

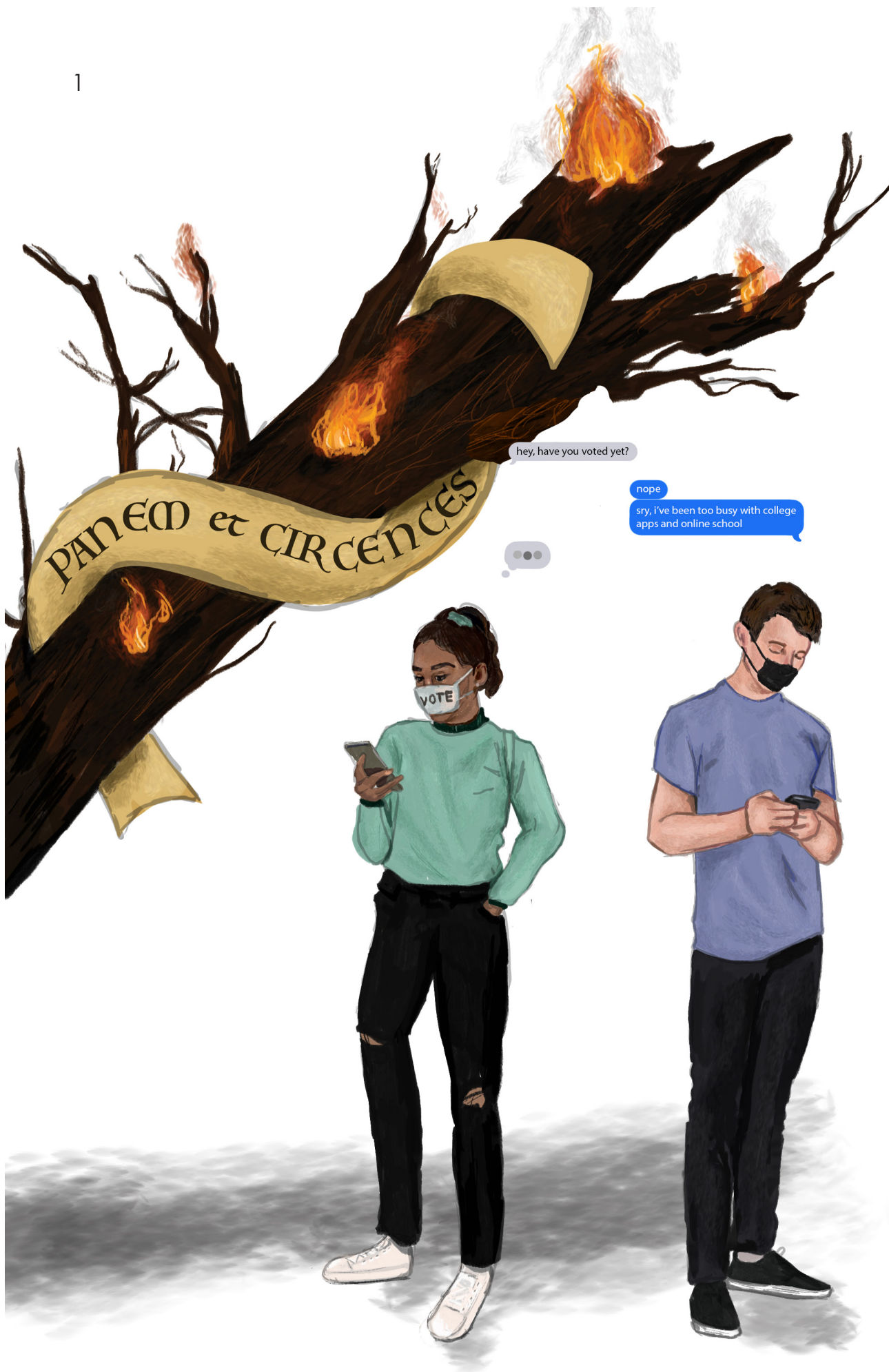
THE

November 2020

PANIC

RESCUENCE





“Give them bread and circuses and they will never revolt.”

Bread and circuses is a phrase attributed to Juvenal, a Roman poet (1st Century AD), describing politicians and a public that seek and give approval based **not** on excellent public service or public policy, but on superficial diversion or distraction.

Have you seen style on pg. 29??

Election articles on page 3...

Feature on pg. 13!

COVER AND INSIDE COVER BY
KELSEA PETERSEN

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A New Era of Participation in Politics

For teenagers, taking part in elections hasn't always been something of great desire. Recently, this has changed. What are we supposed to do? Watch this madness unfold around us? Allow the world and government to stray even further away from morality and sanity? These are revised times, and what we say and do as a group, especially a younger generation with such influence, actually matters. But how far can our efforts go if we can't actually vote or literally make an impact on the government?

At 16, most teenagers have enough maturity and capacity to understand politics. And, we want to understand and participate in it. We want to play a meaningful part in government; we want to influence the major decisions that could impact our lives. In this most recent election, we have

seen many people, including those in positions of power, consider write-in nominations for the presidential election. These write-ins have included the likes of fictional and deceased people. If adults, who are not only permitted but expected to vote, choose to throw away their opportunities to exert their rights and duties as American citizens, it's unreasonable to say that teens are too far removed from politics or irresponsible to vote. We believe that teenagers, specifically 16 and 17 year olds, are fully capable and willing to take that responsibility. Teenagers should be given the right to vote. At 16, you're able to start driving, working, and even get married in some states. With these rights and responsibilities, shouldn't voting be one of them?

This is even more significant of an issue when

teenageres are just at the cutoff of the voting age. Some teenagers are months, maybe weeks, possibly even days away from being able to vote. These teens have to wait another four years to be able to vote, meanwhile this current election is vital in deciding the future of climate change, healthcare, wealth disparity, and much more. Teenagers will be turning into adults during the time that these decisions are implemented and in full effect. For teens right at the cut off of the voting age, this is beyond disheartening. While they live in a time defined by helplessness and despair, it's important to look long and hard, both forward and backwards, at the systems of electorate we've put in place here in the United States of America

-The Editorial Staff



GRAPHIC BY KELSEA PETERSEN

Amy Coney Barrett's Potential Impact on the Supreme Court

BY LANG HANLEY

On September 26th, President Donald Trump nominated U.S. Appeals Court Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court. If Barrett is confirmed, she will replace a historic figure in liberal justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who passed away at age 87 on September 18th.

Barrett's nomination has brought plenty of controversy to the Supreme Court as her selection comes just over 5 weeks before election day, and according to her granddaughter, Clara Spera, Justice Ginsburg's dying wish was that she did not want a new justice confirmed until a new president is elected. In addition, many have also pointed out that in 2016, Republicans blocked President Obama's nomination to replace Justice Antonin Scalia with the reasoning that it was too close to the election.

Besides the controversy, who exactly is Amy Coney Barrett? She is a mother of 7 and lives in South Bend, Indiana near the University of Notre Dame where she teaches law. She is a devout Catholic and a member of People of Praise, a small Christian group that involves a lifetime oath and a system of leadership where each member is given a head to help them with "practical and spiritual advice." It has been reported

that for married women, their "head" is their husband, which is an idea that many would argue goes against modern gender roles and notions of equality. Barrett received her undergraduate degree from Rhodes College in Memphis before attending Notre Dame Law School. After that, she served as a clerk for several appeals court judges before eventually working for Justice Scalia.

It is highly likely that Barrett will be confirmed, given the 53-47 majority Republican senate. What does this mean for the Court? Barrett has been very public in her fondness for the late Scalia, and is an "originalist" just as he was. As an originalist, Barrett attempts to interpret the Constitution as it was understood when it was originally ratified. She is a staunch conservative and the current balance of the Court would be shifted even to the right were she appointed.

Two issues that have been widely discussed as potentially being impacted by Barrett are abortion rights and gun control restrictions. Her legal views on abortion are not entirely clear from her previous rulings, but her statements made in the public eye as well as her deeply held religious conviction give some indication. Before the 2016 election at a Jacksonville University event, Barrett was asked about how a Trump Supreme

Court would impact abortion rights and she answered that while she did not think *Roe v. Wade* would be overturned, "the question of whether people can get very late-term abortions, how many restrictions can be put on clinics – I think that would change." Of course, these comments align with her faith and the Catholic churches opposition to abortions but just like any other legal figure there is not really a sure way to tell the extent to which her religious views effect her legal standpoints. Besides a 2019 dissent where Barrett wrote that felons should have access to guns, she has never actually made a decision on gun control. However, as an originalist it would not be surprising if Barrett sought to expand gun rights as much as possible. In addition to these two issues, *Obama Care*, or the *Affordable Care Act*, has also been a widely discussed topic since Barrett's nomination given that the Supreme Court will hold oral arguments on its constitutionality on November 10th.

While Barrett is yet to be confirmed, what decisions she could take as a justice, given her relatively young age of 48 for a Supreme Court appointee, means that her impact will be a lasting one.

Students Across the DMV Push for Universal High School Voter Registration

BY RACHEL LONKER AND DEVLIN ORLIN

"We're going to register every single eligible high school senior in Montgomery County to vote," says B-CC Senior Nora Fairbanks, the Voter Registration Coordinator for the B-CC branch of the county student advocacy organization MoCo4Change (MC4C).

MoCo4Change has launched a project called MoCo to 100, which has a branch in each MCPS high school, along with many area private schools, to register every senior (who is a US citizen, and therefore able to register) to vote, even if they cannot cast a ballot in this election. They're using mass data organization techniques, and the effort is completely student driven.

Anand Chitnis, a Richard Montgomery Senior, and member of MoCo4Change's executive board, explained the inspiration behind this year's goal, saying, "[MC4C] has been doing an annual voter

registration drive with the County Board of Elections and Montgomery County Regional SGA and those have been super successful. We worked to create MoCo to 100 because this election is so important for so many reasons and the youth vote has historically low turnout in elections—we even saw low turnout in the Maryland primaries."

MC4C is joined in organizing this effort by the Youth Activism Project, a student-led non-profit supporting democratic youth organizing. Anika Manzoor, Executive Director of the organization, says the importance of the lofty goal is proving the power of young activists, explaining, "if we're able to show that youth organizers are capable of registering all eligible high school voters, that could mean a lot for youth voting efforts in the future."

B-CC's Fairbanks added that this was possible through the creation of a mass spreadsheet, ensuring that efforts do reach every senior.

"After the first few weeks, we've registered about 100 people at B-CC alone, through clubs and groups all over the school," says Fairbanks.

Youth activists outside of the county are also pushing for high school students to vote, with Georgetown Day School Junior Maddie Feldman organizing programs aimed at reforming legislation, increasing voter registration, and



GRAPHICS BY KELSEA PETERSEN

improving civic education. Through her synagogue and high school, Feldman has "organized non-partisan programming that unites high school students across the DMV to fight disenfranchisement in the tri-state area and in key swing states." She believes it is vital to vote, as "the ballot box is the easiest way to make change and represent your opinion."

Lindsay Kramer, a senior at Bethesda Chevy-Chase High School echoes this sentiment, saying "every vote matters. It's especially important to vote if you're young because these are the issues that affect your future."

Chitnis of MC4C concludes his argument for MoCo to 100 and universal high school voter registration saying, "We wanted to do something super bold and big to highlight the importance of this election, help youth voters navigate difficult and confusing voting circumstances due to the pandemic, and help students establish voter efficacy." Seniors can support their mission by visiting mocoto100.carrrd.co and voting in this year's election.





There's No Debate: Presidential Debates Are Important

BY KARENNA BARMADA AND SAMMY SCHUCHMAN

The first presidential debate was an absolute disaster. No matter who you plan on voting for this coming November, there is simply no excuse for the atrocious and chaotic spectacle that looked straight out of Saturday Night Live. Because of the lack of civilized conversation, in addition to really any productive discourse, many are calling for the cancellation of the remaining debates.

Now, while this may be tempting at first, there are a plethora of reasons why this course of action is very unwise, and ultimately will do more bad than good for the American political system.

To begin, no matter how messy they are, the presidential debates are critical for the public to gain insight into the ideas, personalities, and values of the two men squaring off for the right to lead our country. Since the 1850s and the Lincoln-Douglas debates, presidential debates, in addition to being extremely entertaining, have been an excellent way for the people to learn more about the policies and personalities of the candidates running for office.

On September 23rd while in a presser, President Trump responded to the question of would his administration have a peaceful transition of power after the presidential election by saying, "Well we're going to have to see what happens."

"An excellent way for the people to learn more about the policies and personalities of the candidates running for office."

For many, this refusal to guarantee a principle so vital and essential to what our democracy stands for is the latest development in a building narrative led by President Trump with efforts to undermine the credibility of the election process. This, combined with President Trump's repeated complaints about being a victim of intense media

bias, would mean that any cancellation of the debates would only fuel Trump's ongoing narrative of him being silenced by the establishment, and of an election process that differs from the norm.

Ultimately, it is silly to outright abolish a long lasting tradition solely as a direct result of the unfortunate display that the first debate played out to be. It is expected that there will be significant changes that will be implemented in the debates to come that will prevent chaos that took place on September 29. The Commission on Presidential Debates in an official statement the day after the opening debate declared, "Last night's debate made clear that additional structure should be added to the format of the remaining debates to ensure a more orderly discussion of the issues."

For the sake of the future of this country, instead of running from the intense political polarization and inability to discuss policy, let's try to make a way to make real discussion possible, and piece by piece make our country a little more united while we're at it.

The Impact of the Debate: The Undecided Become Disinterested

BY NIKKI MIRALA

On Tuesday, September 29, presidential candidates President Donald Trump and former-Vice President Joe Biden met on stage at the Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic for the first 2020 Presidential debate. A night characterized by chaotic interruptions and unheeded commentary has left undecided voters even more perplexed on the question of who is best fit to serve our country, leaving many to wonder if they should even vote at all.

This debate focused on six key topics: the Trump and Biden records, the Supreme Court, COVID-19, the economy, race and violence in our cities, and the integrity of the upcoming election. However, many believe that the chaos of the debate seemed to have outweighed the candidate's positions on these issues. In a virtual focus group made up of 16 undecided voters streamed by the Los Angeles Times, 4 formerly undecided voters said that after watching the debate they will now vote for Biden, and only 1 said that they have decided to vote for Trump. However, the rest were still undecided and left with even more questions than they initially had prior the debate. "How can you still be undecided after watching that debate?" The focus group moderator asks.

"They really didn't answer the questions I was looking forward to," says a still undecided voter, "I really wanted to hear more about race relations and civil unrest... also how they were going to help the American public when it comes

to COVID-19."

For undecided voters, this debate was crucial to be able to listen to each candidate and finally decide who they would vote for come November, but many found that "we didn't learn anything new. We learned that they play loose with numbers, they attack one another, and avoid the issues when they can. They didn't answer so many important questions." The chaos of the debate has turned off many, and without having gained clear answers to crucial questions, undecided voters are looking towards forgoing voting entirely this election.

"Have some facts, stay away from the personality and stick to the substance."

Overall, voters had complaints about the performance of both candidates. "Donald Trump is a known quantity. I know Donald Trump after the past 4 years, and I know what he is gonna say, but Biden didn't convince me of anything and he didn't talk policy," says an undecided voter. "It's hard to vote on the known of Trump or the unknown of Biden's policies. How can I put him in charge for 4 years if he doesn't have an answer to these questions?" While there were interruptions on Biden's part as well, many feel that Trump excessively interrupted Biden which moderator Chris Wallace pointed out during the

debates as well. This behavior caused irritation and mayhem, forcing many to just stop watching the debate all together.

According to voters, this debate was frustratingly centered around each candidate explaining why the nation shouldn't vote for the opposing candidate, rather than each candidate explaining why America should vote for them. "What I wanna see for the next debate is Biden defending why he should be elected, and Trump doing the same for himself. Not either of them saying why I shouldn't vote for the other," an undecided voter said.

When asked what advice they would give to each candidate for the next debates, the responses were clear. On Donald Trump, one said "give me a reason to vote for you, Trump! He's acted in a way that has made it so hard for someone to tell anyone they are voting for him. Learn to become coachable," he continues, "have some facts, stay away from the personality and stick to the substance." When the conversation turned to discussing Biden, the main message was that voters want him to "stay focused and stay away from replicating Trump's poor behavior."

This debate was intended to be a pivotal moment for undecided voters to come to a conclusion as to who they will cast their vote for in November, but now undecided voters are more perplexed than ever, and if no progress is made during the next debates, those same undecided voters will perhaps not vote at all.

A Time for Choosing.

BY ELI GLICKMAN

On September 23 in a White House press conference, President Donald Trump was asked point-blank if he would guarantee “a peaceful transferral of power after the election.” Mr. Trump replied: “well we’re going to have to see what happens.” For me, a registered Republican, this is the thousandth last straw; it should be yours too.

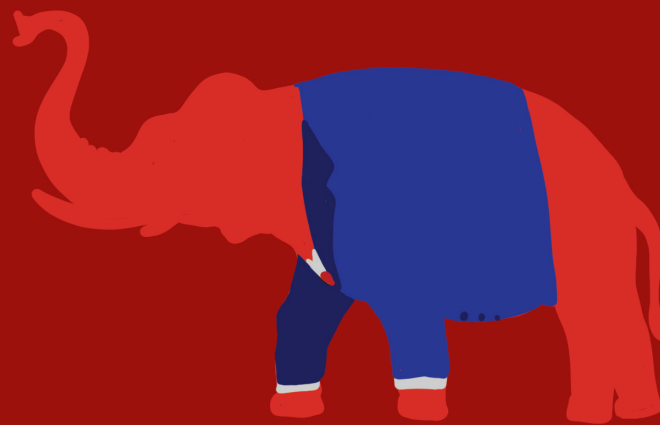
Peaceful transfer of power is a long and hallowed American tradition that dates back to this country’s inception; it is—without question—the cornerstone of an electoral democracy. Mr. Trump’s willingness to question the legitimacy of an election solely because he believes he might lose, and his propensity to threaten the foundations of the American democracy make him a definitively un-American pick for president.

Over the past few months there has been an explosion of support among Republicans for the Democratic nominee for president of the U.S, Joe Biden, and his running mate, Kamala Harris. This is because of a realization that is sweeping across much of the Republican voter base: President Trump is neither representative of American values nor Republican values. The GOP platform from 2016 (which was re-adopted by the Republican National Convention in 2020) reads: “We are also the party of the Constitution, the greatest political document ever written. It is the solemn compact built upon principles of the Declaration that enshrines our God-given individual rights and ensures that all Americans stand equal before the law, defines the purposes and limits of government, and is the blueprint for ordered liberty that makes the United States the world’s freest and most prosperous nation.” Mr. Trump’s deriding of the legitimacy of the election and the press have violated the sanctity of our constitution.

The Republican Party platform’s preamble continues, “The men and women of our military remain the world’s best.” Mr. Trump lambasted the late decorated Vietnam War hero John McCain saying, “I like people who weren’t captured.” Recently, it was revealed that President Trump called fallen service members “suckers” and “losers.” Worst of all, Mr. Trump’s proposed budget will slash the Medicaid budget \$900 billion over the next decade which will negatively impact 1.7 million veterans who rely on Medicaid in addition to their benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Do not justify your vote for the President because he ‘is a Republican.’ Mr. Trump’s presidency has flouted the core values of the Republican party; his unwillingness to commit to protecting our most sacred democratic tradition crystallized the fact that he is not a Republican.

As Republicans and Democrats submit their ballots this year it is more important than ever to recall President Reagan’s timeless words in his 1964 speech A Time for Choosing: “it’s time we ask ourselves if we still know the freedoms that were intended for us by the Founding Fathers.” This administration has time and time again threatened to encroach on both our free and fair elections and our democracy’s right to peaceful transfer of power. This election we must decide to cast aside the dangerous, and frequently racist political rhetoric that has ensnared the Republican Party under Mr. Trump and ensure that Vice President Biden is elected to restore order, sanity, and security to our democracy.

**“Do not justify your vote
for the President because
he is a Republican.”**





GRAPHIC BY KELSEA PETERSEN

BY MACK FISHER

Donald Trump is creating a United States that uses rubber bullets and tear gas to get himself a photo op. He will keep saying “The Chinavirus isn’t happening.” He will lead this country down a dark and scary path, and we don’t know what’s at the end. This election will define the next four years of an era that requires a leader, someone who can tell the truth, and someone who can make a difference.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg has died. That’s the notification that showed up on our phones on the night of September 18th, and made some of us wonder what will happen next. If President Trump can somehow get a Judge in to replace RBG in the next 2 months, then it will be trouble. The person that he has nominated, Amy Coney Barrett, is a very religious person who has been critical of the case of *Roe v. Wade*, which protects a women’s right to have an abortion. “I think the

question of whether people can get very late-term abortions, you know, how many restrictions can be put on clinics, I think that will change,” she said in 2016 when asked what she would do about abortions. It will definitely be a challenge for President Trump to get a person with those opinions through the Senate.

The Coronavirus is making the 2020 election more challenging and more important. Trump has handled the crisis, “perfectly,” like he has said in the many rallies he’s had during the crisis. But we all know that he has made this crisis even more of a disaster. Mail-in voting is shaping up to be a problem as well, with Trump ENCOURAGING people to vote twice. There will be numbskulls who actually try to do that because they look up to him. They support him even though they tell news stations they “don’t really care.” He has, MORE THAN ONCE, supported misleading claims about COVID-19. For example,

he supported the use of the drug hydroxychloroquine for coronavirus treatment, which the FDA warned should NOT be used to fight COVID-19. He has repeatedly said that young people aren’t affected by Coronavirus, which is not true at all. If a young person gets COVID-19, then they can spread it to people that are more vulnerable to the disease, such as their grandparents. If President Trump gets voted out this November, Biden will take an entirely different approach than Trump by not keeping information from the public. For one, he’ll tell people the truth of what the pandemic is doing. If Trump wins again, it is going to be a long four years.

Donald Trump needs to get out. It’s as simple as that. He is a liar and a cheater. He will do anything to win. This election will make history, and you should be glad that you’re alive to witness it.

Protests at Moses African Cemetery



PHOTO BY MALIK QUINN

BY SADIQUL IRFAN

Bethesda residents have continued to protest construction on top of the Moses African Cemetery on River Road, one of the largest mass graves in the country. The cemetery is the resting place of many enslaved African American's, including those brought over through the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. These protests have been ongoing since Bethesda Self-Storage was given the green-light to build atop the cemetery.

Those opposing construction argue that burials at the cemetery date back to the Civil War era and potentially even further back.

For the last three years, Marsha Coleman-Adebayo, one of the leaders of the Bethesda African Cemetery Coalition (BACC), has been trying to

find ways to stop the project to allow archaeologists and anthropologists to survey the land for human remains. Coleman-Adebayo met with the President of Bethesda Self-Storage, but said the meeting was "very disappointing".

Timothy Dugan, a lawyer for Bethesda Self Storage, assured them that they are not working on a burial site and said that they have an archaeologist to make sure they are not violating any state or federal laws. He added that if a body was found, it would immediately be reported to law enforcement.

Coleman-Adebayo and the rest of the BACC have pledged to continue to fight as they peacefully protest the construction atop the cemetery.

Join B-CC Reading Partners!

BY NIKKI MIRALA

Over this past summer, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School social studies teacher, Dr. Hogewood, introduced a remarkable program in which high school students were paired up with elementary school students to help and encourage them to continue reading in the midst of a pandemic without regular access to school and educational resources.

Students got in contact with their partner from Rock Creek Forest Elementary School and set up meetings with one another through Zoom. High school students had the freedom to decide what each meeting looked like and would be focused on which is what B-CC Junior and member of the reading program, Julia Butler, enjoys most about the program, explaining how as a member she is "in charge of scheduling meetings, communicating with my partner, and picking out books that I think they would enjoy." Some read online books through the "Share Screen" feature on Zoom, while others had their reading partner use books they currently own and read out loud to their partner. After reading, high school students debriefed the book with their partner and critically analysed the text to replicate the type of instruction they would receive in school.

Julia said that she decided to join B-CC Reading Partners "because I've always enjoyed working with younger kids, and I thought this would be a great way to help them with their school skills during such an overwhelming time." One can only imagine how it feels to be a young child stuck at home in the years essential for the development of social skills and knowledge that in-school learning provides. However, the reading program provides an excellent opportunity for students to receive that same instruction and continue their path of academic success.

If you're interested in joining the program or would like more information, please email Dr. Hogewood at Hunter_H_Hogewood@mcpsmd.org.



GRAPHIC BY KELSEA PETERSEN

Not B-CC TV?



BY LAURA JULIA FLEISCHMANN

Through comedic segments, school news, sports coverage, and more, B-CC TV has become an integral part of the B-CC community. With hundreds of online subscribers and weekly viewers, the Capital Emmy Award winning student run show gives students, teachers, and alumni a fun thing to look forward to every Friday. The program not only brings smiles to viewers' faces, but opens up room to discuss serious issues facing our school community.

Like most school activities and programs, B-CC TV was unsure how to operate in the new COVID-19 environment, but they were determined to not let COVID-19 stop the production of the show.

Booker McCann, one of the producers for the show, turned his basement into a filming site. However, just 1 episode into season 5, B-CC administration decided to stop B-CC TV from being able to film as a school affiliated program. Admin cited the fact that cast members were not accurately following social distancing and COVID-19 guidelines as the reason for this decision.

"We will be separating from the school to maintain our creative independence"

Following this announcement, B-CC TV and various cast members posted an Instagram story saying #FREEBCCCTV. Later, they changed their Instagram handle to @notbectv. On October 2nd, the B-CC TV Instagram account posted saying, "We're not done making the content you know and love, but we will be separating from the school to maintain our creative independence. Stay tuned." From this point forward, the official school-sanctioned show will be on a hiatus until these guidelines are lifted.

When asked what B-CC TV will be doing in the future, a cast member told the Tattler that "some students may continue making segments in their free time without any affiliation to the class or school. A mix of these projects will be put together so we can continue to release a quality product for the community to enjoy." The continuation of B-CC TV brings a sense of normalcy to student's lives. It will be interesting to see how they continue to create the content students look forward to each week without school affiliation.

Masses Gather Outside Walter Reed Medical Center



PHOTO BY COLE PHILPOTT

BY HANNAH GANDAL, LAURA-JULIA FLEISCHMANN
AND NIKKI MIRALA

On Friday, October 2, President Donald Trump announced via Twitter that both he and the first lady had tested positive for the coronavirus. Later that same day, he was abruptly transferred to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center where he spent the weekend and received various treatments pending his recovery. While the nation was filled with uncertainty regarding the president's condition and the state of the upcoming presidential election, what the media was most focused on was the sea of red hats and flags outside of Walter Reed. What would usually be an empty highway scattered with occasional commuters was now flooded with an expansive number of Trump supporters, counter protesters, and reporters.

Driving down the northbound curb of Rockville Pike, roaring chants such as "four more years" and "Trump 2020" rang in the air. Large groups outside Walter Reed could be seen holding a wide variety of items from Blue Lives Matter and MAGA flags to balloons and bouquets. Supporters from all around the country gathered in Bethesda, Maryland to wish their president a quick recovery, and to advocate for his possible reelection come November.

Tamara, a nurse from North Carolina interviewed by Politico, feels as though "there's more power in prayer" she continued, "so I wanted to come here and be with people and actually be near him as much as possible to pray for him."

"People have their opinions and flip us off and make rude comments," said another supporter, "But there's exponentially more people coming by and waving and honking and cheering and giving us a thumbs-up." Supporters have also stated that they feel as though the group's presence could inspire Trump supporters in Democratic Bethesda to become more inclined to show their support for him.

On the other side of the highway next to Walter Reed, a group of counter protesters were gathered. These individuals came together to show their opposition for President Donald Trump and his supporters who stood across the street. A student at B-CC, Noah Rosen, was one of the many who counter protested this seemingly chaotic event. He explained his motive for taking part in the counter protest as he lives near Walter Reed and, "it felt like they were invading my neighborhood, I wanted to go out and defend it." Noah added that the president's supporters called themselves the "Trump Army" and little to none of those in that group were wearing masks. This differentiates from the counter protesters, as "almost everyone on the side that I was on were wearing a mask. A Trump supporter even yelled at me to take off my mask."

With such conflicting groups so close together, there is much question for how civil the event could be.

Noah explained that, "for the most part people stayed respectful, but occasionally arguments would break out and each side would exchange

shouts." He mentioned that whenever a police car drove by, Trump's supporters would "burst out into cheer" and that "some pretty nasty things were said over a megaphone."

Noah's experience counter protesting outside of Walter Reed with 15 others was said to be a positive and relatively peaceful one, but was a very different one from the other perspectives.

For people living nearby, a huge influx of both protesters and counter protesters proved to be a nuisance and inconvenient. The Tattler talked to Eleanor Radke, a student at B-CC who lives walking distance to Walter Reed. She told us, "it wasn't bad at first but we couldn't keep our windows open for a while because the honking and yelling got really loud." Noise pollution to the area was a bother for many residents, who were used to Bethesda's normal tranquility. Eleanor added that "as time went on, the Trump supporters would come into my neighborhood to go back to their cars and they were unmasked. They went into the Harris Teeter in groups and walked around my apartment building yelling stuff like "Trump 2020!" and the occasional obscenity. It was really inconvenient. People around here wear masks all the time especially in stores and I'm used to feeling safe from coronavirus here." Eleanor wasn't alone. Many other residents in the area found the Trump supporter protests lack of masks and failure to support CDC guidelines very frightening. On October 4th, Bethesda area resident Julie Zebrak tweeted that she doesn't like Trump "infecting our air in Bethesda."

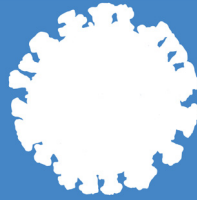


PHOTOS BY COLE PHILPOTT



Coronavirus Coverage

Superspreaders



BY SAM MOMENI

A rose garden party is presenting itself as the newest talking point in the neverending thread of coronavirus talking points. Sitting just under that new node in the string of discussion is the phrase “superspreader”. It’s been simultaneously a point of interest and a source of confusion, with its exact mechanics and properties not thought of in the most precise of terms imaginable, at least in the public’s mind. It’s useful to know what exactly makes someone fitting of the label “superspreader,” and what exact implications that title has for trying to pin down the virus.

As one of the critical points of consideration, it’s useful to first recognize that the term superspreader has no agreed upon definition. For the sake of epidemiologists during the pandemic, many efforts have been made to come up with appropriate definitions and criteria for superspreaders. The usable synthesis of these varying definitions involves some important takeaways.

In the most general sense, a superspreader can be thought of as any individual who spreads an infectious disease at an abnormally high rate. From a more mathematical sense, superspreaders are often identified by using a Poisson distribution in order to compare any given infected person to others in the same distribution. Like most other components of the superspreader, the exact “cause” behind what makes someone a superspreader is still under contention. It is thought, however, that there’s a certain cross between biological and environmental factors that become the determinants of whether or not someone is a superspreader. Anything ranging from how healthy the infected person feels over the initial span of time following infection due to their immune response, to how close they tend to get to people on a daily basis can all play a role. As has been discussed in depth, the idea of asymptomatic transmission also plays a role in who will become a superspreader.

Now, as both the niece and nephews that are

curiosity and concern have led people to, many are interested in what the unfolding of a superspreader event looks like. Given the level of disagreement, or even possibly comprehension, on the concept of a superspreader, it’s quite the challenge to lay out the “most typical” scenario that would play out. That said, some examples that have been given the classification of “superspreader” events would include events like the Sturgis Motorcycle event, which has picked up national attention for being a possible superspreader. In the cases where there are in fact a superspreader, local and extended infection rates can rise quite rapidly in a short period of time. This often is, although not always the case, an indicator of a possible superspreader. The tracking, discourse, debate, and inquiry of superspreaders will likely continue through and after the pandemic.



Vaccine Watch

BY THE TATTLER SCIENCE TEAM

Nearly 232 days after the beginning of lockdown, talk about a potential vaccine is at an all time high. Some might consider it warranted impatience, while others might assume the role of critics of the alleged “warp speed” the potential vaccines are being developed at. Whatever the case may be with the individual, the vaccines will come out whenever experts deem is safe. Because of this, while there is no terminal date being followed in strict obedience, it’s still possible for ordinary citizens to get the most informed sense on how development of the vaccine is going.

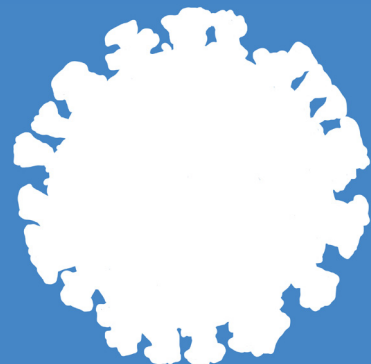
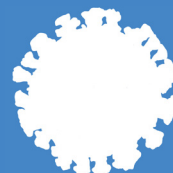
The first real “tip” to track the vaccine is to follow what’s considered a credible source.

While there may be some controversy over what should be considered a credible source, government agencies, departments, and related organizations are typically the best way to go. That said, most mainstream reporting will do an adequate job while possibly giving more detail depending on their aim.

The next best way to get a better sense of the development of the vaccines is to treat everything like a range, unless told otherwise. Due to the nature of the process, the most that can currently be provided is a possible range of time it could potentially take. Because of this, it’s important to get comfortable with the fact that only a range of time it could take can be provided. The best possible thing that could be done

in this scenario is to aggregate and estimate based on what the more general time frame being given is a variety of sources.

The last piece of advice that can be given is to try not to fixate too much on individual trials (unless there’s something major), and pay more attention to what experts want to see in trials across the board. While certain trials could be of relevance, sometimes reading into one trial can be quite distracting. To prevent this effect, it’s much more beneficial to listen to an expert’s analysis on what they would like to see done in terms of the timeline of the vaccine.



Sophie Barro: Black and Beyond

PHOTO BY ANDREW DEREK



BY RAEMI CHARLES

Senior Sophie Barro, 17, has grown to be one of B-CC's most engaged activists, and her work accelerated this summer. Following the death of Ahmaud Arbery, Barro's passion for raising awareness of racial injustice only grew. "It really opened up my eyes [to] how insensitive people can be and how zero accountability is being taken," she said.

After going to a Minority Scholars Program retreat one weekend, Barro said she began to take a look at her own county and discovered how "not anti-racist MCPS is, what students of color at a predominantly white school go through, and the lack of accountability taken."

As a black woman, the intersectionality of various issues that impact race disparities hit closer to home for her than many B-CC students.

Growing up in a predominantly white school has been hard for Sophie. "I struggled with [assimilation] so much in high school, I really wanted to fit in, I tried so hard, and it was embarrassing because that's not who I really was."

"It took a lot of guts to speak out about this issue... I just don't have anything to lose, I will keep doing what I have to do, and nobody's going to stop me," Barro said.

Gaslighting • n.

a form of psychological manipulation to make a person doubt themselves, their sanity, and/or their views



GRAPHIC BY SYDNEY THEIS

BY SAMMER HAJHAMAD

With the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement, many new words were introduced to our vocabulary, one being gaslighting. What does it mean? After scavenging the internet, I attempted to curate a definition that would summarize my findings. Here's what I came up with: gaslighting (noun) is a form of psychological manipulation to make a person doubt themselves, their sanity, and/or their views.

What role does it play within our current politics? When asked about her thoughts on gaslighting, CNN political correspondent Dana Bash said "It is the fact that you had to ask me that question. I mean, if you would have told me that, you know, five years ago that I would be talking to high school students, and they would be asking me about gaslighting, I would say, what are you talking about? I don't even know what that

means, first of all, back then. And it's just it's kind of heartbreaking, but that's where we are," She then continued with some advice for our youth, saying, "Look, the goal is to just find a source that you trust... But find a source that you trust that will give you the real information... know the source, know who you're getting it from."

Gaslighting also exists within the walls of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. Every time someone underestimates the existence of white supremacy, racism, homophobia, sexism, etc, they are fanning the flames that allow gaslighting to thrive. A B-CC Poms dancer recalled a few incidences in which she was made to feel gaslighted. "As a student of color on our school's predomi-

nantly white Poms team, I was always made to feel that I did not belong. When I brought these sentiments to the team's attention, I was quickly shut down. I was told that I was just jealous or upset that I didn't fit in. This is false. I was upset because I was being pushed out of a space and was denied opportunities and experiences because of my perceived identity. I now know that I had a right to be upset and to question our team's environment, and I will continue to do so, but in those moments, they made me doubt my beliefs and my values," she said.

Now that we all are more educated on this word, let us attempt to ensure that we are no longer contributing to it. Let us all fight to eliminate gaslighting at B-CC.

How The Pandemic has Brought Uncertainty to Standardized Testing

BY LANG HANLEY

Just months ago, the SAT and ACT seemed to be staples of the American educational system, but with the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, these two college admission tests are now at the center of controversy and uncertainty.

Many questions have arisen about the fairness and safety of these tests being included in the admissions process. At test-optional colleges will students who choose to submit scores be favored? Is in-person testing safe and fair for all? If the SATs have to be cancelled will it be fair to consider utilizing scores? The questions are innumerable.

Given the uncertainty surrounding the topic, there seems to be no perfect approach as to how colleges should be handling the situation. More than 60% of U.S. schools are test optional and 57 schools are not considering scores at all in the admissions process, also known as being "test blind" (USA Today).

76% of Maryland's Class of 2019 took the SAT
82% of Maryland's Class of 2018 took the SAT
 (data from the Washington Post)

Amid this uncertainty, a recent court ruling could end up providing some clarity. On September 1st, a judge ruled that the University of California (UC) system can no longer consider test scores in the admissions process. Alameda County Superior Court Judge Brad Seligman disagreed with UC Attorney's claim that submitting tests "can only help and never hurt an applicant" instead ruling that the tests are "treated as a plus factor" and that "students with disabilities [will] face greater barriers." Given this reasoning, Seligman issued a preliminary injunction to eliminate the consideration of SAT and ACT scores in the UC admissions process. While it may just be one court case, it is interesting to see how other schools react to this ruling and whether similar cases and rulings will arise. UC will be

test optional for fall 2021 and 2022 enrollment and then move to test blind enrollment 2023 and 2024.

38% of US Class of 1995 took the ACT
58% of US Class of 2018 took the ACT
 (data from the nces.ed.gov)

Tattler recently conducted a survey on the standing of the SAT and ACT among B-CC's senior class. The survey gathered student test participation data from 116 students, roughly 20% of the 2021 class. It also asked students for their opinions on whether or not schools should be accepting test scores, and whether students will or will not be submitting their scores. For both the ACT and SAT a majority of students said they did not take the tests before school closed in early March. Similarly, a majority of students also reported that they have not taken either test since the closing. In addition the survey asked students if they plan on taking either test moving forward and a strong majority of students said they do not, 76% for the SAT and 85% for the ACT.

Based on the survey responses, students who have taken the test seem divided on whether or not they'll submit their scores. Students satisfied with their scores mainly said they do plan on submitting and one student reasoned that "even though colleges have issued statements saying they are test optional... [i'm] still going to try to submit anything that can possibly give me a leg up in the admissions process." On the other hand, many students who are not submitting scores shared similar reasoning. Many students shared they no longer feel the need to submit their scores due to the amount of schools that have gone test optional. Several students also shared their disappointment with the pandemic's effects on their test scores. One student shared they won't be submitting their score because they "feel that it is not reflected properly because I was only

able to take it once and wasn't able to again because they continuously got cancelled" and another shared that they "really wish I could retake it in a safe environment but I can't."

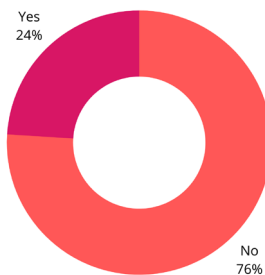
The survey also revealed a definite division in student opinions on whether schools should be accepting scores, with only a slight majority of students saying yes. Most students who said yes reasoned that it would be unfair not to take scores because it would discount the hard work of students. However, many of them also mentioned that scores should not be as much of a factor as previous years due to the pandemic. There was common reasoning among the students who said no as well. Many raised points on the equity of standardized testing in general with one student calling the tests "another process of the college application system that gives rich kids the advantage." Others brought up points on how students may feel unsafe taking the tests at this point and also general statements on how accurate standardized testing really is of a student's intellect: "one could be an A plus student in the classroom but be unsuccessful when it comes to taking a 3-4 hour test and get a score that does not truly represent how educated they are."

Throughout the responses most students on either side acknowledged the points of the others, conveying how at these times of uncertainty, many are still formulating their opinions on what is an important and polarizing topic.

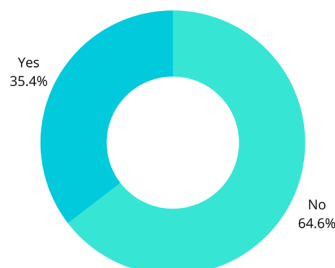
Currently, there is not much clarity as to how students and schools should be handling standardized testing. There remains a plethora of opinions on the fairness and safety of these tests and over the course of the next few months, colleges and universities will have to look into how different factors such as wealth, disabilities, resource access, and more factor into their final decisions. Only time will tell what short and long-term changes will come with this unique and unsolved situation.

A Survey of B-CC's Class of

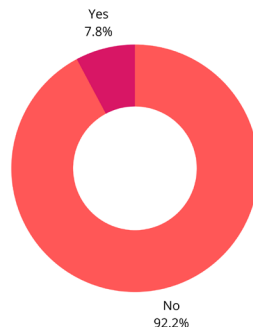
Did you take the ACT before March 2020?



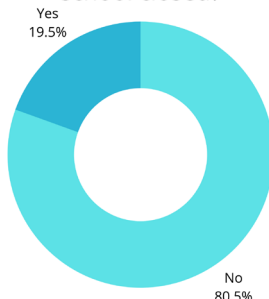
Did you take the SAT before March 2020?



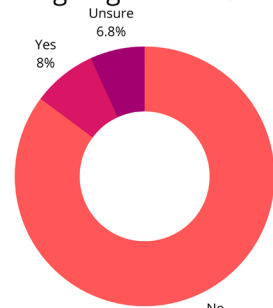
Have you taken the ACT since school closed?



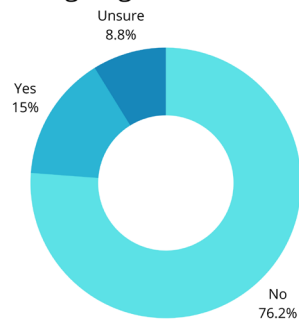
Have you taken the SAT since school closed?



Do you plan on taking the ACT going forward?



Do you plan on taking the SAT going forward?



GRAPHIC BY RAEMI CHARLES

College Admissions in a Time Like None Other

BY MIMI DANZIS AND KATE FITZGERALD

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic has dragged into the 2020-2021 school year, many seniors are still preparing to apply to college. However, the college admissions process has been drastically changed since the class of 2020 applied last year. Students are left asking themselves: are colleges going to require standardized testing, are the grades from last year going to be counted, what about all the extracurricular activities that I couldn't do, and most importantly, how will I set myself apart from other applicants?

Standardized testing raised a large amount of concern. No one knew where to take the SAT/ACT or even if they should. Most schools have declared they are test-optional and are not requiring standardized testing this year. Some universities are taking this as an opportunity to examine how important these tests really are. Many smaller schools, like Swarthmore College and Harvey Mudd College, are not requiring test scores for the next two years. "We are not encouraging students to take these tests. It is perfectly fine if the student has not taken or chooses not to report these test results," said Peter Osgood, the Director of Admission at Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California. In past years they were requiring subject test scores, but this year, they mentioned that they will not even look at them. Jim Block, Vice President and Dean of Admissions at Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, said, "[Swarthmore] is doing a two year pilot program for the class of 2021 and 2022, and we will be test optional. We wouldn't want students to be at a disadvantage, and this will unfortunately not be a one year issue." The decision to go test score optional was not done in the typical way. As Jeff Schiffman, the director of Admissions at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana, puts it, "usually it takes years of research and data and has to go through lots of approval processes," but this year, Tulane made the decision to go test score optional in just one week.

Every school district took a different approach when it came to grading last year. Some schools went to a pass/fail system, others froze grades, and others kept letter grades. Many universities have been anticipating this and are accepting applicants grades at face value. Harvey Mudd College said that "it is not our place to doubt the school's decisions or actions." Many schools, however, do what's called holistic review in their admissions process. Holistic review is the idea that GPA and test scores do not accurately reflect a student's intelligence and capability, and they look at other factors such as extracurriculars, jobs, and the character of the applicant. They want to consider the applicant as a person and try to get to know them when deciding whether to admit them to their college. One school that does this is the University of Connecticut. "We begin to review not only GPA. We also look at the students' character. We want to know how much of an opportunity students had at their school to challenge themselves, and if they didn't, we want to focus on... the reason they didn't. We want to

know if students took advantage of the opportunities they were given. Students are competing within their own environment, not against students from other high schools," said Aida Silva, Senior Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions at UConn. Other schools, however, are looking at grading differently such as Tulane University which stated that "Grades will always be important even if the student is pass/fail this may make it more important."

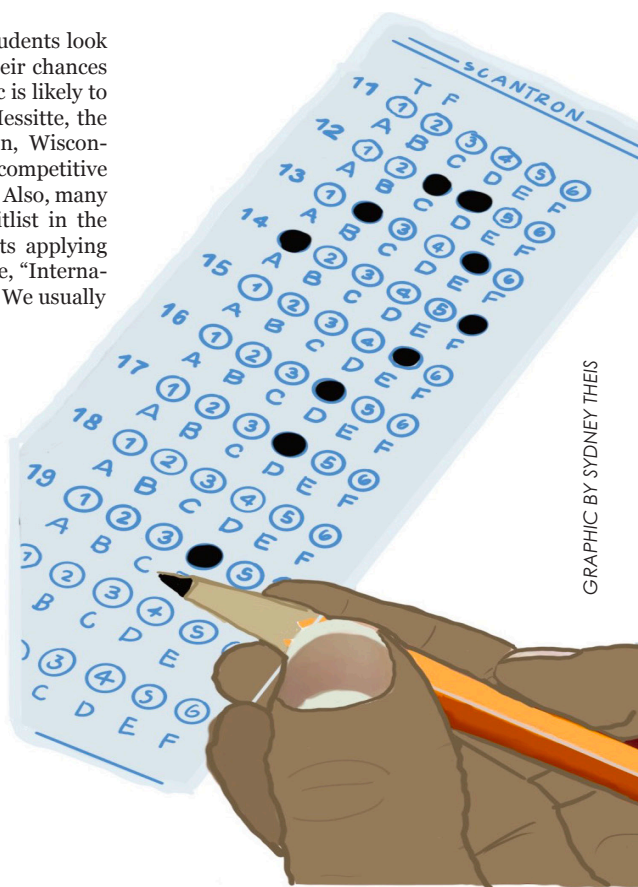
Throughout all of high school there has always been pressure to participate in as many extracurriculars as possible, but obviously things have changed since last school year, and most universities understand that participating in extracurricular activities is not possible for many high school students this year. Tulane University said that if there was "a giant eight month hole in the students application, we would not even bat an eye." Schiffman went as far to say that he "would be actually concerned if I saw a student doing extracurriculars in the pandemic." Peter Osgood from Harvey Mudd College said something similar, explaining that they "will understand and empathize if activities and events important to the student were cut short," but they would love to know if "the student developed new interests or hobbies with some new found time." Swarthmore College said they are taking a similar approach, stating, "We recognize that extracurriculars were interrupted. We care less about what you do, than why you do it and we know that disruption was real in the spring. We anticipate that distribution. Our question for [applicants] is not so much how that impacted you, but what did you learn about yourself and how it recommitted you to your academic interest and/or extracurricular pursuits."

When applying to college, many students look to the acceptance rate to estimate their chances of admission. However, the pandemic is likely to skew those illusive numbers. Zach Messitte, the President of Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin, said, "my guess is that the most competitive schools will become easier to get into. Also, many schools went deeper into their waitlist in the spring." As for international students applying to American schools, at Ripon College, "International numbers have gone way down. We usually

have about 30 per class of 250, and the numbers have gone way down to single digits," Messitte said. Less international applicants could make it easier for students in the United States to get into certain colleges. Harvey Mudd College thinks that they will have a smaller applicant pool due to the fact that "Colleges can no longer visit high schools or attend live college fairs. Virtual sessions are not at all the same as personal connection," and kids can not attend tours to see if the school would be a good fit. Osgood also thinks that many kids will want to stay closer to home. Tulane, on the other hand thinks that they "will not see fewer applicants. I think the question will be enrolled students." They do not believe that students are not applying right now because of COVID-19 but "they will apply and then see what the world will look like in the months when they need to make this decision." If there is an impact on admissions from the pandemic that leads to a decrease in applicants and enrolled students, "it may erode small liberal arts schools like Ripon," Messitte said. Whereas, larger state universities may be able to take the hit that a decrease in applicants and enrollment may bring. No school is entirely sure what the application pool will look like.

There are still a lot of uncertainties in the admissions process for this year and years to come. Even admissions directors are not entirely sure of what is going to happen. Therefore, as application deadlines come closer, students should understand that they are not the only ones who are unsure of what's to come.

**"They will apply
and then see
what the world
will look like in
the months when
they need to
make this
decision."**



GRAPHIC BY SYDNEY THEIS

The College Experience... in a Global Pandemic



GRAPHIC BY KELSEA PETERSEN

BY AIDAN FRANZE AND MAURA RYAN

Lecture halls filled with eager students, community gatherings in the quad, hanging out in dorm rooms, and so much more. The college experience is truly one like no other. For many, it's a place where you can find yourself, make lifelong friends, and figure out what you want to do with your life. Unfortunately for the college students of 2020, everything is different. So, what is it like to go to college amid a global pandemic? What is different? What is the same? And is it worth it?

As many are aware, a school can be shut down in an instant if enough cases arise, seen in some schools already such as James Madison University. To keep that from happening, many universities have taken very serious precautions. Nico Altamar, a freshman at Wake Forest University, said at his school "there are several campus police officers and other staff members patrolling the campus to prevent any large gatherings." The breaking of these rules is not taken lightly as Altamar said, "students who are not following the safety measures are punished through the removal of campus housing, suspension, or even expulsion." Along with this, Anna Roberson, a freshman at Emerson College in Boston, MA, stated her school strictly enforces social distancing, explaining that "a few students have already been sent home for having 6 people in a dorm room." Roberson said there have "only been 5 cases on campus since mid-August" due to the stringent protocols they have implemented. With enrollment being less than 4,000 undergraduate students at Emerson, Roberson stated, "the school can enforce stricter protocols and test students weekly, making it easier to control the virus." It is clear that most universities are taking this pandemic seriously.

Many schools in the South, located in areas that have had difficulty keeping cases down to begin with, leave many wondering how they are handling COVID-19. A freshman at the University of South Carolina, Anna Hirst, noted that the school "requires students to wear masks when in any school-related building." That being said, Hirst remarked that students are still going out off-campus despite these on-campus efforts to contain the virus and the schools promise to "ex-

pel or suspend students that are partying in large groups." Bea Houston, a freshman at the University of Maryland, another large university, noted "there are restrictions on people meeting inside dorms," however, many students have been attending gatherings off campus and as a result, "in one day alone there were 54 new cases," but "since then only about 2 or less per day." With larger schools, there are more people to control, meaning more possibilities for contracting the virus. This is one of the main struggles universities are having right now- control. On campus the schools can enforce the rules pretty well, but, unfortunately, the same can't be said for off-campus. There is essentially nothing that can be done to stop these students from gathering and putting themselves or others at risk of contracting the virus once they have left the university. For most schools, especially schools in the south that would be considered 'hotspots', this has become a large complication.

There is no denying that The United States has been one of the countries hit the hardest with the pandemic. As seen, this has led to some very harsh and strict precautions in colleges to keep students safe. However, many places outside of the United States have managed to handle the pandemic much more gracefully. One would think that perhaps since some countries are not as ridiculed with cases maybe their precautions are less strict. Unfortunately, for these abroad college students, that has not been the case. Although yes, many countries are doing much better when it comes to coronavirus cases, that does not mean the precautions are lighter. Kesh Khanna, a freshman at McGill University in Canada, said that "on campus and in dorms they strictly enforce mask-wearing and social distancing measures." Khanna added that "the school is giving out strikes for breaking the safety rules, and after three strikes you are recommended for eviction from housing." It looks like no matter where you are, no one is getting a true college experience this year.

Many distinguish their college experience through the abundance of people they meet from all over the country. These people they meet may later become their closest friends. Alas, with so

many restrictions in place regarding social gatherings, is this still the case? Anna Roberson noted that she has not even seen her hallmates faces, mentioning "the only time we are not in masks is when we are brushing our teeth or eating." Additionally, she has "not been to any sort of gathering." Nonetheless, this is not the same at every university. Altamar said that although he agrees that "it has been slightly harder to meet people as there are almost no social gatherings and no events that are organized by the school," he feels that he has still been able to make a "close group of friends."

The question now stands: is it worth it?

With so many new precautions, and crucial elements of the traditional college experience being taken away, many would have to wonder if it still is worth being there. Arjun Akwei, a freshman at Harvard University, said that despite the many new precautions, "the experience of meeting new people, building friend groups, and having honest, open, late-night chats is incredible, and you just can't replicate that virtually." Additionally, Bella Purvis, a freshman at the University of Richmond stated that she is "beyond happy to be at Richmond" despite the year being different. However, not all students are content with the unprecedented college experience they are experiencing. When asked how she felt about the matter, Roberson said that the year is too different for her, and in a way she "feels she is getting ripped off of the college experience." As for now, she is "just trying to get her credits out of the way".

No matter how you look at it, things are different. That's just how it is. For some, they are content with that, and others are left rather disappointed. Regardless, a new experience is a new experience. Is it what they might have expected or hoped for, no, but it is new. New can be good. That's the best way to look at it. Although things may not be ideal for these former B-CC students now, eventually everything will look up- until then, make the most of it.

The Pain Within B-CC's Walls

BY SAMMER HAJHAMAD

What impacts our high school experiences? In our current social climate, the answer that might jump to the front of your brain is race. But why is that? Why does the color of one's skin determine their high school experience? Most importantly, why are Students of Color's stories not being heard? Recently, many were able to take a sneak peek into what life looks like as a person of color at B-CC, via the @BCC accounts. If our school is accepting as people say, why is it that students feel the need to share their stories anonymously? I ask you all these questions because I want you to keep them in mind, as you read this. I would like for you all to question yourself on how you may or may not have contributed to their pains. Question the actions of your peers, teachers, administrations, friends, etc. We can not grow beyond these pains until all are addressed.

When asking Akosua Amankwah-Ayeh how her identity has impacted her experiences at B-CC HS, nervousness seemed to plague her body, and I could sense that even while sitting a few feet away from her. "As a black woman and a bisexual, the microaggressions were something we all had to deal with...students not being able to see you and your culture...it bogs you down and takes a toll on you," said Amankwah-Ayeh.

"Years of people, like not even just in BCC, but in Bethesda, in general, telling you to be ashamed of who you are. I just took the opposite," she said.

"It has taken a while, but being unapologetically a black woman and being proud about that is... my favorite thing to come out of this experience. The MSP [Minority Scholars Program] and the BSU [Black Student Union] gave me the

space to understand how other people express themselves...seeing that role model in the leaders, especially from like freshman year up till now helped me in my journey. Now that's me, which is crazy," she said while giggling, almost underestimating herself. To provide some context, Amankwah-Ayeh holds the role of secretary in both MSP, and BSU, while also working in other countywide organizations such as MoCo Students for Equitable Public Schools (MOCO STEPS). Her story almost exemplifies the phrase 'diamonds are formed under pressure but never forget they are not formed overnight.'



PHOTO BY SAMMER HAJHAMAD

Amankwah-Ayeh is currently a senior, and before departing she does have a few words of

advice to share, saying, "To my freshman, underclassmen, or even juniors...there is so much life for you to live and there is no time for you to be wasting it on kids who do not have your best interests at heart or don't you know, have you love yourself the way you need to love yourself."

To her fellow class of '21 peers she says, "I criticized the class of '21 because I want the best for it, and I want the best for you guys. I understand that not everything is going to be figured out, and that is absolutely fine. But every once in a while you guys make me proud. And it is very enlightening to see people that I've known from middle school, grow up and be better people. And I think you guys are going to be amazing. But please, please grow up."

When asking her if there is something she wanted to tell our educators, she responded saying, "Believe your Black and Brown students when they say something is going on. That is not to say, every situation they are in the right. That is to say, though, that the microaggressions, the macroaggressions, and the racist words the students say and don't get held accountable, that needs to end...There are decades, decades worth of awful things that have happened at this school. In fact, one of the Black @BCC posts was from a student from the class of 1984. Regardless of when you came in, and regardless of how much work you have done, you have to work 30,000 times as hard as everybody else to fix what's wrong with the school, just as how I have to work 30,000 times as hard as everybody else because I'm a black woman."

Pennies in the Pandemic

BY COURTNEY WILKS

A lot has changed during this pandemic. Online school has become the norm, masks have become mandatory in most public spaces, and "social distancing" has evolved as a new and very popular vocabulary word. Another important change is the work force, as many people switched over to working from home and others dealt with new regulations at in-person jobs. Many B-CC seniors are working even throughout the pandemic, but much has changed within their jobs.

Sadie Rosenthal, a Georgetown Cupcakes employee, said "[she] stopped working in March because the store temporarily closed." Not too long after though, the store reopened in May and she said "[she was] contacted to continue working with their COVID precautions," which included wearing masks at all times, limiting store capacity, and social distancing in line, which can be a struggle when the store usually has lines of people outside its door. Sadie also said "[the] job doesn't feel that different even with precautions for the pandemic." With so many changes in her

daily life because of this pandemic, she said "it's nice to have something that still feels normal."

Unlike Sadie, Lily Roberson began working just a month ago at Alatri Bros in Bethesda. She found out about the job through a mutual friend who worked there. Although she works 5 hour shifts, Lily said "it has not been difficult to find time to study and do homework since there are so many breaks during the day with lunch being longer and having Wednesdays off." Online school has allowed Lily to balance school and work well because of the extra free time during the school week. She also explained that take out orders have increased significantly because of the pandemic, and that social distance protocols limit the amount of people able to sit in the restaurant. The other precautions taken such as mask wearing have made it "harder to communicate" to customers who come pick up their food or place an order, and since this is her first customer service job, she wants to ensure she's doing the best job possible.

Similar to Lily, Jack Harcourt was recently hired for a different job. He's a tennis instructor to young kids, and as someone who plays tennis frequently, he said it's nice to work in a job that he actually knows and enjoys. The job has changed a bit though, as he and the kids have to wear masks while playing which can "make in-

structing more difficult," Jack said. Not only does that create more challenges, but young kids have a hard time understanding and following social distancing rules.

As people continue to adjust into the life of social distancing and wearing masks all the time, seniors practice it in their daily lives every day at work. As seen with Sadie, her job doesn't seem much different during this time besides the mask wearing, whereas Lily and Jack have noticed certain drawbacks when following the new guidelines for COVID-19.



PHOTO BY COURTNEY WILKS

California's New Summer Look

BY ELYAS LAUBACH

California is burning, and there's no end in sight. As of Tuesday, September 15th, more than two million acres of California land have burned in 2020. This year's forest fires have topped the record numbers from 2018, due to the ever-worsening drought in California, according to the state's Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Gavin Newsom, the state's governor, declared a state of emergency in five counties, and 200 Labor Day tourists in the Sierra National Forest had to be evacuated by helicopter. Record-high temperatures and dry winds have largely caused the fires. In early September, Los Angeles County temperatures reached a record 121 degrees while Death Valley recently hit a world-record 130 degrees.

The carnage left by the fires reaches far beyond the wildlife and homes it has destroyed: even during the best of times evacuation shelters are unpleasant, but during the coronavirus pandemic, they're a serious health risk; in addition, the smoke from the fires is reaching far beyond the burn zone, compromising air quality and posing a threat to people with respiratory conditions like asthma. The August Complex fire is only the latest in a long, deadly line of recent fires in California. As a result, Californians want an answer and a solution to a decades-old, yet very current, question: why is their state so prone to wildfires?

California is especially prone to catching fire for a variety of reasons. One of these is simply the

state's ecosystem. California is one of the few areas in the world whose biome can largely be categorized as a chaparral, meaning that it is dominated by very dry and brittle plant growth. Dr. Michael Alonzo, Associate Professor of Environmental Science at American University and an expert on boreal forest fires, had an interesting take on this, stating that California's "generally low and rather seasonal rainfall [and] increasingly high heat leads to low fuel moisture," making the state a "tinderbox." That's not necessarily a problem, and it's certainly not a new one, but when the high risk of fires is coupled with the level of industry that comes with California's nearly 40 million inhabitants, the odds of a huge blaze erupting skyrocket. Alonzo adds that there is a "high percentage of land that is accessible by humans," increasing the chances of a spark finding an "ignition source."

If the clash of natural habitats and humans is equivalent to flint and steel, and the state's dry biome is the tinder, then global warming is the lighter fluid that has been driving the California wildfires out of control in the past few years. The crisis that California, and much of the Pacific Northwest is facing, is very much man-made. According to UC Berkeley forest ecologist and climate change scientist Patrick Gonzalez, burn area—the land threatened by wildfires—has increased by 900% since 1984. The impacts of wildfires stretch farther than the loss of homes and farms; they can change the very composition of ecosystems. "Small(er) fires clear un-

derbrush, thin forests, and allow for new growth. Giant fires sometimes can do the same thing," Dr. Alonzo adds. "Sometimes, though, super intense fires can so change the soil that it makes the area not habitable by the forest species that were previously there. In [Alaska], for example, black spruce trees like to live in deep, cool organic soil. If that soil burns off, leaving behind warmer, drier soil, other species move in and out-compete the black spruce trees that could only be top dog in really moist, cool growing conditions."

And the problems wildfires pose extend even further. Wildfires don't simply burn down forests and reduce carbon dioxide to oxygen conversion; the burning of trees actively releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, and extremely hot forest fires have been known to release underground pockets of CO₂ as well. The release of carbon into the atmosphere and the resulting increase in temperature becomes a vicious cycle that can only be stopped by taking consequent actions against climate change.

When asked whether summers of raging wildfires will become the new normal, Stanford University climate scientist Michael Goss said, "Wildfires in California are going to continue or get worse... It could be that we're going to see more seasons where we have multiple large wildfires across the state of California." If swift action is not taken, California may soon be spending its summers in a smoky orange haze, and have its pricey acres take on a post-apocalyptic look.

"In early September, Los Angeles County temperatures reached a record 121 degrees while Death Valley recently hit a world-record 130 degrees."

PHOTO COURTESY OF BEN FANJOY



Churchill HS Incident Becomes Opportunity for Civility and Kindness

BY NIKKI MIRALA

On Sunday, August 30th, Director of Athletics & Physical Education of the McLean School, Adrien McDonald, was aggressively chastised by an unnamed older man for using a lane on the track of Winston Churchill High School.

McDonald, a black athlete, was stretching on the track solo in the eighth lane when the unidentified man told him that he was blocking the lane and needed to move. McDonald notified him that “lanes 1-7 [were] unoccupied,” but the man began to use vulgar language as well as backpetting and make punching motions in the air close to McDonald’s face. Others surrounding the track became aware of the commotion and got involved by recording and explaining that the man was harassing McDonald, but he “just got more upset once they started recording” said McDonald. Bystanders told the man to leave McDonald alone and to “go away” to which he responded that “this is the United States of America,” he continued, “I’m not going nowhere! If I want to stay out here till 5 o’clock in the morning, I can, so don’t tell me to go anywhere!”

The McLean School employee asked the man “do you notice how you’re only targeting one person?” “Oh my God,” the man began to walk away with his wife, “you know what he’s trying to play right now. What a joke! Trump 2020! Donald Trump! We want Trump 2020!” He says, “Those are Biden supporters!” McDonald said that he wishes he “knew why he brought politics into it,” specifically Donald Trump. The man “assumed he knew what type of person I was, but that wasn’t the case... it’s an example of our country and it’s leadership.” Witnesses present believe that this incident had nothing to do with politics, but rather the fact that McDonald is a black man, but when asked if race was a motivating factor in the man’s outburst, McDonald said that “he will never know the answer.” He said that in our current political and social climate “race has become an easy target” which is why many people believe that was the nature of the man’s instincts, but he doesn’t “know enough about the man to make assumptions.” McDonald believes that the

primary reason for his outburst was probably his comfortability on the track. “He most likely has always had his way in whatever lane he wanted,” said McDonald, “I have been coaching track for 10 years, I am very familiar with track etiquette, and I really don’t believe I was doing anything wrong.”

McDonald has been in contact with Churchill High School since the incident and says that the “community efforts and amount of people reaching out have been wonderful.” The school has put up signage stating that people need to treat each other with respect to ensure everyone feels comfortable in the vicinity. “There is only so much Churchill can be responsible for,” said McDonald, “but I appreciate what they have done.” McDonald has been back to the track since the incident and does not “feel uncomfortable at all.”

The Director of Athletics & Physical Education of the McLean School sees this as a lesson for everyone to be kinder to each other, especially due to the current state of our nation. He has now turned this into an opportunity to proactively make a difference by starting a nonprofit that was created to encourage civility, and to ensure that everyone participates in community efforts to make our youth more aware, and most importantly, kinder to one another. The organization has created the slogan “No Hate in Lane 8” which is featured on merchandise including shirts. The logo for the nonprofit features an eight lane track with the word “love” written in the eighth lane, and underneath the track reads their slogan. The nonprofit is reachable through its Facebook page which posts heartwarming videos and photos regarding stories of bravery, love, and acceptance in addition to motivational quotes that McDonald and others feel is most representative of the organization. McDonald’s excitement regarding his nonprofit represents the debut of the change he looks forward to making as he continues to encourage consideration, acceptance, and unity. “This is the beginning, but definitely not the end,” writes the page.

Protesting Social Injustice During a Pandemic

BY NATHANIEL SCHRADER

A daughter of immigrants, 18-year-old Sami Khaleel grew up listening to her parents talk about the injustices they faced in this country and how much they sacrificed for their children. As a young Black highschooler living in Virginia, she has been racially profiled by police. "This is just infuriating," Khaleel said, of the unjust killings of Black people by the police. "Like, you get to a point where enough is enough."

While going through high school, she constantly faced racist comments aimed directly at her just because of her skin tone. "It motivates me more to do this, and to come out and support Black Lives Matter," Khaleel said.

Khaleel was one of many students from around the country who came to the August 28 March on Washington to protest injustices all around the country. The presence of high school students at the protest is evidence that the BLM movement is not ending or slowing down, and that young people feel more motivated than ever to show their support for BLM.

Ever since B-CC students left school in March, the BLM movement has exploded, with protests starting after the killings of Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd. More recently, the shooting of Jacob Blake in Wisconsin and the ensuing protests after gave fuel to thousands of people to march on the same ground that Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous "I have a dream speech"

56 years ago.

Turning out to protest in the middle of the pandemic is a difficult decision for many. Due to risks of Covid, almost every single person that showed up to the protest was wearing a mask/ face covering. But for some students coming to the protest, the risk was worth it. "I mean, it does. Sure. but at some point some things are more important or worth the risk," Molly, a student at Montgomery Blair High School said when asked if the virus affected her coming out in any way.

Lucy, a student at St. John's College High School agreed. "Yes it's up there, but there are bigger issues that we need to address, and the only way to do that is by protesting."

Many students have seen the movement grow, and ever since it exploded in spring 2020, they have been trying to support BLM any way possible.

"I think we've seen the whole movement evolve, since it kind of revamped itself in March, and we are just trying to participate in any way we can," Molly, a student at Blair said, when asked what motivated her to go to the March on Washington.

For one family, the historical significance was more than enough to come out all the way from Kentucky. to show their grandfather's legacy as civil rights activists. Wearing shirts saying "Pat and Evos Legacy, family matters" high schoolers Jailynn and Dennis led their family all the way from Central High School in Kentucky to this

march. With their grandfather Pat being a civil rights activist back in the 60's and marching at the Lincoln Memorial with Dr. King, Dennis and Jailynn felt they needed to show their grandfather's legacy by coming to the March on Washington. Coming from Kentucky, they see a lot of racism in their everyday lives. "It doesn't stop. It just continues to happen," said Dennis.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATHANIEL SCHRADER

OPINION

SROs Have to Go: How Police in Schools Do More Harm Than Good

BY SOPHIA BARRO

Every high school in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has a police officer working on campus at least part time.

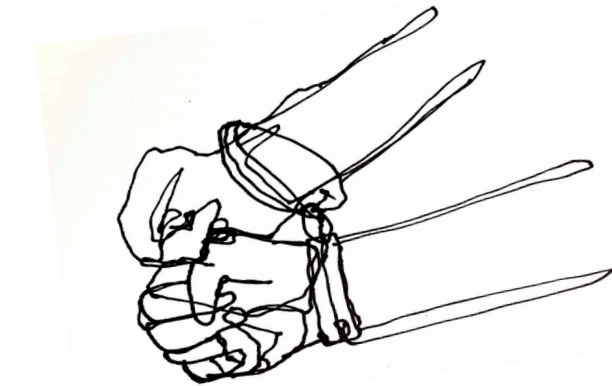
These police officers received training to be certified as school resource officers, or SROs. However after the killing of George Floyd sparked protests against police brutality, many school districts, including MCPS, have questioned the necessity of SROs.

On Saturday, October 17th, Will Jamando, Montgomery County Councilmember, announced his proposed legislation to ban the SRO programs. He proposed that schools use the money they would use to hire SROs to improve mental health services and hire more nurses and counselors.

Over the past four years in MCPS, 45% of the high school students arrested by SROs are Black, however Black students make up 21% of the student population. Why is it that Black students make it 45% of the arrests when we only make up 21% of the student population? This is a key component in the school-to-prison pipeline.

It's been proven that SROs rarely make a difference in preventing school shootings or increasing safety in schools, but instead pose risks to students of color.

There is no evidence that police presence decreases violence in schools, and it only leads to the hyper criminalization of BIPOC students. BIPOC students are more likely to get disciplined,



suspended, and arrested in school when SROs are present. How can you claim an institution is "safe and inclusive" when the presence of SROs sends a message to students of color that they are not welcome in schools? This often leads to anxiety for students and distrust in the school and its staff. Even more traumatizing, SRO presence can lead to distress for students who have had negative or frightening encounters with law enforcement outside of school.

Schools exist not only to educate, but to foster growth in young adults and allow them to feel safe and supported. We need to rethink the presence of police in our schools and refocus on students.

GRAPHICS BY KELSEA PETERSEN



Why More College Students Should Take Up Tutoring

BY MICAH SCHUCHMAN

College, as it is, is by no means perfect. In fact, it will never be perfect. As technology improves, the requirements of the workplace get modified, and the occasional global pandemic hits, college as an institution will have to change. To give a current example, this pandemic has indirectly shown what the next big change colleges should implement: they must make every single student tutor a K-12 student.

One of the few positive things the coronavirus pandemic has taught the country is how easy it is to tutor online. Once one finds a tutee, all there is to it is hopping on a computer, and opening Zoom. For the few and far in between that don't know what Zoom is by now, it's a video chatting service that's popularity has exploded during the past seven months. But besides the simplicity of the setup, why should colleges tack on another graduation requirement to the already long list of demands, and how should they implement this system?

Before the pandemic, private tutoring was seen as a luxury in most educational circles. According to numerous local tutoring websites, the average cost of one on one tutoring is between \$25 and \$80 an hour; this is by no means cheap. Parents tend to splurge on this service if their child is falling behind in a class or wants to prepare for a test. But why not change the game? Private tutoring has so many benefits. A one-on-one tutoring service is individually tailored to a student's

needs. Their struggles become the focal point of the session and their strengths praised, increasing self-esteem. This contrasts what happens in a normal school atmosphere. Certain strengths seem to be expected, while weaknesses are fragile building blocks of the house that is an educational unit.

A good mentor/tutor will instill in their tutee good study, work, and problem-solving habits. Like the expression: it's best to teach one to fish rather than to give them a fish; tutoring should not be seen as just a band-aid. The lessons provided by experienced mentors are invaluable for academic success, and occasionally, when regular tutoring stems into a positive relationship, are invaluable for personal and social success. This is what tends to happen when the tutor is a young person, a college student, someone who was recently in the same boat as their tutee (a K-12 student).

One on one tutoring creates real results. According to a report published by the Journal of Educational Psychology, tutoring helps students at risk of reading failure go from the 50th to 65th percentile (in reading proficiency). More generally, tutoring boosts passing rates in every subject. And, according to a report published by the Quarterly Journal of Economics, effective tutoring increases test scores upwards of 12 percentage points.

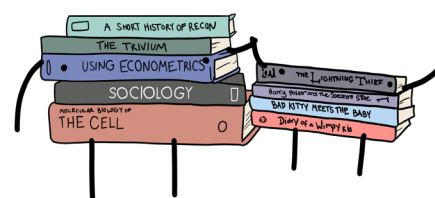
And it's not just the tutees that would benefit from this service, the college tutors would too. As

the famous French essayist Joseph Joubert put it, "To teach is to learn twice." Teaching core students to younger students will help college students remember content from their earlier years, and maybe even inspire them to pursue a different career. Furthermore, being a role model to a younger student would promote more self-consciousness and better decision-making as college students navigate the beginnings of adulthood.

The way this service could be implemented would be colleges tacking on another graduation requirement: one year of tutoring a K-12 student. Colleges could work with local counties to match up the older and younger students, and sessions would be at least once a week for 45 minutes.

This proposition would give children support before they fell behind in a class instead of after, and allow colleges to "give back" to the education systems that produce their star students. This bold change should not be seen as a change, but as a solution.

Dear Colleges,
It's your move.



GRAPHIC BY KELSEA PETERSEN

The Long Overdue Payday for College Athletes

BY SAMMY SCHUCHMAN

\$1,000,000,000. That's a lot of zeros. It's also the latest major benchmark the NCAA, a non-profit organization whose mission it is to ensure the success of all student athletes, surpassed in total revenue after the 2016-17 school year. The NCAA prides itself on its ability to manifest an institution where "the educational experience of the student-athlete is paramount," as it declares in its own mission statement. But how "paramount" is the educational experience, and more broadly the overall experience for student athletes across the country?

The fact of the matter is that college sports has become an immensely profitable industry, especially the Division I programs that are run just like any other corporation whose ultimate goal is to turn a profit. They're businesses, and it all starts with the coaches.

In a study published by Senator Chris MURPHY, an annual amount of 1.2 billion dollars was spent on collegiate coaches. Furthermore, from the same study, it was gleaned that in 41 out of 50 states, a coach is the highest paid public employee.

That's just the beginning. The average annual revenue of Division I football programs across the country is just under 32 million dollars. Now of that money, how much do the players, who pour in their own sweat, tears, and long, tedious hours, get from the fruits of their labor? Sadly, not even a single penny.

In 2019, District Judge Claudia Wilken ruled that the NCAA can essentially continue on giving the athletes "education-related benefits" as

compensation for their time and labor. In other words, college athletes will continue to receive a full college education as well as additional schooling benefits as a method of payment for their services, instead of receiving, say a salary, or deposit.



GRAPHIC BY SYDNEY THEIS

The imperative question, however, is if the athletes truly are receiving a full college education, and if they are, how substantial is it? The short answer is no, they aren't. A relevant study was analyzed and referred to by Dennis Dodd of CBS, which encompassed a sample size of athletes in the Pac-12, one of the five major conferences in college sports.

Of the 409 athletes surveyed, the average amount of time spent weekly on athletics was 50 hours. How can these student athletes take advantage of the college education given to them if they're spending more than eight hours a day on practices and exhaustive training? Furthermore, it was found that 54% of the athletes polled stated that they simply don't have enough time to

study for tests. A whopping 80% answered that they were forced to miss a class due to a game.

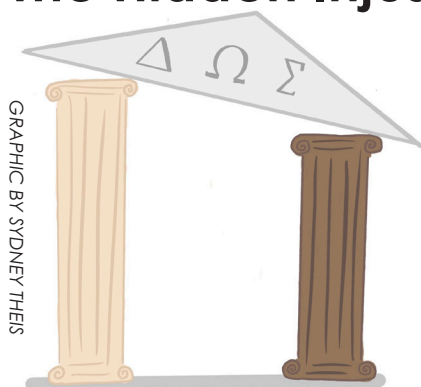
Oh, and by the way, this is the very college education that the courts ruled qualified as requisite compensation for the tremendous production these athletes are responsible for. Even the aforementioned Judge Wilkins, as Grant Petroysan of the Constantine Cannon writes, acknowledged "that there is a 'great disparity' between the 'extraordinary revenue' that the NCAA and the schools receive and the 'modest benefits' that student-athletes are provided in exchange for their athletic services."

There is a diverse array of ideas and possible means of getting these athletes paid. Some argue that just like any other establishment with commercial interests, the free market should be put to action. This suggests that colleges would be given extensive freedom to pay players for their services, most certainly resulting in the most highly touted and ranked prospects receiving undoubtedly more compensation than those who aren't as highly sought after.

Business Insider covers another approach, based on the model of Olympic amateurism, where players have complete freedom to get endorsement deals and capital gains, instead of a fixed salary.

At the end of the day, precisely which course of action is taken simply isn't relevant. It is essential that the corporate parasite that is the NCAA begins to do the ethical, logical, and responsible action, and appropriately compensate the laborers that are the source of their financial success.

The Hidden Injustices in Greek Life



BY OLIVIA BRESNICKY AND RUBY BUCZKOWSKI

Greek life is a hotly disputed topic in the college experience. This institution comes with many advantages and opportunities, but there are also many racist and classist injustices ingrained into the system that many do not notice.

The American education system was first created to educate the elite: white, wealthy, male students. As more people started to attend universities, they became less 'elite', so Greek institutions were established. These institutions were originally created so that affluent white men could continue the practices of separation and exclusion in schools. When an institution is originally created for only white students to participate in, there will be persistent institutional inequality. Greek life has now spread to almost every college campus across the country and has tried to spread its audience to a more diverse crowd, but there are still many rules in place which puts people of color at a disadvantage.

Emily Gumbrecht was a freshman at University of Alabama in 2011. Gumbrecht rushed to join a sorority, and in the process, saw some very disturbing things. Gumbrecht mentioned that, "when I rushed, there had never been a Black woman accepted to a white sorority. This was, obviously, deeply upsetting and not okay," and that, "when a few of my sorority sisters brought it up, it was obvious that other girls were not interested in challenging 'the way things always have been.'"

In addition, most of these organizations have classist cost barriers to entry, giving them the ability to segregate across socioeconomic lines. When asked about these issues, Gumbrecht expressed that, "[she] was told what to wear each day of rush (three days of sundresses, plus two days of shirts and khaki shorts) so financially, it assumes that you have [the money] to go out and buy these expensive things." Instead of making members pay large amounts of dues to join, sororities and fraternities should give financial support to those that need it or lower the costs to accommodate those that need it.

Gumbrecht ultimately transferred out of Tuscaloosa three months into her college experience. She noted that, "racism was one of the reasons I transferred -- I didn't want to be a part of a system that stood for excluding people."

Another barrier within Greek life is the legacy rule. This rule was put in place to allow family ties to a sorority or fraternity to continue. If a student that is rushing a sorority or fraternity has a brother/sister, mom/dad, grandmother/

grandfather that was previously in the same sorority or fraternity, they will almost always get special consideration. While it depends on the sorority or fraternity and college, a majority of greek life organizations still have this rule in place and even some guarantee invitations after the first round of cuts if someone is a legacy.

So you might be asking: how could the legacy rule negatively affect people of color? Well, it does, majorly. Until the end of the 20th-century, people of color were not allowed to join most fraternities and sororities. With the legacy rule in place, it kept these same white families in the organizations because a majority of people benefiting from the legacy rule are white. People of color don't get prioritized because of their family ties like white people do, which puts them at a disadvantage when trying to get accepted into fraternities or sororities. People of color don't get prioritized because of their family ties like white people do, which puts them at a disadvantage when trying to get accepted into fraternities or sororities.

When asked about the legacy rule, Gumbrecht noted, "it gives a boost to people who have a family history of being in that sorority, and these people are those who are already most likely privileged in the acceptance process. People of color are less likely to have that family history because of the barriers to entry I mentioned, and that means they don't have the same advantages." An idea to combat this problematic rule is to get rid of the legacy rule at sororities and fraternities.

While keeping the same Greek letters in the family does make sense as a family tradition, it stems from institutional racism and inequality in Greek life and gives an unfair advantage to white students in most cases.

Many sororities and fraternities have already started working on desegregating the system and are working towards making sure every student that wants to be in Greek life is able to, but there are also many that have not. The future of Greek life has the potential to empower all students and be a safe space for people of color, and with reform and educating those in Greek life, this could be done. However, there is a long road ahead before every Greek institution around the country is free of racist and classist barriers. These institutional problems in Greek life are small rules that majorly affect people of color, and by changing them sororities and fraternities could become more inclusive organizations.

Will Greek Life Survive the Pandemic?

BY SOL DAVILA GEHRING

There is no question that Greek life is something many students look forward to from a young age. The movies and TV shows that we grew up watching showcase Greek life as a sort of dream fantasy college experience. Joining a sorority or a fraternity can allow new students to meet people and form bonds as soon as they get to campus, but there is no denying that there are many problems associated with Greek life. According to the National Institute of Drug Abuse, "A scientific study finds that close to half of residential fraternity members had symptoms of alcohol use disorder by age 35 and that living in a fraternity or sorority at college is associated with continued binge drinking and marijuana use through early midlife." There are many accounts that have been created on Instagram recently to try and shed light on some of the problems occurring in the Greek life system. An account at the University of Pennsylvania with the handle "@greekfreepenn" said, "Greek life represents an institution that is intrinsically exclusionary, built on a history of reinforcing the privilege of wealthy, straight, white men at the expense of the safety and success of marginalized students across our campuses." Many people thought that fraternities and sororities would be hit hard by the pandemic, causing many people not to join this year. This was in fact not the case. The National Panhellenic Conference urged their 26 sororities with 400,000 undergraduate members to be fully virtual. It is safe to say that very few houses, if any, took this advice.

The popular Instagram account "@5hyear" is known for posting videos and photos that are considered "frat", many of which include college students that are not following proper COVID etiquette. Granted, living in a house full of 30 others does not make it easier, but numerous are continuing to host parties, completely ignoring CDC guidelines.

A current student at B-CC who has a brother in a fraternity at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill said that when his entire frat house got the virus, one of the members' girlfriends asked if she could come over and get the virus so she could go back to her sorority and give it back to all of her friends. Their reasoning you ask: to get the virus so that they can then have the antibodies. One of my cousins who just graduated from Indiana University and was a member of Alpha Phi said her motivation for joining the sorority was she felt as though everyone was in one and that if she did not join one, she would be lame. When asking her if the Greek life stereotypes were true, she said, "they are 1,000% true: cheap alcohol in fraternity basements with strobe lights and a DJ." Lucia Delgado, a senior at B-CC, said that she would only consider joining a sorority provided the girls share her interests and the environment is not toxic. The fact of the matter is that this pandemic is going to leave lasting effects, and bring many changes in the ways we move throughout society. Will this pandemic bring an end to Greek life altogether? All we can do is wait and see.

Larry Hogan Is Not Who You Think He Is

BY ABBIE BOBECK

Recently there has been a lot of media attention surrounding Maryland governor Larry Hogan. As a high school student in Montgomery County, Maryland, I have witnessed many different interpretations of Hogan. His “holier-than-thou” representation in the news recently has lit a fire underneath many of Maryland’s youth, and I am here to clear the air.

Larry Hogan, a self-proclaimed “anti-trump Republican” is not as different from Trump as he claims to be. In his first term as governor, Hogan attempted to fly under the radar by succumbing to democratic requests, yet well into a second term he seems to be straying further away from who he claimed to be during his re-election campaign. Simply stated, the man is a hypocrite.

At the Maryland State House in 2018, Hogan explained “he didn’t govern as a republican” in his first term as Maryland’s governor. This was the reasoning he gave as to why he was the first GOP governor re-elected to the heavily blue state. Hogan strayed away from controversial social issues such as abortion during his first term. He also gave way with democrats on most gun control issues. Hogan signed many of these laws into order, for example, a “red flag” law that enabled law enforcement and family members to seek temporary restrictions on an individual’s access to firearms should they be found to be a danger to themselves or others.

Hogan is portraying himself to Maryland as more of a “social liberal”, yet in a 2019 tweet, Hogan posed in front of two Blue Lives Matter flags. Those who fly this flag claim it is a symbol for law enforcement officers who have been killed in the line of duty, but for many others it represents the condemnation of the Black Lives Matter movement; to say the least, this flag is controversial. Many of Hogan’s constituents, including myself, were highly disappointed in seeing Hogan support a group that refuses to acknowledge their racial biases and uses a slogan to falsely associate themselves with patriotism.

Furthermore, on June 1st 2020, Hogan said he “couldn’t agree more” with Trump’s insistence on “dominating” peaceful protestors with military force. The next day, June 3rd, Hogan complied with direct requests from Defense Secretary Mark Esper to send National Guard members to help counter mostly peaceful protestors in Washington, D.C. This was a fateful decision that led to many innocent people being violently tear gassed. Hogan’s choice to not only support Trump’s violent measures but to implicate Mary-



GRAPHIC BY KELSEA PETERSEN

land by involving the Maryland National Guard was utterly shameful and showed his constituents his true complacent colors.

Hogan has been pretty openly criticising Trump’s response to the Coronavirus, or lack thereof. Yet he continues to let Maryland students down; on August 1st he issued a statement over Twitter saying, “I strongly disagree with Montgomery County’s decision to mandate the closure of private and parochial schools.” He went on to say “this is a decision for schools and parents, not politicians.” His statement was inherently contradictory, as he is a political figure making a statement about a decision made by the county’s health officer, a public health expert. The fact that he issued a statement about the decision was frankly inappropriate and completely out of character for the man being praised in the media, and in his state, for his careful approach to the Coronavirus. But for many students like me, this duplicitous statement was not surprising for Hogan.

Hogan is often cited as one of America’s most popular governors, with a high approval rating. For students in Maryland like me, this can come as a shock. Hogan has never been for the students, and frankly he never will be. A New York Times article wrote “Many Maryland Democrats have long made the case that Mr. Hogan is an impediment to progressive change, arguing he is too reluctant to make significant investments in majority-Black Baltimore or the public school system.” Back in August of 2016, Hogan signed

an executive order demanding that all Maryland public schools start after Labor Day and end by June 15. He claimed the change would be good for businesses, families, and the environment, as schools would not need to use air-conditioning for as many days in August. What many students later learned, including myself, was that his real motive for this push was solely to boost tourism in Ocean City. Larry Hogan has never really been forthcoming with his stances or his actions.

On October 16th, 18 days before the 2020 election, Larry Hogan publicly announced that he wrote in Ronald Reagan on his ballot. As many know, Ronald Reagan, the 40th president of the United States has been dead for over 16 years. I think it is extremely disheartening to see the governor waste his vote during such a vital election. It is extremely ignorant of Hogan to think he is on some sort of higher ground than any other citizen voting in this election; a wasted vote is a vote for Trump, and he is aware of that. Larry Hogan, let me assure you, writing in a dead man will not solve the countries’ problems. It is a dangerous message to be sending to your constituents that you can just write in any candidate you want and expect to see positive change in your government. If you don’t agree with Trump, why feed the fire that got him elected 4 years ago?

The next generation of voters are well-versed in political issues and we can definitely spot a phony when we see one. As Hogan flirts with a presidential run, we just want everyone out there to know that we don’t truly know who Larry Hogan is.

College Applications Need an Update

BY REBECCA LEWIS

When you hear the words “video essay” the first thought that comes to mind is Legally Blonde, more specifically Elle Woods’ creative essay that landed her a spot at Harvard law. We like to laugh at how floating in the pool while quoting Days of Our Lives got her into one of the most selective schools in the country, but what if this was reality? What would college admissions look like if instead of writing a personal essay the applicant shot a fun video displaying their person-

ality? These videos could show colleges the depth of a person though more than just their words. Seniors would no longer have to stress over how to present themselves in 650 words or less, they could simply press record and talk.

It could be as simple as a day in the life video, where the applicant would film what a regular day in their life looks like, or it could be a dramatic reading of their favorite quote. You could easily do it vlogger style, channel your inner Emma Chamberlain, and just film yourself driving, get-

ting iced coffee, and talking about your day. Or you could even compile your snapchat memories into one big montage to demonstrate your favorite moments. Think of how much less-stressful it would be. Colleges could even request a certain type of video, maybe they want to see your morning routine or how you pick out your clothes each morning. They could then grasp the personality of the applicants and get to really see their creativity in action.

Protests Plague Belarus with Lukashenko's Re-Election

BY ANTONIA REENE

Alyaksandr Lukashenka, Belarus' first and only president since its independence from the Soviet Union, has been re-elected for the 6th time, despite controversy over the election. Peaceful protests have now erupted all over the country and have been met by government violence. The recent election brought into question the legitimacy of the country's democracy as a result of the imprisonment of Lukashenko's opposition candidate, Sergei Tikhanovsky, in May 2020. Tikhanovsky's wife, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, ran in his place with very high polling numbers, yet lost with only 10.12% of the vote. Sviatlana and her many supporters have accused the election of being rigged. She has fled to Lithuania with her family since.

The protests began right after election results came out, on August 9th, and have since continued for over 65 days. With media censorship across Belarus, Generation Z has been especially active in the movement. Thousands of university students have peacefully taken the streets of Minsk, the country's capital, yet hundreds have been detained by riot police. Many journalists covering the protests have also been detained, limiting media coverage of these protests. Their treatment while detained has been reported as "inhuman" due to excessive physical violence. Many citizens feel that their freedoms of speech, press, and fair election have been revoked and have deemed Lukashenko's presidency as a dictatorship.

Lukashenko, a once modest farmer, has been adamant throughout his 26-year reign about returning communist ideals to the country. Vladi

mir Putin, Russia's long-standing president, is in support of Lukashenko's efforts, providing him with a \$1.5 billion loan to alleviate "external pressure." This external pressure comes from Western countries that don't recognize Lukashenko as the country's leader. The election, the government interfering with protests, and physical violence have all been increasingly recognized as human rights violations internationally. Countries in the European Union offered political mediation, while Canada and the United Kingdom

combined efforts to place sanctions against high officials in Belarus. The country has retaliated with sanctions against Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia.

Since Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya fled from her home, she has made numerous efforts to aid the country. She has met with multiple Prime Ministers and most recently met with French President Emmanuel Macron to further discuss aid for Belarus. Tsikhanouskaya is planning on meeting with Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel in the future.



GRAPHIC BY KELSEA PETERSEN

Can International Enrollment to U.S. Educational Institutions Recover?

BY RAEMI CHARLES

Home to globally respected universities like Harvard, Yale, University of Michigan, and UC Berkeley, the United States has historically attracted many international students. But due to the pandemic and the current administration, the future of international students in the U.S. is unclear, as are the economic repercussions of changes in international enrollment.

"You have to look at the beginning in that fall of 2016," says Rachel Banks, Senior Director of Public Policy and Legislative Strategy at the Association of International Educators (NAFSA), the largest nonprofit association dedicated to international education and exchange. "We were already on a downward trajectory, not aided at all by the anti-immigrant rhetoric of this government administration, which telegraphs a very negative and unwelcoming message to immigrants and to international students, deterring them from wanting to come here."

Since President Trump's election, internation-

al opinion of the U.S. has been generally declining. This can be attributed to a variety of factors, including the current administration's view on immigration and handling of foreign affairs. The pandemic has only worsened international opinion on the U.S. Many people have criticized the president's reaction to the pandemic, and the United States has among the highest infection rates in the world. Because of this, many colleges and universities have opted to go online for the semester, whether part-time or full-time. This not only makes the high price of American college much less worth it for many people, but is also difficult to navigate, considering different time zones, internet access issues, and other factors that can impact online school attendance.

Even for schools that are open, international enrollment is at an all-time low, partially due to international travel restrictions that have been put in place since the pandemic began. These restrictions include limits on who can enter the country imposed by the U.S., particularly from

countries like China and Iran, as well as limits imposed by other countries. For example, the European Union has declared that they do not want citizens traveling to the U.S., as have many other countries, including Canada and Japan. These travel restrictions have made international travel more difficult and more daunting, as many students are worried that if they come to the U.S., they will not easily be able to travel back home.

So what does this mean for our country? The NAFSA report "International Students Contribute to Our Economy and American Innovation" states that international students contributed \$41 billion to the U.S. economy last year. Not only do students contribute to the economy while they are here, but our higher-education system is one of the country's strongest attractors to young educated people from other countries. In today's globalized economy, learning amongst students from other countries can be very beneficial for American students.

How the Postponement of the Summer Olympics Impacts Athletes

BY LIZA CICHY

Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases worldwide and the unsafety of hosting such a large event, the 2020 Summer Olympics that were to be held in Tokyo, Japan were canceled. International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach, along with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, decided in March to postpone the games and hold them in the summer of 2021.

Many athletes understand the importance of taking these safety precautions, yet the news still brought some disappointment. Athletes train rigorously for the opportunity to compete on this global stage every four years. Dafne Schippers, a Dutch track and field olympic athlete, stated that this is bigger than athletes; "For now we have to look at the bigger picture and do whatever it takes to beat the coronavirus."

Many sports had not yet had their qualifying rounds to determine who exactly would be representing their countries in the games, but training and preparation had begun. Some sports, however, did have qualifying rounds. According to the International Olympic Committee, 57% of all the qualification places had been confirmed by the time the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo were postponed.

One of the athletes affected by the postponement was Molly Huddle, a long distance runner from the USA Women's team. She has been running competitively for about 20 years, and in 2012 she went to the London Olympics and ran the 5000m event. She also attended the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in 2016, where she ran in the 10,000m event. Huddle had plans to qualify for the 2020 games in Tokyo by attending the US trials in Atlanta. "Prior to the pandemic postponing the games, I had tried out for the Marathon team and failed to make it. The trials for the track events were meant to be in June and were postponed so I still have a shot to try to qualify on the track next summer" said Huddle. Since USATF always requires a trial, no one is guaranteed a spot in the games and Huddle still has a chance to qualify.

Immediately after hearing the news of the postponement, Huddle says she was shocked. "It seemed there were often worries cropping up before any Olympics, like in Rio some athletes didn't go for fear of Zika virus and it wasn't an issue in the end," After the announcement, Huddle was skeptical, but she shared that she did not realize the full effect of the virus; "in hindsight I didn't realize how serious the virus would hit every country in the world." In the end, however, Huddle does think postponement was the right choice for the games.

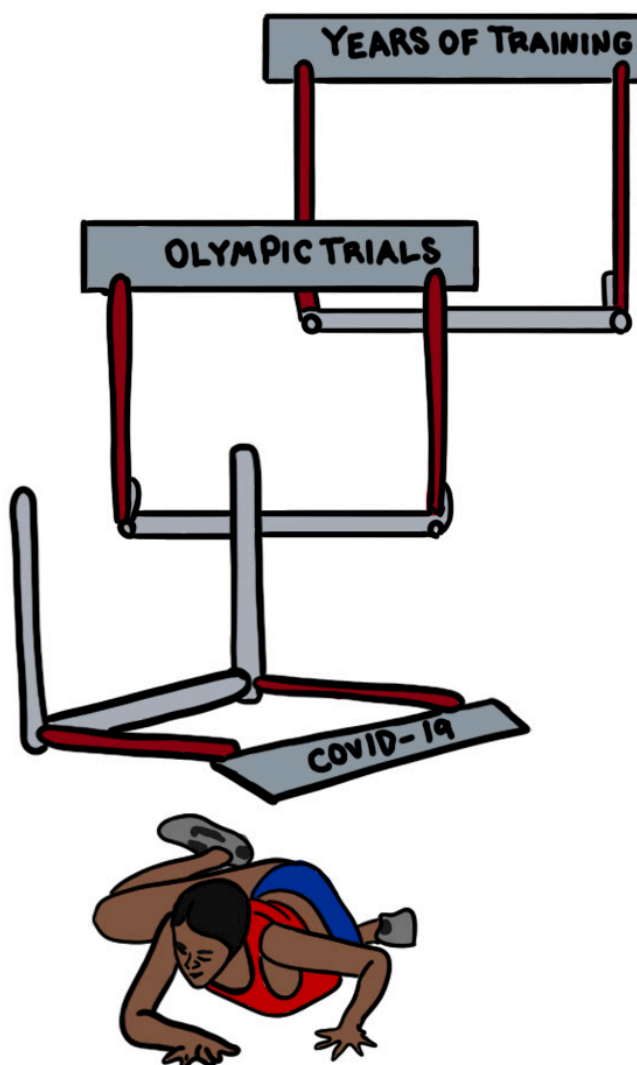
Due to the major news and changes made, Huddle's schedule changed. "I still want to participate at the games, as I planned to try to compete until 2022 anyway." The postponement of the games and the pandemic in general also changed Huddle's training schedule. "[The rescheduling of the Olympics] and lack of many other races like major marathons has affected my schedule this

year. I took an extra break from training which isn't necessarily bad. I can't train with my usual training partners as reliably so that has been somewhat hurting my fitness currently and I also haven't been seeing my body work specialists for massage, chiropractic work and PT work as often, so that has been harder too." For many athletes, including Huddle, the rescheduling of the Olympics has not just affected big events, but training and preparation as well.

In terms of next summer, Huddle has hopes for the new games. She said, "I do think the virus will still be around in the summer so the games will likely look different-

whether it's no spectators allowed or no athlete village at the games or rigid covid testing procedures required or maybe a quarantine bubble, I'm not sure. We have seen other sports, like the NBA, institute measures like this." She does have a worry though- "The USA in particular may be banned from the Olympics if we don't get our numbers and prevention practices in control as compared to other countries."

The revised deadline for qualifications is June 29, 2021, and Molly, along with other athletes, will be awaiting future announcements from the International Olympic Committee about the games.



GRAPHIC BY KELSEA PETERSEN

The PROs

After a professional-sports drought last spring, leagues came back with a vengeance. At one point, all the major professional U.S. leagues played at the same time. Sports junkie nirvana! Our sports reporters ranked each PRO league on a 15 point scale (15 being the highest).

Criteria:

PROtection (response to the pandemic) 1-5

PROtests (response to protests) 1-5

PROduct (quality of play) 1-5



Toby Berlinski

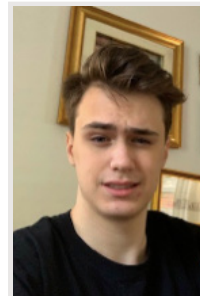
Senior

6'7"

Bubs

NFL		
8	Pandemic	2
	Protests	3
	Quality of play	3

"The storyline of this NFL season has been the injury bug. Big time players such as Christian McCaffery and Nick Bosa have been sidelined, reducing the quality of play all around. There have been upset teams that will now look to make a run as we enter the later stages of the season."



Stefano Fendrich

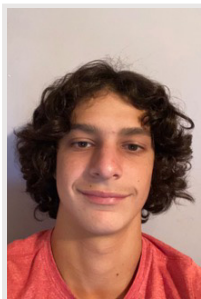
Senior

6'1"

Stefayes

WNBA		
14	Pandemic	5
	Protests	5
	Quality of play	4

"It seemed as the stoppage in play didn't affect the players or teams one bit, and the season continued on with the Seattle Storm capturing the WNBA championship"



Andrew Lebowitz

Junior

5'10"

Yaki

MLB		
9	Pandemic	3
	Protests	3
	Quality of play	3

"The MLB did acknowledge support for social equalities, but they didn't stress these issues as much as the NBA, NFL, or WNBA did."



Bryan Spellman

Senior

5'8"

Saftey

MLS		
11	Pandemic	4
	Protests	3
	Quality of play	4

"The MLS has been going on for a while now and has experienced mixed results with covid. They have had a few games postponed because of covid, but for the most part they have had a successful season, and were able to contain the outbreaks."



Jonah Pachman

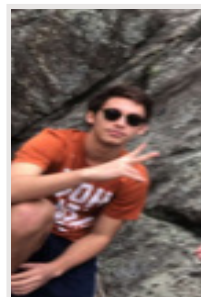
Junior

6'7"

Pachman

MLB		
6	Pandemic	2
	Protests	2
	Quality of play	2

"This is similar to the NHL, the games were hard to watch and it was obvious that there were no fans"



Connor Sapin

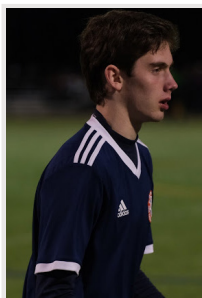
Senior

4'5"

C-dog

WNBA		
12	Pandemic	5
	Protests	4
	Quality of play	3

"Using the Bubble was the greatest idea in protecting their players and staff. There were 0 new cases while the bubble was on-going"

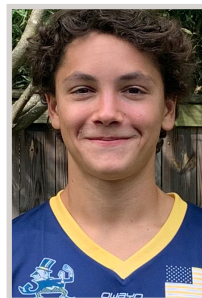


Drew Nealis

Senior
6'5"
Bravo 6

NHL		
12	Pandemic	5
	Protests	3
	Quality of play	4

"The NHL, I thought, could have had a more powerful statement as a majority white league, but they showed a very minimal effort towards league wide support of equality movements and were a little late to hop on the boycotting games bandwagon."



Isaac Blank

Senior
6'5"
Iceman

NHL		
11	Pandemic	5
	Protests	1
	Quality of Play	5

"While the NHL quality of play was still great, it did not live up to the expectation and the hype of the NHL playoffs in normal circumstances. That said, I still really enjoyed watching this years playoffs and was excited to see the return of play."

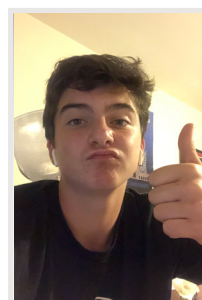


Tate Smyth

Senior
5'2"
Sonny Boy

WNBA/NBA		
15	Pandemic	5
	Protests	5
	Quality of play	5

"Many players went on strike minutes before their games were scheduled to begin; the leagues did a great job of allowing players to have their voices heard and took a firm stance against systemic injustices and with the BLM movement."

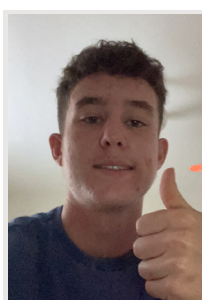


Paul Fine

Junior
6'6"
Fine

NWSL		
13	Pandemic	4
	Protests	5
	Quality of play	4

"The NWSL had a fast recovery from the setbacks faced by COVID and is currently underway. The MLS had great success with their post pandemic, return to play, world cup style bubble tournament, and have since returned to regular season play."

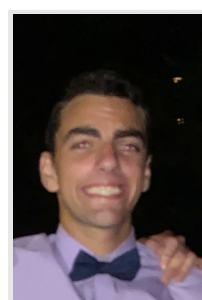


Eric Brilliant

Senior
6'6"
Lil' Brill

MLB		
10	Pandemic	4
	Protests	3
	Quality of play	3

"The MLB had a rough start to the season as multiple players from the Miami Marlins came down with COVID. However, the league quickly rebounded and was able to quarantine the Marlins and resume play. Since then they haven't had many problems and are now in the last round in the playoffs before the world series."



Josh Shweki

Senior
6'3"
Skipp

NFL		
11	Pandemic	3
	Protests	3
	Quality of play	5

"The NFL have struggled mightily with COVID cases which have forced multiple teams including the Titans and Falcons to have games cancelled. In addition to players, in stadiums where fans have been allowed to watch, multiple fans have also tested positive for COVID-19."

Ups and Downs of Sports Viewership Trends

-61%

Stanley Cup Final

WNBA Final +15%

-26%

MLB Division Series

PGA Tour

+17%

-13%

NFL Season

Sports, Finally?

BY PAUL FINE

With thousands of high school athletes itching to get back on the field after six months without sports, a tentative plan has finally been reached for the upcoming school year in Maryland high schools. The MPSSAA announced Friday, September 11, that the winter sports season will take place from February 1 through March 27, the fall season from March 15 through May 8, and the spring season from April 26 through June 19.

For many, this is a major improvement from the “virtual” sports season that will transpire throughout the first semester. Virtual teams are to hold virtual practices where they can assign drills and exercises for their athletes. There is no certainty that any of the in-person sports seasons will happen with COVID-19 not slowing down, but MPSSAA’s decision is definitely a step in the right direction.

There are some guidelines for sports teams this first semester. Teams for the second semester may not be established during the first semester, meaning coaches cannot hold tryouts or make cuts for their teams outside of the 20-day preseason and five-week season designated by MPSSAA, and no team that plans to participate in the second semester season is allowed to hold orga-

nized practice during the first semester unless authorized by their local school system. Scrimmages and practices for teams in school systems permitting them must be in compliance with Maryland Health Department orders regarding gatherings and sporting events.

As previously mentioned, the plan for the second semester is to have three seasons; fall, winter, and spring, with each consisting of a 20-day preseason and a five-week competition season. The state predicts that teams will be able to play at the least 50% of their regularly scheduled competitions during the provided window.

Currently, the state is unsure if statewide championships for each sport will be possible due to safety concerns. If this is not possible, local school systems will be able to hold their own championships for their city, county, or conference. Even though the spring season extends past the end of the school year for seniors, all seniors will be eligible to participate in the remainder of their sports seasons.

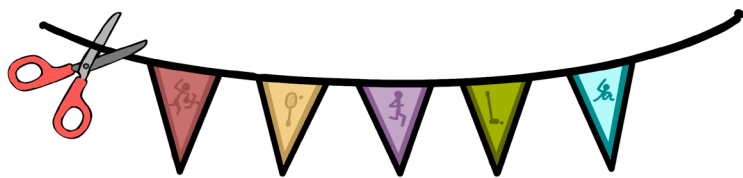
COVID-19 has already taken so much from these athletes, especially those who lost their senior year season. This plan cannot make up for that loss but can provide hope for athletes all across the state.



GRAPHICS BY KELSEA PETERSEN

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MIA ROMANO & TILLY SANDMEYER

The Struggle for “Less Popular” College Sports



BY JONAH PACHMAN

Let’s say it’s a Friday night in September, and you have the choice to go to either the state championship football game or the regional championship swim meet? Odds are, you’re going to opt for the football game, and that is understandable given that almost anyone would take that route. However, what about the swimmers? How do they feel when no one shows up to an event, or when athletic directors and officials constantly talk about how higher level sports are prioritized? During the pandemic, these concerns have risen to a point higher than they ever have reached. Not only do these athletes have to worry about their support, but now they also have to worry about being cut completely. Over the past few months, many universities have come out with statements saying that they are cutting and disbanding almost half of their sports. These sports may include fencing, track and field, swimming, wrestling, and many more. Not only does this impact college athletes, but also high school athletes, whose recruiting options are becoming more limited. These sports could stay on the sidelines forever if colleges continue to struggle financially. That being said, if this all goes away, there could be daylight in the future.

The list of schools that have started to cut

sports programs may shock you. These aren’t just Division II or III schools struggling to raise money, but Division I schools that have developed a very large fan base. The list ranges from UCONN to Akron to Stanford, and many top high school athletes have been forced to rethink their recruitment process.

Stanford University, a top tier college not only academically but athletically, decided to cut eleven sports. Stanford has one of the most rigorous recruiting programs in the country, and athletes who receive scholarships expect to have those for the duration of their undergraduate education. The University of William and Mary has also made large cuts to their athletics program. William and Mary is a school that attracts an immense amount of students from the DMV area, so it is definitely a notable change for BCC students. One eye-catching sport they cut is track and field. Lots of athletes are losing their careers fast, and there is nothing that they can do about it.

The extremely upsetting part about all of this is that this issue has been a problem for many years. Even before the pandemic, lower attended sports were undermined, as bigger sports gained all of the funding and attention. Sports such as cross country, swimming, and wrestling received minimal funding, and therefore did not receive

as much support.

In the future, even beyond COVID, there can be more done to appreciate smaller sports. If there is a championship game or event that is scheduled to occur, all that needs to be done is for the school to do some promoting. Although not having attendance for certain sports is not a huge issue, it can lead to bigger problems such as the sport being disbanded. Letting fans know of the event is very important, it informs and intrigues students who would otherwise be clueless. Support can play a huge role in the performance of the players, and when there is no support players might be without motivation. For the schools that are cutting sports, when everything returns to normal, do not forget about these athletes. They have worked their whole lives to get to the collegiate level, and for them to be forgotten about is simply not fair. Everyone understands that money is an issue and will always be one, but once the money is sufficient there is no reason why these sports should be undermined. The best and only way to tackle these issues is to imagine yourself in an athlete’s shoes, and see how you would feel about losing your life’s dream to money. It is a major issue, and people have to work together to solve it to make sure that everyone has their shot.

GRAPHIC BY KELSEA PETERSEN

Online Thrifting: A Trend That Should Stick

BY CARMEN LOPEZ FERNANDEZ

Thrift stores, stores selling secondhand clothes and other household goods, have been around since the 19th century. Originally reserved for raising money for charity and a shopping place for low-income people, thrifting was recently popularized in 2017 by influencers. The idea of thrift shopping became a trend very quickly, but unlike most trends, thrifting has stuck around.

Fast-forward to 2020 and new circumstances have led to necessary adaptations. The COVID-19 pandemic meant that almost all stores were closed for months on end, including thrift stores.

Online thrift stores aren't exactly a new thing, like eBay which has been around since 1995, but it has definitely been popularized in recent years.

"I started [online thrift shopping] in seventh grade... I realized that online thrift stores sold a ton of popular brands at a fraction of the price," said senior Amelia Brown.

Online thrift shopping is an easy concept. It consists of a seller taking any old clothes, shoes, or accessories and uploading pictures of them to a site. The seller then puts a description of the item they're selling, the size, the brand, and finally the price. It is mostly second-hand clothing that has already been worn, so the pricing will usually be a cheaper alternative to buying directly from the store. Controversies have arisen as some sellers take advantage of in-demand items and set an extremely high price. "Rare" Brandy Melville pieces can be sold for around \$70 if the demand is high enough.

The sellers are not the only ones with the capability to manipulate other users. On any online thrift shopping app, the buyer is able to bid, message, and give offers on any items. Since the prices can be adjusted at any time, most sellers are willing to negotiate prices. This gives buyers another opportunity to get their clothing at an even better price.

But why use online thrift shops? If it's going to be online wouldn't it be better to just buy new clothes?

"I realized that online thrift stores sold a ton of popular brands at a fraction of the price."

"A big pro of online thrifting is that it is more convenient than going to a physical thrift store," said Brown.

"The main con", says Amelia Brown "is that it is more expensive than physical thrift stores". The prices do vary, but since it is an individual seller pricing the items instead of store pricing will at times be more expensive than regular thrifting. But even then, prices are still cheaper than buying first hand. It is pretty easy to tell when sellers are lying about the quality of their item because pictures of the product must be included, but if you are buying pricier "vintage" or luxury items buying fakes by accident is absolutely a risk.

Luckily many websites, such as The Real Real, offer verification of authenticity when buying luxury items, and allow you to return items if they differ from what the seller claimed.

Online thrift shopping is a 2020 trend that has some obvious rough patches but also provides many pros to both sellers and buyers. As apps like Depop, eBay, and Poshmark gain popularity, online thrift shopping seems like a trend that's here to stay.



PHOTO COUTEY OF AMELIA BROWN

Inexpensive

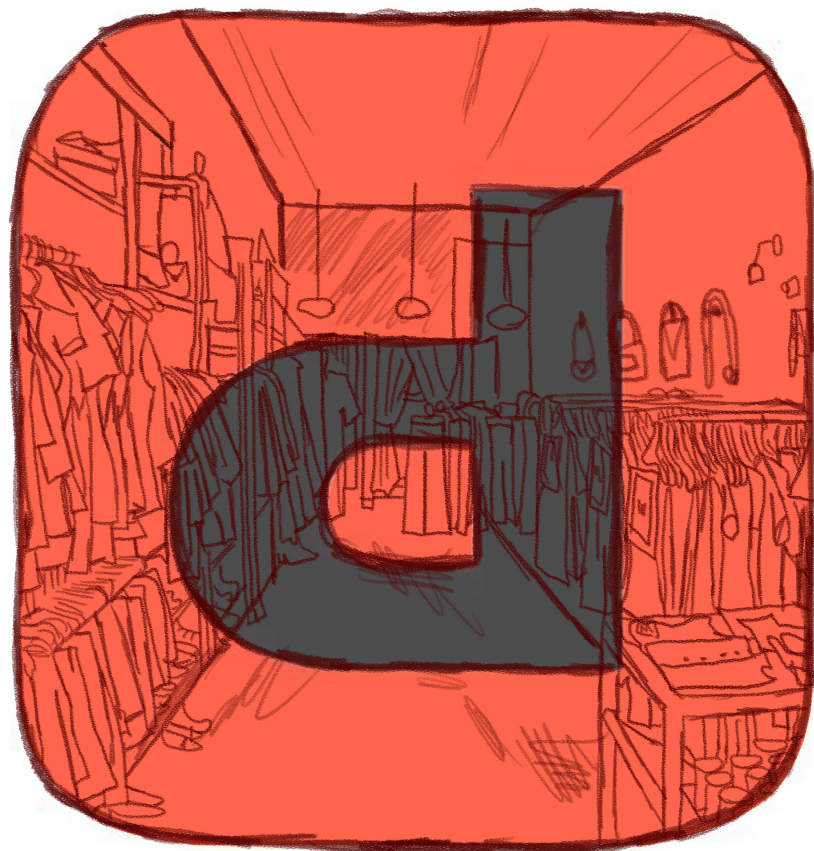
You get to pick from millions of clothing items at extremely discounted prices, and above that bidding and negotiations are available from almost all sellers.

Sustainable

Fast fashion is a huge problem in the world today. Big chain brands produce thousands of items, while exploiting workers. Workers get paid minimum wages for extremely hard work. Along with that fast fashion also contributes to overproduction and pollution. Online thrift stores allow people to recycle any old clothes and limit the amount of people who buy from fast fashion. When you thrift, instead of supporting fast fashion, you are helping the environment.

Easy to Use

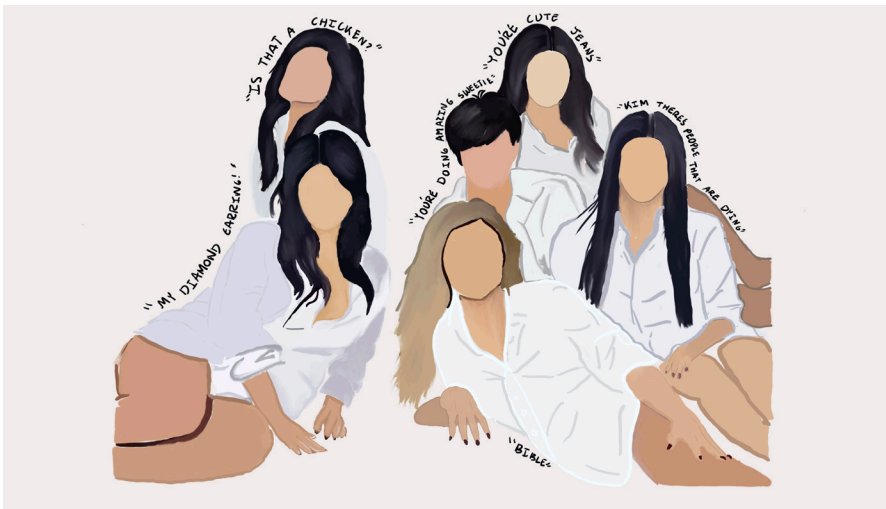
Like regular online shopping all you have to do is search for items you are looking for. Keyword searching, the ability to "like" posts, and filtering by size, price, etc. make it an easier alternative to in-store thrift shopping where everything is a lot more disorganized. The shopping experience also becomes more personalized with the ability to independently message the seller with questions about the item or pricing.



GRAPHIC BY KELSEA PETERSEN

Kissing the Kardashians Goodbye

GRAPHIC BY SYDNEY THEIS



BY FRANNIE ROSEN

On September 8th, Kim Kardashian West announced on her Instagram that the 20th season of *Keeping Up with the Kardashians* (airing in 2021) would be the last. *Keeping Up with the Kardashians* (also known as KUWTK) is one of the longest running reality shows and has resulted in a following of the Kardashian-Jenner clan like no other. First airing in October 2007, the family was on their way to becoming one of the most well-known American families.

Let's take a look at the Kardashian-Jenners circa 2007. Kris and Bruce had been married for sixteen years. Kourtney's iconic on-and-off relationship with Scott Disick was only about a year old. Kim was the victim of a recent sex tape leak, though it's widely thought that her sex tape

played a major role in the elevation of the family's prominence. Khloe had yet to be cheated on by two certain NBA players. Rob was living at home, lacking direction and goals. Kendall and Kylie were teenage girls running around and creating chaos wherever they could. The big three (Kourtney, Kim, and Khloe) were working at their boutique DASH and Kim's modeling career was blossoming. The family as whole grew into an "influencer" status.

Over the course of the show, viewers have been able to follow the evolution of the family, in both their personal and professional lives. The show took us on a journey of romances and marriages, heartbreaks and divorces, children, and business endeavours. We watched as Kris, the "momager" of the family, constructed this brand for family

members to use as a building block in their respective careers. The family exemplifies the concept of "famous for being famous" better than anyone else in the 21st century.

From KUWTK, came a plethora of spin-offs: Kourtney and Khloe Take Miami, Kourtney and Kim Take Miami, Kourtney and Kim Take New York, Khloe and Lamar, Kourtney and Khloe Take the Hamptons, Dash Dolls, I am Cait, Revenge Body with Khloe Kardashian, Rob and Chyna, Life of Kylie, and Flip it Like Disick; however, none had the success or ratings of KUWTK. Also, coming from the family were apps, books, and of course scandals.

Besides the OG Kardashian scandal (Kim's sex tape), the Kardashian bunch has been the center of several scandals and controversies. The siblings and their significant others are certainly no strangers to adultery and the strain it puts on relationships. Let us not forget Kendall's 2017 Pepsi commercial, for which she and Pepsi were criticized for exploiting the Black Lives Matter movement for personal gain and profit. Furthermore, members of the famous family have had multiple instances of controversy surrounding allegations of cultural appropriation. Many are quick to criticize the Kardashian-Jenners for their promotion of unrealistic beauty standards and claim that having such a large presence in American culture, as they do, means that they should strive to be better role models for those that idolize them.

Now with a considerable second generation underway (ages ranging from ten-years-old to just under a year-and-a-half-old) and a booming social presence in American pop culture, it's fair to say that the family's goodbye to the show does not mean a goodbye to the spotlight.

Halloween: COVID-19 Edition

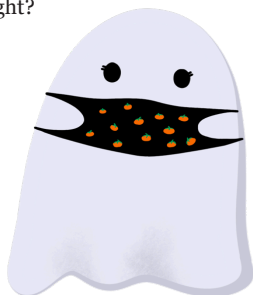
BY JULIANA CAPIZZI AND MIA ROMANO

2020.

Did that scare you? It definitely took most of us by surprise. Is Halloween even necessary this year?

Many look to Halloween as a brief moment of normalcy in comparison to everything else going on. Masks have always been worn on Halloween anyways. Costumes are easy this year too; one could go as a doctor, or even hide their mask beneath a Darth Vader costume.

No treats? Okay, so tricks it is! Kidding! Don't play too many pranks, people have enough to worry about. Sadly, many homes may not give out candy this year. At least you won't be getting apples or raisins from that one family on the block, right?

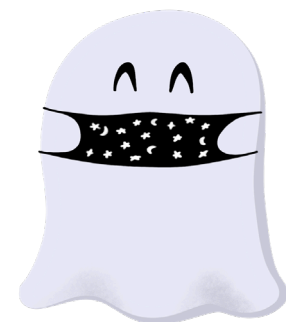


This will likely lead to the familiar indulgence of junk food that we all have participated in during quarantine. May we suggest ordering a variety pack of Mars candy bars for you and your family. Or multiple. Buying candy for oneself could be the only way to safely receive "treats" this year. So we've all been indulging ourselves over the past few months, no biggie. We are living during a global pandemic, give yourself some credit.

Have
A
Lovely
Little
Outing
Where
Everyone
Embraces
New norms and follows
safety precautions

What is there to do if one is not trick-or-treating? (Which some of us are too old to do anyways.) Alternatives to the traditional festivities could be watching a scary movie outside with friends. One could go to a drive-in theater or set up a projection outside their own home. Some people will be dressing up for fun in their own home or on camera for Zooms. Markoffs and Field of Screams are open! At least this year it's guaranteed no clowns will come within 6 feet of you.

As long as those participating are willing to wear masks and properly distance themselves, Halloween can still be fun this year. So go, stay out late, and be safe.



GRAPHICS BY MIA ROMANO

Restrictive “Zoom Codes” Put Into Place by MCPS

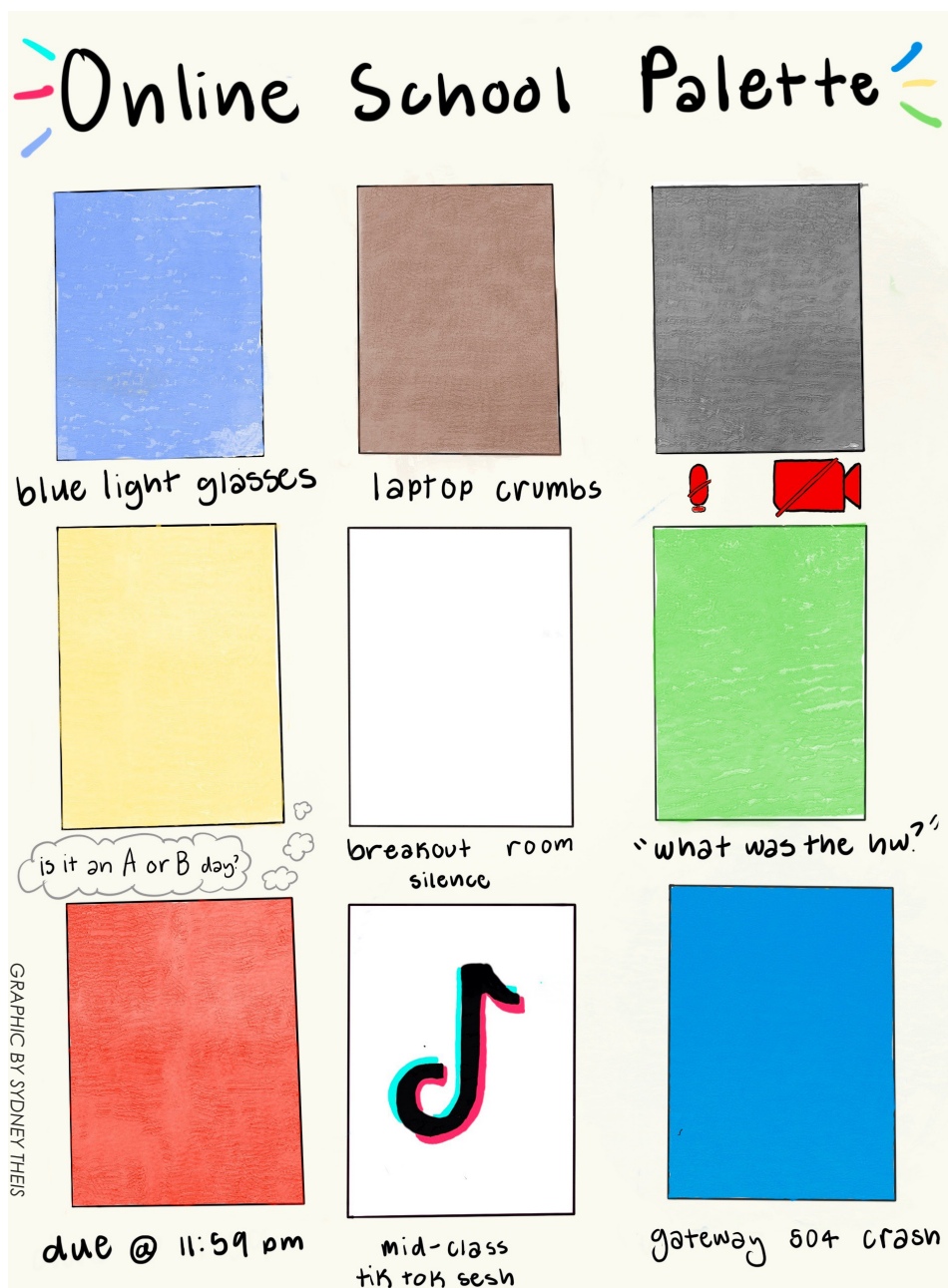
BY JACKSON HERMES

In what many see as an overreach of power, district higher-ups have enacted a series of strict background and dress codes for students. Following many reported incidents of inappropriate custom backgrounds and students showing up to online class seemingly without pants, county officials have deemed it necessary to implement restrictions to curb the creativity of our county’s resident rule breakers. These include regulations on what you can have in the background of your room and a requirement that your webcam must show your full outfit. If your background is deemed indecent, the county will now require that you must change it to that ugly blue wallpaper on all the school Chromebooks. In addition, students are not allowed to wear hats, hooded sweatshirts, or glasses of any kind that

would obscure the teachers from properly keeping track of student’s eye movements.

The new rule has been met with heavy criticism from students, and many have now banded together in protest to stand up for their rights. Members from the Greater Organization Of Privacy Interests and Enjoyment (GOOPIE) have organized Zoom walkouts and distributed flyers to voice their concerns about the overextension of authority from MCPS. Some have even staged in-class protests, with one anonymous student going as far as creating a meticulously crafted, hand-painted papier-mâché rendition of an F-wing classroom to sit in front of when it was time for school. Even the newest members of the B-CC community have taken part in the civil unrest; during classes on Homecoming day, many freshman girl’s faces were decorated with the

same blue and yellow dots one might see during a Friday night football game. Another student managed to sneak into the boy’s locker room to take a class; he was subsequently kicked out as the teacher could “smell it through the screen.” Leaders of GOOPIE are set to meet with MCPS officials within the coming weeks and are bringing a long list of demands, including mandatory 10-minute breaks each period to check social media and making the period after lunch optional, citing the essentialness of proper nutrition. Only time will tell how MCPS will respond to these requests.



Could you imagine me not winning against Unable Abe and Washed-up Washington back here? Only if the voting was rigged. Come on, suburban women, please like me.

Reflecting on a Wonderful Start to the School Year

BY RUDY ECHAVARRIA

After a brief couple of months without a stadium field or track, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School now has a new turf field and a track! A super speedy construction of the stadium and track left the Barons without home field only for a brief spell. In just a couple months, a natural grass field was turned into a beautiful turf field with a wonderful track surrounding it. The finishing touches were just made on the track, which finished a few weeks ago.

With the momentum of the finished stadium, the Barons have started the school year on a roll. They have enjoyed many fun in-school activities such as pep rallies in the new stadium, and a fun Homecoming Dance in the gymnasium!

But most of all, the Barons have enjoyed the Friday nights at the newly completed stadium, watching the glorious football team playing with a winning record. The Barons are looking to defend their state championship title, after a wondrous undefeated season last year.

The 2020-21 school year seems to be in great shape as we advance towards snow days, the Winter Dance, and the magic of the holiday season. As the weather gets colder, we here at the Backpage extend our wishes of good fortune to the Baron community in hopes that this historic year will truly be the gift that keeps on giving.