails Over the Country Club."

## 'Born in the Wrong Generation?'

BY NATALIE WOZNY

Some adults may argue that social media is completely corrupting young minds. However, most things, including social media, are not black and white. In fact, it may actually be helping teens from this generation appreciate the media that was a blueprint for many movies and music today. The classics have always been classics, but they have become even more relevant recently.

TikTok has a big influence on what is currently trending. This is especially true in the case of movies. Many classics have gotten a lot of attention recently because teens have made them into an aesthetic. Specifically, classics featuring an iconic female lead.

Audios and clips from these movies are all over TikTok, peaking the interest of many teens. Trends coming back from past decades has been very common in the 2000s, so movies are not an exception. In order to keep up, teens feel compelled to view these films, wanting to relate to the content.

Today's teens idolize the aesthetics of these classic coming of age stories. Whether or not they are all positive messages, the internet today is drawing inspiration from the female characters whose names we will likely never forget.

*The Devil Wears Prada*, *Pretty Women* and *The Bling Ring* are some of the more lighthearted features. Films that have been recently making constant appearances on social media include *Lolita*, *Leon the Professional*, *Kill Bill*, *American Beauty*, *Pulp Fiction*, *The Virgin Suicides*, *Cruel Intentions* and *The Craft*, among others.

The fact that similar films are no longer being made leads to a larger appreciation. The media from this decade is compiled from memorable trends rooted in the past. This explains the recent fascination with these powerful girly classics and the messages and style they represent.

## Expanding Your Horizons: Discovering Music

BY ETHAN BANG

As we continue to live life in quarantine, we try to find some way to pass the time staying at home since going out isn't exactly the greatest idea at the moment. One way I've been passing the time currently is something I've been doing way before quarantine started: listening to music. As life went on, however, I realized something was very apparent: my selection of music isn't the most diverse. I had been listening to the same songs for about 2 years now, and while I still enjoyed listening to them, there would come a point in time where I would eventually get tired of them. So one day while browsing through Spotify, I decided to get out of my comfort zone, and pulled up some classic rock. I believe I started with Queen, a very gateway example into getting into classic rock, and while I was already familiar with the band, I never really did take time out of my day to actually listen to them. I revisited some classics, such as "We Will Rock You," "We Are the Champions," and "Don't Stop Me Now." I hadn't listened to these songs in over 4 years, but they were just as good as I remembered them being, very much deserving their place in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Aside from classic rock, I also decided to listen to some classic hip hop. Hip hop isn't a genre I listen to that much, as most of my expo-

sure had been through my peers and siblings, who seemed to only listen to it exclusively. So I figured it wouldn't hurt to try it out, because I never did mind whenever my brother put it on in the car. I decided to check out Coolio, an artist that I had barely heard of. While I didn't find most of his songs too memorable, there was one that really stood out the most, his magnum opus, "Gangsta's Paradise." Its ghost-like choir, which is uncommon in hip hop, and its lyrics about a 23 year old gangster wondering if he'll live to see 24 compliment each other almost perfectly, creating a song like no other. But one artist that really caught my attention was 2Pac. Listening to classics like "Hit em up," "Ambitionz Az A Ridah," "All Eyez on Me," and "Do For Love," I could really hear how much influence these songs had on modern day hip hop, and I'm glad I decided to give it a shot.

With all that being said, it was nice to listen to something different for a change. While I still do enjoy the music I listened to before, it was admittedly getting stale. While we are still in quarantine with nothing to do at home, I heavily encourage getting out of your comfort zone with your music. You will definitely find something that sticks with you.

# OPINIONS



BY ALEXIS SANTIAGO

## Stop Anti-Asian Hate Crimes

In Atlanta, Georgia, a 21-year-old man went to the Young Asian Spa on a Tuesday at 5 P.M. He then shot up the place killing two Asian women, a white man, and injuring a Hispanic man according to the New York Times. However, 45 min later the shooter drove to another spa, Gold Spa in Atlanta, and shot three more women. Finally, the last report of the shooter before he got caught and arrested was at Aromatherapy Spa, where he killed a woman. Even though reports said it is not a targeted hate crime, this was obviously a targeted hate crime towards Asians with 6 out of the 8 victims being of Asian descent according to The New York Times.

This is not the only hate crime that has been happening in America. So far we've seen elders get pushed to the ground and one getting slashed in the face with a knife. Asian Americans have been used as scapegoats or targets throughout history because many stereotype Asians as quiet, weak, non aggressive, or just not willing to speak up and say anything about the situation, making us easy targets for anyone to attack. Especially with our elders, some of whom barely speak English, making them easy targets.

When news stated that the coronavirus first spread from Wuhan, China, though there are still researching the origins and that may say that it might not come from Wuhan, China, many Asians were assaulted and called racist stereotypical names.

What makes it worse is the way former president Donald Trump shifted the blame of COVID-19 on Chinese people. Instead of using its scientific name he would call COVID-19 "Wuhan virus," the "Chinese virus," or "kung flu," just to name a few that he said in his speeches. Trump's influence on using discriminatory names on Asians helped amplify bigotry against Asians.

According to a news article from NBC News, at least 2 million AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islanders) have experienced some type of hate incident. However, only a

small portion of the group reported the incident to a hotline or law enforcement. The reason why most Asians don't ever report it is because they don't feel comfortable doing it or they don't want to make it a bigger burden to deal with. With most Asians being immigrants, they've worked hard to come here to live in America, so they do feel it's a burden to report on these racist incidents and instead have learned to endure it all.

There are so many ways people can help and support Asian Americans during this moment. If you witness an incident or hate attack, speak out on it! Help the elders that are getting assaulted by these crazy white people or stop a fight from happening. If you know about an incident or were involved in it, you should report it to the authorities or to the website stopaapihate.com. This organization works with Asian Pacific Planning and Policy Council (A3PCON), Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA), and the Asian American Studies Department of San Francisco State University as a report center to track down these assaults and provide assistance to those involved.

Another way you could help out is by educating yourself on the history of Asian American discrimination. Our history textbooks never really told the stories of Asian Americans immigration to America and what they had to endure. For example, most people don't know that in Coney Island during 1914, employees would tie Filipinos up and use them as zoo attractions, with many visitors throwing peanuts at them. The textbooks never said anything about that, did they? Learning this can help create an understanding of racism.

With many protests and social media keeping up with all of the events happening, many Asian Americans are hoping that changes are going to be made in order to help protect our elders. However, more recently, the senate passed a bill called the COVID-19 Hate Crime Act with a bipartisan vote. The bill helps expedite, to make

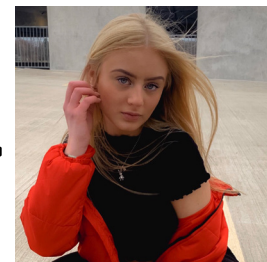
or accomplish investigating these incidents more quickly, any hate crimes and also gather more resources in order to track down any info on them. In a White House statement, President Biden stated, "This critical legislation will bring our nation one step closer to achieving justice and equality for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities."

I hope in the future racism won't be an issue anymore that I won't be fearing about what will happen to my parents when they are working.



On March 26, protesters against anti-Asian hate crimes marched along Algonquin Road just days after eight people were killed in an Alabama shooting.

PHOTO BY AMELIA ZOLLNER



BY BECCA FEATHERSTONE

## In The Eyes of the Beholder

I regret allowing to have allowed societal expectations to stain my lifetime. I can vividly recall criticizing my body from a very young age; g. Growing up in the age of the Internet when those with social platforms seem to set the beauty standards for women is hard. Societal beauty trends are unrealistic and, change quickly, therefore making them and are therefore unattainable. Despite this, they are seem to be the cause of damage to so many young women's esteem. However, on the bright side, mainstream media is presently making a conscious effort to shift the ludicrous and inappropriate beauty standards for women in society.

It is important to recognize that "achieving the look" of another's body is nearly impossible as genetics control size and weight regardless of caloric intake or exercise. The ludicrous history of physical expectations of women in society, to say the very least, is unsettling to say the very least. Last year, the diet and weight loss industry made a total profit of 71 billion dollars. So not only are these standards close to impossible, but there are those out there that understand this and capitalize off of people with body image insecurities.

The changes in body image in the media are not unexpected, as there is a pitiful history of the pains of the industry's expectations, most well known in the fashion industry. High fashion designers

are known for their having a past of using dangerously small models. The average 20 year old woman in the US weighs up to 170 pounds. Many models have a BMI that is classified as underweight - the average weight for models comes in at 113 pounds. In September 2019, French fashion companies announced that models had to be a minimum of a size 2 to walk the runway.

High fashion models are spotlighted in mainstream media, meaning they set the beauty standard for young women in society. This blatantly unrealistic beauty standard promotes eating disorders and other mental health issues. Furthermore, the disturbing pale, small, flat chested, thin, hairless look that is idolized in this industry resembles that of a young child. This is gross and overt pedophilia. More attention must be called to this disgrace.

Though steps are being taken to break the notion of attaining a look and accepting one's own body, it is difficult to be the one to break the status quo. The general movement for women to be more accepting of themselves in the media is important. Preventing obstacles like these allows young women to be more likely to be more confident and successful in their lives. Children are our future - it is important to encourage and support them for a brighter tomorrow.

## The Return of Fans in The Stands



BY JIA SKRUDLAND

At this stage of the pandemic, there's no point in babbling about how the coronavirus has affected our lives. We all know that our daily activities were put on an indefinite hiatus, leaving many pondering about how to keep busy. With that being said, as vaccinations continue to roll out across the country, we're starting to "ease up" on virus related restrictions and slowly reopening doors to the outside world.

One door that has reopened rather quickly is the door to the sports world. Going back to last March, the NFL had just concluded SuperBowl LIV, the NBA was in the latter half of their season, and the MLB was gearing up for the start of their season, and then all of a sudden sports were abruptly paused for the time being. Just like the rest of the world, they would have to find a way to adapt to the challenges of the pandemic. All three of these major sport leagues would find a way to adjust their seasons to comply with their respective guidelines, which would include fans in the not too distant future.

The staggering in sport seasons allowed the NFL to get a grasp about what playing in a pandemic would look like, as their next season started in September. It was too early in July for the NBA to make a decision about fans returning after the pause, given all of the unknowns about the virus at the time. Similarly, the MLB was in a pickle about how to even approach the new season, so the question about whether or not fans would be able to attend wasn't a top priority. Both of these leagues resumed their seasons in July with playoffs ending in October without fans. Out of the three "major" sports, the NFL was the first pro league team to introduce fans.

Soon after, the NBA and the MLB would follow the NFL with implementing fans for the next season. However, the amount of fans allowed to attend is all up to the state

and their guidelines. While the NFL gave clearance for teams to have fans at the start of their season, many opted out of the option or waited until a later date. Out of the 32 teams, only five allowed fans to attend their first home game of the season. About half of the remaining teams waited until mid season or the final weeks, while others just flat out passed on the idea. It was no different with the NBA & the MLB; all teams will have allowed fans at some point during the 2021 season but with different capacity limits.

Both baseball and football are played in outside stadiums (some have retractable roof tops for weather), so those leagues are more lenient in allowing fans since indoors pose a higher risk of spreading the virus than outdoors. In fact, the Texas Rangers (MLB) were the first pro team to allow full capacity, but only for their home opener; on April 28th, the Atlanta Braves announced in a statement that they would allow full capacity beginning May 7th becoming the first MLB and pro team to allow it full time. The NFL hopes to follow the Rangers' lead by allowing the option for full capacity for every team: "All of us in the NFL want to see every one of our fans back. Football is simply not the same without fans, and we expect to have full stadiums in the upcoming season," NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said. Goodell's right. Sports are completely different without fans as players aren't able to feed off the energy provided by the crowd. Chicago's very own first baseman Anthony Rizzo commented after opening day on April 1 about what it was like to have fans back at Wrigley: "I personally just took an extra moment when I took the field to appreciate them being here and their cheers and being able to play in front of them. It was definitely something I'll never forget taking the field today."

Despite about 84 million people of the US population being fully vaccinated, positive COVID-19 cases continue to rise and the implementation of fans in the stands certainly doesn't help. Although many teams have been allowing a good amount of fans in comparison to 2020, there are more known alternatives that can help limit the spread. On April 2, the California State Department of Public Health's guidelines allowed the Golden State Warriors to have fans who are fully vaccinated or have a negative COVID test back at 35% capacity, meaning that the only way COVID-19 could spread among fans is if there was a false negative test, which is somewhat common. Hopefully other venues, teams, and states follow California's as they essentially have a win-win situation - allowing fans back and also limiting the spread of COVID.

Yes, the virus will continue to go on and should still be taken seriously, but if people feel comfortable going back with the guidelines for attending or are vaccinated, then they shouldn't be prevented from doing something that brings them joy. The last time I attended a professional sports game was Aug. 10, 2019 to see the White Sox play against the Oakland Athletics at Guaranteed Rate Field. That was almost over two years ago, so the memories of the game are fairly blurred; the one thing that stuck in my mind was the joy of fellow fans. It's something about the atmosphere and constant cheering including those "come-ons" or "boos" to the home plate umpire that makes it more enjoyable to see the game in person than at home. As an avid sports fan myself, I'm all in for letting fans back.

We're still far from getting back to the 2019 normality feeling, but if the return of fans in the stands can help pave the way for getting spectators back in other entertainment forms, then so be it.

## PODCASTS

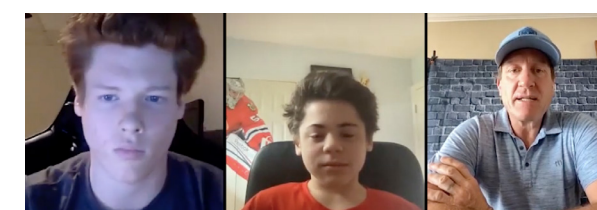
1. OVERTIME FEAT. COACH BROWNLEY



Senior Tyler Bednar sits down with the head baseball coach, Wally Brownley, to discuss the start of the season and how COVID has affected play thus far.

LISTEN HERE  
PODCAST BY TYLER BEDNAR

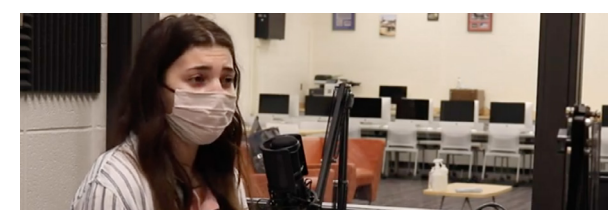
2. OFF THE POST EPISODE 4 FEAT. JEREMY ROENICK



This is a special interview with legend of the game Jeremy Roenick who had over 1,000 points in his great NHL career. We will continue to bring all hockey news to are viewers throughout the season.

LISTEN HERE  
PODCAST BY JACK CONROY AND NOAH THOMAS

3. TOO MUCH INFORMATION EPISODE 2



Listen in as high schoolers Makayla Furrey and Tina Krasniqi talk about confidence: how they gained confidence, how to maintain confidence, and their own personal experiences with confidence!

LISTEN HERE  
PODCAST BY MAKAYLA FURREY AND TINA KRASNIQI

## ATHLETES OF THE MONTH



PHOTO BY JIA SKRUDLAND



PHOTO BY C.M. SOLUM

### Victoria Babinski

BY JIA SKRUDLAND

Most athletes that continue their sport(s) at the high school level have been playing for years, but that's not the case for senior Victoria Babinski. She seems to be one of the athletes with natural born talent. Going into freshman year, she never touched a volleyball except in middle school gym class or for fun with her friends, but by senior year, she made the varsity team as a starter.

This year, she's been a huge powerhouse on the offensive side racking up kills and is an outstanding blocker on the defensive side. Her height certainly helps as she's about six feet tall.

Throughout her four years, she's played all around in the front court – outside, middle or right side – wherever the team needed her she filled in. "It's been a challenge moving positions halfway through my career but also such a great experience," she said. She even quoted Hersey's own basketball coach when talking about how changes and mistakes make a player – and people in general – grow, "Just like Mr. Scott says 'good players adjust' and I couldn't agree more," Babinski said.

On the court or field, an athlete's physical presence and stature is more noticeable than their mentality, and rightfully so. However, volleyball is one of those sports where mistakes constantly happen – missed hits, missed serves, shanked passes – and always result in the opponent getting a "free" point. Having a stable mental stamina in any sport is super important to ensure a player's success. "There's been plenty of times I didn't have a perfect hit but it's so important to brush it off and prepare for the next play. Volleyball is a game of mistakes, it wouldn't be a game if no one messed up, it'd simply go on forever," Babinski said.

Volleyball is also a game of momentum. There's always constant encouragement from the bench players to help their team either get back into the game or continue on a long run, "I think something the team and I do really well is cheering each other on. Whether we get a huge kill or even a shank, it's part of the game and we are always cheering for each other," Babinski said.

Normally, volleyball's season starts right out of the gate at the beginning of the school year, but this year's season didn't start until eight months into the school year. As a result, volleyball players had one of the longer season layoffs. Since Babinski has never been part of a club or volleyball team outside of Hersey, she had to find an alternative practice facility. "Other than peppering to myself on my garage door during quarantine, there weren't many places to practice," Babinski said.

When summer comes, Babinski will be looking forward to playing beach volleyball. "I've never been part of a club or team outside of school but beach pepper is Natalia [Kubskik's] and I's specialty."

### Ben Clawson

BY TYLER BEDNAR

In the past few seasons, Hersey Football has become a powerhouse in not only the MSL east, but the entire MSL conference and the area. Hersey has made multiple state championship runs the past few seasons and junior Ben Clawson has played a major role in their success. A completely new season with new obstacles, a completely new quarterback, and Clawson consistently puts up numbers for the Huskies program.

This season was much different for the Huskies both on and off the field. The season has always been in the fall and was during the beginning of the school year. However, after a few weeks of practice, a surge in coronavirus cases occurred and the season was halted until spring. This had very little effect on Clawson, though. "I prefer the traditional fall season for sure just because it's how it has always been and it feels more normal. Honestly it doesn't affect me that much as long as we play." Other new factors occurred during the season, including wearing masks at all practices, but that didn't impact Clawson either. "I would say the only major difference in practices is that we would go over to the athletic center for some mornings for practice. Also always having to mask up or social distance when possible," Clawson stated.

Clawson had a couple huge goals this season for himself and his teammates. "A personal goal for me this season was to have 0 drops on the season and somehow try to get my name on the record board." With a shortened season it would have been an amazing feat to get his name on record books at Hersey. Clawson racked up some stellar stats through only 6 games his junior year, including a game in which he scored 5 touchdowns for the Huskies, mainly as a wide receiver. He and his teammates had some aspirations for the team this year, too. "A team goal that we wanted to achieve this year was to obviously win the MSL East but unfortunately that did not happen." The Huskies placed third in the MSL East this season after a shortened 5 game season, finishing with a 3-2 record.

Obviously a different team, the Huskies offense had some questions to answer this season. How well would Clawson and new starting quarterback junior Jimmy Makuh play together? These questions were answered right away: Clawson responded about their chemistry: "My relationship with Jimmy improves our relationship on the field because outside of practice we can get on the same page with each other and I know I can trust and count on him to do his job and I hope he feels the same about me." Their strong chemistry showed in the first game as the QB-WR duo combined for 11 catches for 131 yards and two touchdowns in a 40-23 win over Rolling Meadows.

As the season came to a close last week, Clawson is already looking ahead to next season, setting goals for himself, the team, and college. "A team goal for next season is to win the MSL East and then go to win a state championship." This is a huge goal for his teammates, but another year of chemistry between Clawson and Makuh could help achieve them. He stated that his goals for himself offensively are the same. A full season of football at Roland R. Goins Stadium will help him achieve those goals for himself. The junior is planning on playing football at the next level and another season like this one will certainly get him there.

## Hersey Gymnastics: People Flip For It

BY CHLOE MANOLIS

Hersey offers plenty of extracurricular activities for students to succeed their dreams in becoming a star athlete, it's pushed many in that direction, but there's one sport in particular that has stood out to me from personal experience and what it presents.

Gymnastics has been around for decades, and has and still is popular at Hersey. The team has 3 groups: freshman, JV, and varsity. This year's team has been the best.

The team has won 4 out of 5 competitions in a row this season and I couldn't be more proud of it. I have seen nothing but hard work from each person on the team this year and it truly shows that hard work pays off.

The sport takes a lot of skill and patience, especially when it comes to learning new ones. I have been someone who has gotten so frustrated with myself when trying to learn new skills, but I realized that everybody learns differently and at their own pace.

I have gathered people from each team on this year's team to rate the events, their personal favorites, and show appreciation for the sport.

Not only did the sport help improve skills, it also helped some learn and improve themselves as a person. "My experience this season was overall such a fun experience. I loved meeting all the new people and improving as a gymnast and as a person socially," freshman team member Diana Nicolae said. "My favorite event would be floor because it is the only thing I see myself enjoying and feel like I'm good at and beam. Floor is fun especially because you choreograph your own routine and I love to dance."

"I love competing and watching floor because everyone gets to put their own spin on their routine! I also love cheering with the team while people perform their routine. This season was so fun despite covid, and I can't wait till next year to come back and watch next year," senior and JV team member Michaela Donovan said. "When it comes to floor, it is definitely my favorite event. Floor has a good mix of showing off your personality through your dance to showing off your skills through tumbling. It is so much fun to compete on floor and dance along with your teammates on the sidelines while they perform. Beam is another amazing event. It takes so much balance and focus. Every one of your skills is done on a four-inch wide piece of wood four-feet above the ground. When you stick a beam routine, it is definitely the best feeling in the world, especially for meets," junior and varsity team member Taylor Woolsey said.

"My favorite event is bars because having the ability to feel like you're flying whenever you are swinging or dismounting on them. They do, however, rip up your hands a lot. Another event is floor, it is not my favorite but it's fun to watch and perform. I love how you get to show off your creative side with your own dance moves," freshman and varsity team member Grace Johnson said.

This is my first year of being a part of the team and it felt like I was in a huge friend group, we're all there for each other and help one another.

I was very sad to see the season fly by so quickly, but I have a lot of special memories stored and that is why Hersey Gymnastics should be covered for those who could be interested in getting into gymnastics next year – it is so worth it.

"I have always been very fortunate to have a good group of nice, respectful, fun girls. They love this sport just as much as I do, but they always work hard and do the best that they can! We are a family here at Hersey Gymnastics and I love the support they provide each other," Hersey gymnastics head coach Shannon Barrett said.

I've been doing gymnastics since I was 8. I used to be able to do all types of stuff, but had to quit for 5 years because of an injury, which still affects a lot of stuff I do now. It caused me to lose a lot of my skill, and I was so disappointed that I couldn't do half of the stuff I was able to do anymore. That's one of the reasons why I was so worried to go into gymnastics: fear of embarrassing myself for technically being a beginner again.

But I was wrong, they were all so supportive throughout. I loved seeing not just me, but my friends improve as well. Nobody here judges anyone for who or what they are.

I remember being nervous for our first meet – it was my first competition ever, so I didn't know what to expect.

When it was my turn to go for my floor routine, I remember the feeling of my chest pounding and my throat heating up, but hearing the team cheer for me even when I messed up put a smile on my face. Plus, the bus rides back to Hersey are my favorite.

Knowing that we had a successful meet, we're able to relax and have fun by blasting music and singing along.

It's an amazing experience, no matter how much experience you have. I can't wait to see new faces on the team next year, including more improvement from all of us.

## How Major Events Will Function in the Year to Come

BY DENNNIS SIMIC

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has drastically affected many activities that people once enjoyed, possibly the most noticeable things that have been cancelled are major events. March 13 is a day that many students probably remember, as it is the day that a majority of schools decided to close for an unspecified amount of time. At first, when the pandemic started, many people had the misconception that they would be able to resume normal activities like school in as little as 2 weeks. As we all now know, this wasn't the case.

Most schools in the U.S. have not been able to fully reopen, and probably won't reopen this school year. Although schools such as Hersey have mostly reopened, there still is a good amount of students not coming back to school in person. If the pandemic continues at its current pace, then it's likely that schools will wait until the pandemic's end to fully reopen, because many students have responsibilities to help their families. For example, some students may need to watch a younger sibling while their parents are at work.

While many people are lucky enough to be working, a large number of people have lost their jobs. Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been about 20.6 million jobs lost. Although many of these jobs are temporary losses, such as those lost in the restaurant business, this still left America with an unemployment rate not seen since the Great Depression at 14.7% according to CIDRAP.

Work and school are two of the most important necessities that people have been deprived from. However, many activities that are massive in size have also been altered. For example, the world's largest

sporting event, the Olympics, was recently delayed from 2020 to 2021. The Olympics has been going on for thousands of years, and although the Olympics has technically been cancelled before during the World Wars this is the first time that they are being postponed to a later date.

The 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics are going to be taking place in the summer of 2021. To many people this doesn't sound right. It was decided that the Olympics would retain its original name, despite the time change. This however, is not the only change to happen to the Olympics. Unfortunately for many lovers of sports, the Olympics will not allow any foreign spectators at the games. The president of the International Olympic Committee said, "We stand shoulder-to-shoulder at the side of our Japanese partners and friends, without any kind of reservation, to make the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 a great success." This means that the Olympics will have to be watched remotely around the world. Nonetheless, many people are just happy that the Olympics will happen, and maybe spectators will be allowed to watch future Olympic Games in person, in the years to come.

Many people have been negatively affected by the pandemic. Maybe soon, we will see a shift in tides, bringing good things to come. Looking at the school year in review, Hersey was still able to function, thanks to the work of staff and teachers.

# PHOTOS



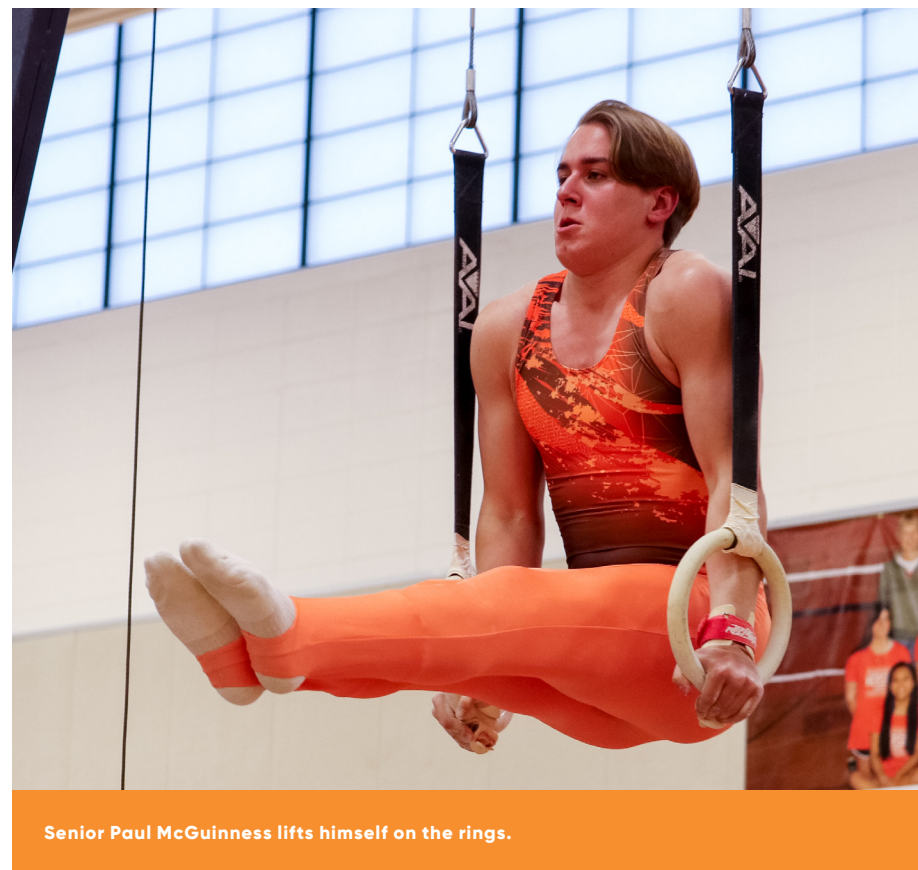
Senior Jane Stefaniak dribbles the ball toward Lake Zurich's goal.

PHOTO BY TIM PAK



Senior Andi Contanu gets ready to throw the ball.

PHOTO BY MAX GARCIA



Senior Paul McGuinness lifts himself on the rings.

PHOTO BY TIM PAK



Freshman Annika Shah runs the 4x4.

PHOTO BY TINA KRASNIQI



The Huskies group up and get ready to play again after a timeout.

PHOTO BY JIA SKRUDLAND



Senior Victoria Babinski goes up for the triple block alongside juniors Alexa Knutson and Taylor Tracz.

PHOTO BY JIA SKRUDLAND



TOP: Freshman Catherine Hany runs the 4x400.  
BOTTOM: Girls Soccer groups up during halftime.

PHOTO BY TINA KRASNIQI



TOP: The Huskies prepare to sack Stevenson's quarterback.  
BOTTOM: Senior Matthew Konopka makes a move on the rings.

PHOTO BY TIM PAK



PHOTO BY TIM PAK



PHOTO BY TIM PAK

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