

Sherwood High School: 300 Olney Sandy Spring Road, Sandy Spring, MD 20860

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## Police Will Return to MCPS Schools Next Year in Narrowly Defined Role

by Liam Trump '24

A year after MCPS made the decision to remove a designated police officer from each of its high schools, the school system is bringing them back in a modified form. The plan for reintroducing police came only weeks after a shooting at Magruder critically injured a 15 year old.

With the title of Community Engagement Officers (CEOs), these police officers will differ from the previous Student Resource Officers (SROs) by wearing civilian clothes rather than police uniforms, and they will respond only to more specific incidents that are potentially criminal activities rather than school disciplinary issues.

The largest difference between SROs and CEOs, other than the name change, is the fact that CEOs won't be stationed permanently in schools; instead, they'll have designated work stations when they need to come to a school. Also, they will be available to attend school events such as sports games and large dances.

"I do think [CEOs] will be beneficial because they have other resources MCPS might not know about. With things happening now in the school system it will make it feel like a safer environment," said

security team leader Dominique Dixon. "If an incident were to take place in a school with a police officer they can get the message out quicker to have reinforcements on site."

SROs were in MCPS middle and high schools for 19 years. However, calls to remove uniformed police officers from schools grew during the 2020-21 school year. Student and community activists argued that mental health should be more prioritized and that students of color were disproportionately arrested by SROs. The activists said that SROs had contributed to a negative relationship between students and the police, eventually leading to the SRO program being taken out of MCPS's fiscal budget.

Superintendent Monifa McKnight has said previously that the CEO program will have a greater focus on students' mental health. With the plan for CEOs to be in place next school year, activists hope that they will focus more on building relationships.

"I can't speak for CEOs," said Dixon. "But [I think] they would help students feel comfortable with them being in the building and try to get them to understand the program."

## Free Lunches Set To End Next School Year, Even as Need Continues To Grow

by Nia Peake '23

For the past two years, MCPS has provided students with free lunches due to federal lunch programs introduced by Congress in 2020 to combat obstacles and hardships from the pandemic. These programs are set to expire on June 30, ending free school lunches for the next school year.

On March 11 of this year, the \$1.5 trillion spending package signed into law excluded the funding waivers within the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) that had kept millions of kids fed throughout these last two school years. The termination of free lunch funding has left schools and nutrition advocates with uncertainty about their capability to serve school meals, considering the success that these programs have had in ensuring that no child goes hungry.

When schools had to shut down due to the pandemic, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) granted waivers for the

NSLP to allow more freedom and flexibility to accommodate students. This funding meant that lunches were free of charge for all students no matter their income, waiving the tedious process of filling out eligibility applications. Schools created different distribution techniques, abiding by pandemic regulations, to make sure every kid was being fed. These positive benefits continued in the 2021-2022 school year as the USDA extended the waivers allowing schools to provide lunch free of cost still.

During this past school year, schools saw even more proof of how favorable free lunches have been for students. Sherwood Cafeteria Manager Lisa Nestor reported an enormous change in the number of students getting lunch. "The number of lunches increased. Most of the days, it doubled in number," said Nestor.

Lisa Davis, the senior vice president of the nonprofit 'Show Our Strength', issued a statement arguing about how severe conse-

quences will be on schools without the flexibility they had from the waivers.

With the ongoing problem with inflation continuing to increase the expenses on food and gas and the current disruption in the supply chain, many financial and nutritional metrics are worse than before the pandemic. According to Davis, food vendors are having to charge more in their contracts, worrying some school districts, especially those not sure if they will be able to cover funds for summer meal programs. Also, due to supply chain problems, schools are losing out on federal funds to cover the cost of meals. The USDA estimates that the original \$4.56 reimbursement that the government granted for meals will decrease to \$2.91.

"These waivers are essential for schools and local meal providers, who have stepped up to feed kids since the start of the pandemic ... Today Congress made their jobs harder," argued Davis.

## Baseball and Softball Win States



## Students Address Abortion After Leaked Court Decision

by Sydney Wisner '23

On May 2, Politico leaked the draft majority opinion for the Supreme Court case Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization. The case challenges the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that granted federal protection to abortion under the due process clause of the 14th Amendment which provides a fundamental "right to privacy." If the draft reflects the final decision, expected this month, Roe v. Wade will be struck down and the legality of abortion will be decided by each state.

A recent NPR poll reported that nearly 64 percent of Americans don't support overturning Roe v. Wade, and the leaked decision has sent shockwaves across the country. Pro-choice advocates picketed outside Justices' homes and an estimated 20,000 protested in Washington D.C. Students staged walkouts at schools across the country.

Health teacher and Warriors 4

Change sponsor, Heather Giovenco, said students approached her with questions about the issue. Women's Studies teacher Rebecca Taylor provided her students with the facts of the draft opinion and held discussions. "We have a culture of trust in the classroom, and students, even those with differing opinions, know that they can share their thoughts in a respectful manner," said Taylor.

Junior Maalini Srinivasan, who's the gender, sexuality, and class captain for the Warriors 4 Change club, explained how the club used social media to spread awareness about the leaked decision. They posted information about ways to act and the groups of people who'd be most affected by the ruling.

Some Sherwood students attended protests or emailed their Congress members. However, more community-wide protest efforts like school walkouts, which were organized for issues like gun violence (2018) and Covid-19

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## Exchange Program Offers an American Cultural and Educational Experience

by Charlotte Koderhold '23

Through a high school exchange program, I am spending the second semester of the school year at Sherwood after coming to Maryland from my native country of Austria, where I live in the capital city of Vienna. The unforgettable experiences have allowed me to make my very own American high school movie and they have provided me with a better understanding of the broad term culture, what it means in daily life and what it means to me, personally, as a teenager building a new life so far away from home.

The exchange organization that makes these experiences abroad possible is the American Field Service (AFS), which was founded after World War I. AFS is a non-profit organization with a volunteer network in more than 40 countries. Its goal is to develop global citizenship in its participants and foster dialogue between different countries and cultures. Every year, AFS-USA sends about 1,000 students to foreign countries while hosting four times as many with families that come in all shapes and sizes.

One of the first moments when I realized where I had landed was when I managed to board the wrong school bus on my first day of school as a foreign exchange student at Sherwood. "What do you mean, I cannot get off at the next stop and take another one?" I asked the bus driver. While I still find the lack of public transportation bothersome, I have come to enjoy living in small-town Olney while still going to Washington

D.C. every weekend, blending in with the crowds on the metro and exploring the opportunities in the nation's exciting capital.

Back in Austria, my home country, I used to be a very ambitious student who would rarely get a B if you had to find an equivalent to the Austrian school system. And don't get me wrong, I still care about my education even though my grades here do not count in Austria. Frankly, I have never thought more about my future and my true interests than during my time in the United States, and I believe that this is because my exchange program allowed me to breathe. I was able to soak up life while here on exchange and learn lessons that can only be conveyed outside of classrooms. It also showed me that for the most part of life, you are on your own; you do not always have a support system around you, especially if you dare to step out of your comfort zone.

One of the best parts of my exchange is without doubt my host family that has truly become my second family. I know that not every exchange student is as lucky as I am and that not every placement is a perfect match as students do not get to choose their families but the families pick a student by accessing their agency profiles. My host family is a little unconventional as my host mother is from Italy and my host father is from Bosnia and Herzegovina, but this allowed me to gain a 360-degree insight and come to the conclusion that everyone can find their place and their community in this country regardless of

their cultural background.

A significant difference between America and Austria is the school system, which provided a lot of cultural shocks for me personally. During my first month at Sherwood I was completely overwhelmed by the size of American schools as, by contrast, my school has 800 students. In Austria, middle school and high school are located in one building and students stay with their class, which usually consists of about 25 students for eight years within one classroom. That is eight years of seeing the same people in every subject, every day and building close friendships with these people. What this however also means is hardly any interaction with people outside of this very familiar circle.

Surprisingly after some time had passed being at Sherwood, I came to notice that more people does not mean less unity, quite the contrary actually. In Austria, students take no pride in the school they go to; if anything, they are proud of their own academic achievements. School is strictly about academics and students address teachers with "professor." At the very beginning, I had to fight the impulse of standing up when the bell rings, which in my country is obligatory when the teacher enters the classroom. I will miss my teachers at Sherwood who are so much more than educators but also mentors and sometimes even the reason why students show up to class every day. I will miss their classrooms that do not merely have beige desks but also colorful posters



courtesy of Charlotte Koderhold '23

Charlotte Koderhold outside of the U.S. Capitol building on May 30.

and quotes that add a personal touch to an institution that can sometimes feel so impersonal.

As a student who is used to an alternating schedule with different classes every day, I will not lie when I say that some days truly felt like I was the main character Phil in the movie Groundhog Day (going on exchange can really give you these main character vibes). At some point when I bumped into the same people in hallways at the exact same time every single day, it seemed like groundhog day but this is also another part about cultural exchange that very few people will tell you about, especially on social media. There will be dull moments, life will feel boring at

times when the rollercoaster of emotions has passed and you are just living another life in another country. However, this is exactly what shows you that you have adapted to the new culture of your host country, that you have become part of it rather than being an observer all along.

Lastly, I can say that studying abroad is hard work but at the end of the day, I cannot name a more rewarding experience in my life. When I think about all the things that would have made me wince half a year ago, like talking to complete strangers, I am truly proud to say that I am not the same person anymore as the one who boarded that flight on January 20.

## School Takes Hands-Off Approach to Local Covid Outbreak in May Despite Rising Cases

by Solaiman Hassanin '23

The weeks after the May 7 prom saw a massive outbreak of Covid-19 infections at Sherwood. Despite hundreds of students getting Covid-19, school continued with no mask mandate. The non-response to the outbreak was a clear indication that Sherwood and MCPS have decided on a "new normal" in which schools will remain in-person no matter how high cases soar.

According to the MCPS Covid-19 Dashboard, 74 Sherwood students reported to have had Covid-19 from May 15 to 24, but anecdotal evidence suggests the actual number was twice that or more. School nurse Irene Gumucio said the school has no way of exactly measuring the number of Covid-19 cases because reporting is dependent on students or parents completing the MCPS Self-Reporting google form that is linked on the school's website.

Although Sherwood still periodically provides take-home Covid-19 tests, the school cannot require that students take them or even that students report positive results for infection.

According to a student who was out with Covid 19, parents are told to fill out a positive

Covid form, indicating the reason for their absence. Despite taking these steps, the student found the process to count the absence as an "excused" absence to be more complex than necessary, with the school marking them as an unexcused absence multiple times.

Some recent trends may be positive, as official MCPS Dashboard numbers show the total number of quarantined students in May was 8,125, around half the 15,191 that were quarantined in January. Between May 21 and May 29, there were approximately 1,779 cases among students and staff across all of MCPS, with 28 confirmed cases at Sherwood during the same period. The numbers seemingly show a decline in cases between May 21 and May 29 when compared to May 15 to May 24, at least on the basis of MCPS's official count.

Principal Tim Britton confirmed that MCPS remained on a set trajectory to remain in an in-person setting until the end of the year. Britton was careful to mention MCPS cooperation with schools and the level of coordination between MCPS and different schools.

Ultimately, Britton says that students' own behaviors and choices have a significant im-

pact on the spread of Covid-19 infections. "Measures should be taken on a personal level," said Britton. "We encourage any and all students and staff to wear a mask if they are in a high-impact area, or classroom, that has had a case. The county has not required schools to go back to a mask mandate; therefore, we are following those guidelines."

Gumucio affirmed that protocols have changed with time and as the school receives updates from MCPS higher authorities. For example, while a Covid-19 reporting form has existed since the return of students to in-class learning, the form has recently been changed to fit the different situations and times. Covid-19 quarantine, which was at first ten days, was cut down to five days in order to better suit an opening society.

Covid-19, for the most part, seems to have become a far more accepted part of life for both individuals and organizations. While different schools have taken different approaches, it reasonably can be assumed that Covid-19 will not be the cause of any school closures anytime soon.

The county's policy, for better or for worse, has become solidified and its trajectory clear.

## End of Roe v. Wade Expected

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procedures (2021) weren't evident.

Usually, when impactful events occur, Taylor finds that students look to teachers for help understanding an issue. Although, given the political polarization of issues like abortion, it's become more challenging to address in class. Abortion is not included in the MCPS health curriculum. However, Giovenco pointed to numerous proactive sexual education topics addressed in the curriculum such as contraceptive methods and consent.

Srinivasan attributed hesitation around engaging in the topic to how complex an issue abortion has become. "I think people are afraid to speak out about their opinion for fear of facing some sort of backlash," said Srinivasan.

Giovenco suggested that lower levels of activity could be attributed to the "Maryland bubble." Maryland allows abortion up to viability and the Maryland General Assembly recently passed a bill allowing for a greater number of health practitioners to perform abortions. Because of Maryland's liberal policies, those who might've worried more about the leaked ruling if they lived in other states don't feel as affected. However, Giovenco advises

that as students plan for college, they should know other states' abortion laws if they want to live somewhere with easily accessible abortion providers.

If Roe v. Wade is overturned, abortion laws will likely remain unchanged in Democratic states. However, many conservative states have implemented "trigger laws" that would immediately ban or limit abortions in the state if the ruling is overturned.

The Maryland primaries are on July 19, and under a new governor, there could be a push to add restrictions on abortion. The prominent Republican candidates, Dan Cox and Kelly Schultz, are personally against abortion but Schultz has asserted that her beliefs won't interfere with political decisions. The majority of Democratic candidates, including Wes Moore and Doug Gansler, support Roe v. Wade.

The radical differences among states' laws illustrate a country divided over the issue of abortion. Vermont is moving forward on state constitutional amendments to guarantee the right to abortion while Oklahoma passed an almost complete ban. As the United States grows increasingly polarized, students and teachers question if civil discourse about abortion is possible, or even permitted.



June 14, 2022

## Students Negotiate Right Speaking Voice To Fit In

by Timaya Pulliam '23

Code switching is when someone goes back and forth with the type of language/speech/voice that they use around different groups of people. This alteration of language is most common in minority communities and often occurs in school even if it is unnoticed. It is a learned behavior often used to assimilate in different spaces.

Code switching can be used in various ways. For example, a black person may talk in what is deemed “proper” English normally but may switch how they speak when speaking to other members of the black community so they can sound more like some of their friends. On the other hand, someone may be more comfortable us-

ing African American Vernacular English (AAVE) in their daily life but may code switch into using more conventional English when around a majority white group of people. AAVE, also controversially known as ebonics, is a category of the English language derived and spoken primarily by African Americans. This form of Black speech distinguishes itself from standard English with its unique grammatical structure, pronunciation, and vocabulary.

Code switching is essentially social self-defense. “I have caught myself many times code switching without realizing it. It’s honestly been a habit ... I began to use slang to fit in [with my black friends],” said senior Fernando Johnson about his unconscious experience of code

switching from “proper” English to AAVE.

Code switching can also happen consciously in order to not feel judged by one’s peers. “When I code switch consciously, I do it for the reason of not wanting to be judged ... People may think of me as a stereotypical ‘ghetto person’ or if I don’t code switch, I am called ‘white washed,’” said junior Vera Gitau. She code switches in different ways based on who she is around, as she may speak in conventional English normally, but may code switch around other black people to sound more like the specific group. However, when Gitau does not code switch to fit in she may be judged.

Several black students have recognized that they experience code switching every day, wheth-

er it is code switching to sound more like an African American majority of people or a white majority. Even though both students code switch in different ways, they both have the common experience of feeling like they must change their way of speech to fit in with others.

Black people are not a monolith. Some black people may speak in AAVE more frequently while others speak in “correct” English. This creates judgemental experiences especially in school — where students spend most of their time. Trying to appease teachers and white friends, while doing the same to black friends in similar vicinities or to black families at home, can be emotionally taxing for black students.

Though the phrase code

switching was not coined until 1954, it has been used to equate value and success since slavery. During that period, it was difficult for blacks to be seen in positions of power; therefore, African Americans would use dialect to equate to whiteness in order to receive and keep jobs if they were not enslaved.

Schools can look to having more culturally aware and culturally valued environments through language. “The purpose of a culturally relevant environment is to rise above harmful effects of the dominant culture and uphold the student’s culture by using it in the school and classroom,” said Melanie Hines-Knapp, managing director of Impact Integration at Teach For America of the University of Mississippi.



Members of the Sherwood Fashion Club stand outside of their show with sponsor Ms. Ashley Graham-Bell.

## Sherwood Fashion Club ‘Recycles The Runway’

by Lauren Frank '23

Sherwood’s Fashion Club held its first ever fashion show during lunch on May 26, featuring numerous handmade outfits designed and modeled by the club members. Spending countless hours on the project in English teacher Ashley Graham-Bell’s room, this creative group met almost every week preparing for the show.

Junior Arya Sharma, the club’s president, wanted to start a fashion club to give people an outlet for fashion-related expression that had previously been absent from the school. Eventually after challenging club members to follow weekly clothing themes and watching 90s fashion shows, the club started preparing for its big end of the year project—its own fashion show. “The creative process behind the show was centered around sustainability,” explained Sharma.

The clothing used in the show either was reworked or donated to the club, so the goal was to essentially recycle the runway.

Much of the inspiration behind the looks were based on the model’s own style as well as a twist of reworked clothing. Following these guidelines, the club strived to limit its consumption of clothing when designing the looks, similarly mirroring the design process of those from fashion schools.

First, it was up to everyone to decide on a theme and overall vibe they were going for with the looks. Once the group decided on going for a darker color scheme and grunge vibe, it was time to get to work. A google form was created for people to choose which role they would like to have in the show: designer, model, or photographer. Once roles were decided, the design process began to get more serious.

Each model was assigned to a designer and sent them their measurements so the clothing pieces were made uniquely for them. “Being a model was so much fun because you could showcase all the work that the designers put a lot of work into,” said junior Monica Kim.

Kim is just one of several stu-

dents who modeled for the show. During the show, she and the other models walked down a pathway that resembled a catwalk, in one of the courtyards, showing off their handmade outfits in front of an excited crowd of students.

Junior Taylor Brooks is another member of the club who modeled for the show. During the show she wore a handmade red skirt and black top. “I really enjoyed talking to the other models and taking photos of the process. Walking down the runway was probably the best part of the whole experience,” Brooks emphasized.

Students came and supported their friends as they watched them model the club’s hard work. After the show people stuck around, snapping photos with one another while celebrating their success. While this first-time club put on a great show, Sharma hopes that the show will inspire more people to join the club next year and become interested in modeling or designing for future projects. If you are interested in the process described in this article, then this club is for you.

## Digital SAT Brings Many Changes to Current Test

by Alex Braun '23

As technology advances and the coronavirus makes in-person work and school difficult, more of our lives are moving online. This is true of the SAT, which in 2023 will become internationally taken in a digital format, and become digital in the United States in 2024. On April 9, I took a digital SAT as part of a study done by the College Board and, while there are vague similarities, for the most part it feels like a completely different test than the current paper version.

The similar elements are the topics. There are reading, writing/language, and math categories, and within those categories, the same type of questions one would see on a paper and pencil SAT. For the reading and writing/language section, there are questions asking main ideas, style questions, word choice, grammar changes, and other elements present on the current SAT format for that section. For the math section, the questions are on the same subjects, asking about algebra and geometry mostly.

Where the test diverges from the current format is in the structure and time. The current paper SAT has four sections: Reading, Writing/Language, Math (Without Calculator), and Math (With Calculator) and takes about 3-3.5 hours. The new SAT has the two sections of reading/writing and math and takes only about two hours. Within the sections, the format gets more and more different from the paper and pencil version.

In the reading/writing section, the entire section is divided into two parts, or as the College Board calls them, modules. Each module is 27 questions and 32 minutes long. If a student finishes the module early, they cannot move forward but can check their answers, but when the timer for that module runs out they are automatically advanced to the next module, whether they are done or not. Both modules of the sec-

tion are nearly identical in tested skills, just with different passages and excerpts. While the current reading section on the test has five passages with 11 questions per passage, this digital SAT has one question for every passage. The passages are much shorter and students never see the same one twice. Additionally, questions on similar skills are grouped together. When I took the test there were five to six questions on a topic like word choice, followed by five to six on main idea, more questions on grammar, etc.

After the reading section, there is a 10-minute break before the math section when test takers can go to the bathroom, eat a snack if they brought one, drink water, stretch, or talk about non test related topics. The breaks are essentially the exact same in both the current and the digital SAT.

In the math section, there are two modules with 22 questions each and 35 minutes to complete each module. Unlike the current test, the digital one allows a calculator for all of the math questions. The math section has the same style questions as the paper and pencil SAT, but questions on different topics are scattered throughout rather than grouped together like in the reading/writing section. However, unlike the paper and pencil SAT, the free response questions are not located at the very end of the section or module, and are instead scattered throughout just like any other question. They allow up to four characters and seemingly appear more often on the second module of the math section.

The College Board will provide testing devices when they roll out the digital SAT in 2024, which helps those who don’t have a device of their own to take the test with equal opportunity. Whether or not it is “better” or “easier,” this change is one that all students will have to come to embrace in the coming years, beginning with current freshmen when they begin to take SATs in their Junior year.



## January 6 Committee Seeks Final Report by Fall

by Matt Kauffman '23

On May 12, 2022, House Select January 6 Committee Chairman Rep. Benny Thompson (D-MS) announced subpoenas issued for five Republican members of Congress, including Senate Minority leader Kevin McCarthy. "The Select Committee has learned that several of our colleagues have information relevant to our investigation into the attack on January 6th and the events leading up to it," Thompson said in a statement. He noted that these five members were previously sent letters requesting voluntary compliance with the committee, but these requests were refused, forcing the committee to issue subpoenas.

Earlier, on March 28, a federal judge ruled that former President Donald Trump and his attorney John Eastman "likely" committed crimes in their attempt to block the certification of the 2020 election. This decision sparked debate within the committee over whether or not to refer Trump to the Department of Justice (DOJ) for legal prosecution, as the committee itself does not have judicial authority. The committee has already approved four such referrals for former Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, former Chief Strategist Steve Bannon, and former Trump aides Dan Scavino and Peter Navarro on charges for contempt of Congress.

The judge required Eastman to turn over hundreds of emails, many of which outlined a scenario in which former Vice President Mike Pence could have stopped the certification of the 2020 election. Eastman attempted to conceal these emails by suing the committee under attorney-client privilege, but that claim was denied by Judge David Carter on the grounds that Eastman and Trump had likely been conspiring to commit a crime. This ruling paved the way for the committee to obtain the 101 emails from Eastman. "This may have been the



January 6 Committee (left to right) Chairment Bennie Tompson (D-MS), Liz Cheney (R-WY), Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), and Pete Aguilar (D-CA)

first time members of President Trump's team transformed a legal interpretation of the Electoral Count Act into a day-by-day plan of action," wrote Carter in his ruling.

The possible charges to be brought against Trump are defrauding the United States and contempt of Congress. According to Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY), Trump was warned about the illegality of the plan to overturn the election by his aides, specifically Deputy Attorney General Richard Donahue, who told Trump that he would be hurting the country if he followed through with the plan.

According to Luke Broadwater of the New York Times, Trump's ignorance of the legal ramifications of his and Eastman's plan to overturn the election amounts to fraud because he deliberately sought to mislead the American public.

"They are on the right track in compiling the case against Donald Trump," said Broadwater. "It will only bolster their attempts to pursue a criminal referral against Donald Trump and his allies when the committee wraps up its work."

The committee's focus has largely been on Trump's role in the riots. Chairman Benny Thompson (D-MS) and other committee members have questioned a litany of people related to the riot, including numerous Trump aides. Trump's personal lawyer and former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani was expected to testify in May, but canceled his appearance.

In late April leaked texts showed that Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia texted Trump aide Mark Meadows about using martial law after the January 6 riot (incorrectly spelled "Marshall law"). "They stole this election," Greene texted, referring vaguely to Biden and his supporters. "We all know. They will destroy our country next."

In addition to lawmakers and Trump aides connected to the riot, the committee also interviewed Ivanka Trump. In an interview with CNN, chairman Thompson offered insight into her virtual meeting with the committee on April 5. Although the testimony of Trump's daughter and son-in-law Jared Kushner was not directly against the former president, it did corroborate critical testimony from others that claimed Trump was reluctant to call off the rioters on January 6.

The committee planned to issue a final report in the fall, though the status of this plan of action is vague. It currently remains unclear whether or not the committee's final report will include a criminal referral for Trump and others to the DOJ. The issue has been further complicated by Trump hinting at a 2024 presidential campaign, while the January 6 riot and the ensuing investigation remains his most significant hindrance.

So far, according to Insider, at least 846 people have been arrested and charged in relation to the riot, 298 of which have pled guilty since the committee's creation in July 2021.

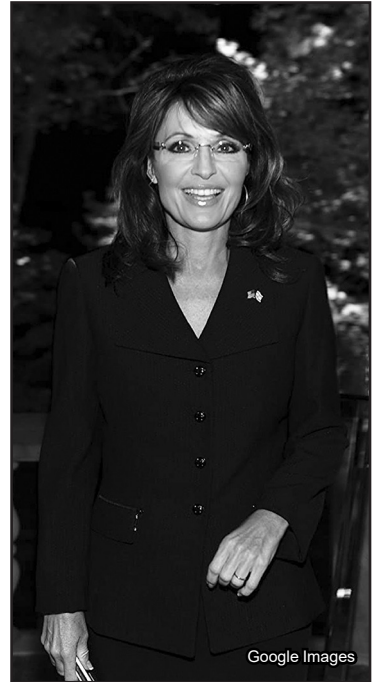
## Sarah Palin Was Trump Before Trump Gained GOP Following

by Dylan Sondike '24

On March 18, 2022, Alaska's lone member of the House of Representatives, Don Young, passed away at the age of 89 as the longest Republican ever to serve in Congress. In an upcoming special election to fill the seat, Sarah Palin has thrown her name in the ring. In 2006, Palin became the Governor of Alaska and quickly began her ascent onto the national political stage. In the process, she changed the course of the Republican party and arguably laid the groundwork for Donald Trump to become president.

In 2008, Republican presidential nominee John McCain was desperate for an exciting Vice Presidential candidate to energize his floundering campaign against Barack Obama, and he chose Palin to become his running mate. Palin became the first woman to be on a Republican Presidential ticket and her energy was certainly not a letdown initially for the Republican ticket. During the 2008 campaign, Palin often used conversational language to share her strong conservative views while attacking what she criticized as the biased media. At the beginning of the campaign, Palin offered a lot of excitement and a new voice on the national stage for the Republican Party.

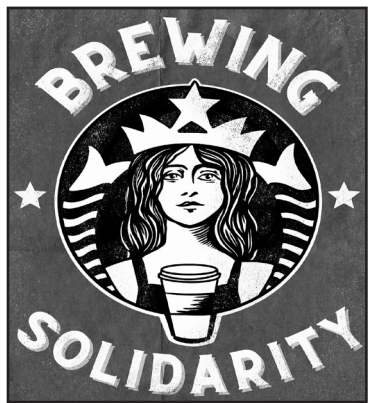
Starting with her acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention, Palin's popularity skyrocketed as she fired up the conservative base to blame the Democrats for America's problems. In the process, she sometimes made inaccurate claims about the Democrats and specifically Obama. "Our opponent though, is someone who sees America, it seems, as being so imperfect that he's palling around with terrorists who would target their own country," said Palin referring to Obama at a Colorado fundraising event during the campaign. As Trump would later do, Palin often spoke of fixing Amer-



ica and making it great again. Palin often said that small towns throughout the country were the backbone and key to fixing America. She discussed how the party has to change to be successful in future elections. Little did she know that Trump heard her message loud and clear.

As her Vice Presidential candidacy continued, Palin's lack of knowledge in foreign policy was shown in many instances throughout the 2008 campaign, which ended up hurting McCain and boosting Obama. Now running for Congress, Palin has explained that public service is calling her and that her return comes as the country is at the tipping point before collapse. As Palin prepares for her Congressional run, she will be going in with the endorsement of Trump, adding to the idea that the two have similar beliefs and are supportive of each other. According to a poll by Alaska Research on May 6-9, Palin was in third place among all Republican candidates with 28 percent of the vote, but only needs to crack the top four of all candidates in the new Alaska primary system to advance to the general election and give her more time to increase her support.

## Starbucks Workers Join with Resurging Unions Nationwide



by Alexis Booker '23

In the midst of a global pandemic throwing the worldwide economy out of balance, essential workers in the United States realized the great effect they have on the economy's ability to function. Yet at the same time as they worked in poor and often dangerous conditions, they also realized how they had been mistreated by employers that of-

ten are major corporations. With these circumstances in mind, a resurgence of labor unions and strikes occurred. The sounding gun of this movement's resurrection was "Strike-tober" in 2021 led by Kellogg workers and has now begun happening on a bigger scale than many have seen in their lifetimes. Workers at companies like Amazon, Apple, and most recently Starbucks, are now building a list of demands centered around worker's rights and benefits under their own growing union platforms.

The Starbucks union initially tried to begin in 1985, but only more recently has gained traction by creating the first U.S. union in early December 2021 at one of their Buffalo, New York locations. The organizers' main goals revolve around Starbucks workers' requests such as health insurance (that can include transgender

healthcare), parental leave, paid time off, and covered tuition for college. To date, 20 Starbucks locations in the United States have elected to unionize with more than 200 more looking to vote.

At the first signs of the possibility of a union, Starbucks (who has historically busted potential unions) began to send corporate-level workers to store locations. Shortly after, store managers began firing workers for minor violations that were either not mentioned in training or were not an issue beforehand. Interim CEO Howard Schultz has also come under major scrutiny for a leaked video claiming some workers are being "bullied" into voting and encouraging store managers to try and sway workers into not voting pro-union. Starbucks employees have filed more than 200 complaints about the violation of the National Labor Relations Act,

a law that protects the rights of workers.

One employee underlines the hypocrisy of the company calling baristas "partners" when they are not treated as such. After being forced to work long hours in an unsafe work environment during Covid-19, on top of the abuse they face from customers, Starbucks baristas want an opportunity to negotiate on the same level as managers and other higher positions. They wanted to participate in the negotiations and discussions surrounding their own jobs and found that unionizing was the best opportunity to receive a seat at the table.

Most recently, Starbucks has released its new plans to offer improved benefits such as a nationwide pay raise, healthcare, and the opportunity to earn a free online degree from Arizona State University. The additions

have benefits, but many have cited problems with their execution including how those who have voted to unionize cannot receive these benefits (for which Starbucks has since received another violation).

In the midst of all these wins, there have been losses as well with the union election win-streak ending in April of this year at a Springfield, Virginia location. Union leaders at the location have suspicions it is at the fault of their district manager, whose intimidating presence caused fear in some workers. The ultimate goal of the Starbucks union is to be treated as they have been labeled: as partners. Their wants echo those of essential workers all across the country in a post-pandemic world. And in the future, those who want to continue striving towards the security of labor rights for all.



June 14, 2022

## Storms Are Coming and Soon Commercial Fishing Threatens All Marine Life

by Anna Haas '23

The 2022 hurricane season is going to be an active one with 19 storms already predicted by hurricane experts at Colorado State University (CSU). Of those expected storms, nine are expected to become hurricanes and four are expected to be category three or higher. By comparison, an average season normally consists of 14 named storms, seven hurricanes, and three major hurricanes. Hurricane season has gradually gotten worse over the years with storms breaking the average almost every year. This is largely due to the presence and absence of La Niña and El Niño, respectively, and climate change.

El Niño and La Niña are natural occurrences in the global climate system that are the result of varying ocean temperatures. Along with changes in the atmosphere affecting ocean temperatures, the system oscillates between warm, El Niño, and cold or neutral, La Niña, conditions. La Niñas are more conducive to the formation of hurricanes than El Niños as El Niño conditions tend to lead to strong winds that tear hurricanes apart as they form. Over the past 30 years, La Niñas have become more frequent while El Niños have decreased, leading to an increase in hurricane activity in the Atlantic, according to Phil Klotzbach, research scientist in the CSU Department of Atmospheric Science. The same report said that this change in La Niña and El Niño patterns is largely due to climate change.

Climate change also plays

a part in increased hurricane activity and intensity. The warmer climate that the world is experiencing leads to stronger and more intense hurricanes as warmer climate means warmer ocean temperatures, a key factor in determining the intensity of a hurricane. Warmer climates have also caused rising sea levels which in turn leads to higher storm surges. Kerry Emmanuel, a professor of atmospheric science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, commented that Hurricane Sandy's storm surge would likely not have had the devastating impact it did on New York City if it had hit in 1912 instead of 2012 because of the higher sea level in 2012.

This extreme change in hurricane patterns is not new. According to CSU data, since 2000, there have been only two years where the number of named storms has been less than 10, compared to 17 years where the number of storms was less than 10 from 1900-1922. This drastic increase in hurricanes has a profound impact on taxpayer and government spending. According to the Weather Channel, hurricane damage could cost the U.S. \$54 billion in economic damage and cause the net cost to taxpayers to be \$17 billion per year.

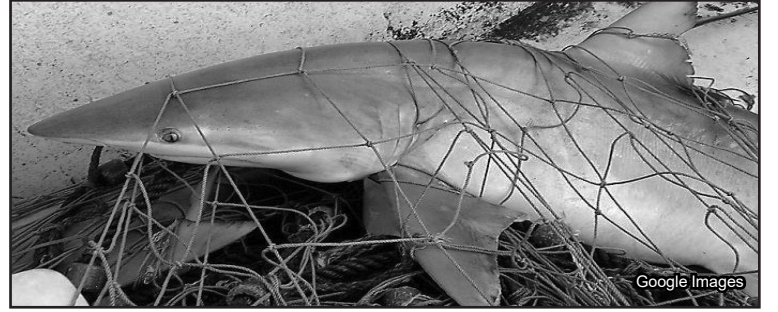
Regardless of beliefs on what is causing it, hurricanes are becoming more frequent and society will have to learn how to deal with the repercussions of that fact. Those living on the East Coast are going to be particularly affected by the increase in hurricanes and their intensity.

by Lizzy Herмосilla 23

In 2019 a wave of sustainability took over social media. People advocated for metal straws, reusable tote bags, and increased recycling to combat plastic pollution in large bodies of water. All of these ideas in the moment seemed like good solutions to wide scale plastic pollution, but the notion that this would solve the plastic crisis is led by severe misinformation from the largest contributor to the global plastic crisis: the commercial and industrial fishing industries.

In 2019 the "save the sea turtles" movement rallied teens and social media influencers all over the world encouraging people to use less single use plastics. Despite the large scale movement to limit plastic use, its effectiveness is questionable. Around the world only 1,000 sea turtles die every year from plastic, whereas in the U.S. alone 250,000 sea turtles are captured, injured, or killed every year by fishing.

Longlining and trawling are the two most common fishing practices. In longlining, a line of baited hooks is used to attract a certain species of marine life. In the U.S. the average long line is 28 miles long. Trawling is when a large net, ranging anywhere from 300 feet to seven miles long, is used to catch a large group of a certain type of fish and resulting in devastating loss of marine life due to bycatch, which is the unwanted capture of fish and other marine creatures during commercial fishing for a different species. In most cases animals caught as



bycatch become injured, resulting in their death. On average fifty million sharks and 300,000 whales, dolphins and porpoises are killed each year as a result of bycatch.

Fishing gear also makes up for 46 percent of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch—a mass of plastic that is 620,000 square miles between the west coast of North America and Japan. Not only is the majority of the patch made up of fishing gear but plastic straws only make up for 0.03 percent of the patch.

A difficult part about regulating the commercial fishing industry is the fact that 3.1 billion people rely on fish for their daily protein intake, and that 60 million people are employed by the fishing industry. These numbers seem to display the importance of commercial fishing as the industry feeds billions of people; however, as technology advanced to allow for bigger fleets for trawling and longlining, the yield of fish per fleet has gone down significantly. In a study published in the National Library of Medicine, researchers studied fishing vessels in an area known as Dogger Bank in the North Sea—the body of water in between the U.K. and Denmark. The study found that in

1830 in this area the average fishing boat caught 1-2 tons of halibut a day, and now the average fishing vessel will only catch 1-2 tons of halibut per year. This is not only an example of ineffective fishing practices that catch more bycatch than their targeted yield, but this also illustrates the dangerous realities that overfishing has on animal populations

The ocean is astronomically important to life on earth. Holding more than 700,000 species and 80 percent of all life on earth, ocean health can not be ignored. Not only does the ocean absorb four times more carbon than the Amazon Rainforest, but it is also the world's largest carbon sink. At this point the fishing industry poses the largest threat to the world's oceans, and that can not go unnoticed.

At COP26 famous marine biologist Sylvia Earle called on world leaders to ban industrial fishing and said how climate change can not be addressed without taking care of the ocean.

"We are equipped with the superpower of knowing," explained Earle. "We are one species with an oversized impact, an oversized responsibility and I'd say an oversized opportunity to take what we now know and act."

## Juneteenth Thrown into the CRT Debate

by Naomi Bang '23

Juneteenth commemorates freedom from slavery for black Americans. Its celebration was renewed during the racial injustices and Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests of summer 2020, which also amplified black voices and stories in America. Despite the strength of these movements, educators are still conflicted amidst the national divide on how to approach the topic of racism and slavery in the country.

Last year, President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act designating June 19 as a federal holiday. This date in 1865 marks the day Union General Gordon Granger and his troops informed the slaves in Galveston, Texas that the war had ended and they were free. Although the Civil War had effectively ended on April 9, fighting continued in the southern states until the following year. As a result, emancipation was delayed for many slaves in South, hence those in Texas.

While Juneteenth is a time of celebration, people also recall the disenfranchisement, discrimination, and violence black Americans faced both before and after emancipation and continue to face now. A recently contended topic is the correlation of poli-



tics and education. Racial justice advocates are pushing for more comprehensive social studies curriculums that include historical events highlighting the struggles and accomplishments of black people such as the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre and Juneteenth. On the opposing side is a wave of conservative backlash against Critical Race Theory (CRT), which examines how racism is built into the legal and political systems of America. Republican officials argue that CRT distorts historical events by inserting prejudice. Liberals counter that schools would erase the history of black oppression by choosing to ignore institutional racism, and that the term "CRT" is misapplied to what actually is taught in K-12 classrooms.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis recently signed the "Stop WOKE

Act" into legislation to essentially ban the instruction of CRT in K-12 classrooms. Textbook publishers are required to submit their social studies curriculums for review by the state. Most recently, the state's Department of Education rejected dozens of math textbooks for including what it deemed as inappropriate cultural topics in accordance with this new law. The legislation faced resistance from Florida Democrats who marked the bill as another attempt to whitewash history.

This Juneteenth, supporters will take the holiday as an opportunity to celebrate black culture and elevate their achievements while equally remembering the struggles of black oppression and continuous discrimination. Juneteenth is also a reminder for racial justice advocates that there is still progress to be made.

## Trump 2024 Run Divides GOP

by Matt Kauffman '23

Since his loss of the 2020 presidential election, former President Donald Trump has done anything but recede quietly from the White House. Investigations about the January 6 riots and Trump's attempt to overturn the outcome of the election, he has been amassing funds and hinting at a 2024 run for office.

Many members of the Republican party must now face the question of whether or not they will endorse Trump's possible presidential campaign. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, who called Trump "morally responsible" for the January 6 riot in the days after it, said that he would "absolutely" endorse Trump if he were to win the party's nomination.

"I've got at least four members that I think are planning on running for president, plus governors and others," explained McConnell.

Many possible 2024 candidates that endorsed Trump in 2020 and have been hesitant to voice their support for him this time around. The January 6 riot and ensuing investigation have tainted Trump's standing image for several Republicans in Congress. January 6 Committee member Liz Cheney (R-WY) went so far as to state that Trump

is unfit for future office after the January 6 riots.

"He crossed lines no American president has ever crossed before," Cheney said. "When a president refuses to tell the mob to stop, when he refuses to defend any of the coordinate branches of government, he cannot be trusted."

Still, Trump remains the most influential figure within the party and continues to command support from much of his base. He also has amassed enormous funding for his "Save America" political fund. In March, Trump reported \$122 million in his political war chest, but without any declared candidacy, the purpose of these funds remains vague.

Trump has placed the GOP at a crossroads. Many members of the party continue to embrace his platform but may seek another candidate, such as Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida, who was named the most preferred candidate other than Trump among Republican voters in a CNN poll. For 2024, the GOP may look for a continuation of Trumpism without Trump.

Whether or not Trump attempts to get back into office in 2024, he has forever altered the internal landscape of the Republican Party. Many questions about the party's future may be answered before or during the 2024 presidential election campaigns.



June 14, 2022

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The Warrior serves as Sherwood's primary news source, receiving numerous state and national honors over the 44 years it has been in circulation. With a staff of over 50 students under the guidance of Peter Huck, The Warrior keeps the Sherwood community informed about local and national events. All opinion articles represent the viewpoint of the writer, and the unsigned staff editorial solely reflects the opinions of the newspaper staff.

## Maryland Voters Should Approve Cannabis Legalization Bill

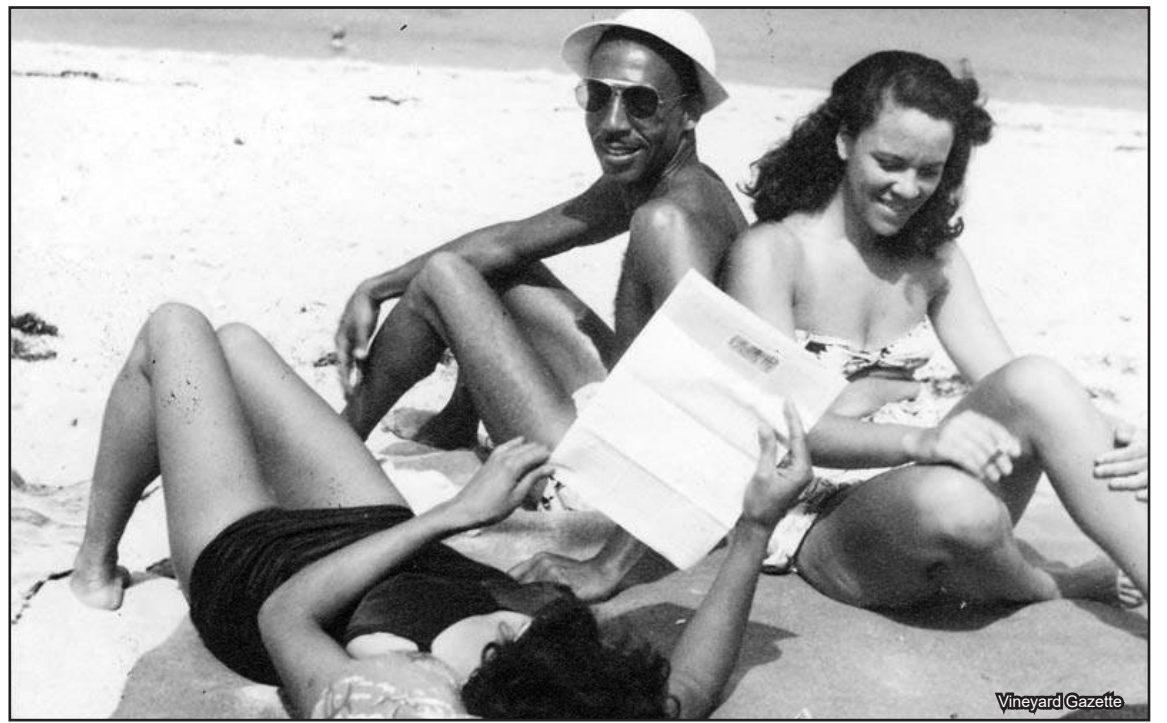
by Bryan Kim '23

On April 1, the Maryland General Assembly approved a bill to put the legalization of recreational marijuana use on the state's 2022 ballot in November. The bill would allow individuals over the age of 21 to possess up to 1.5 ounces or 12 grams of concentrated cannabis and up to two cannabis plants for personal use. Maryland voters should approve this referendum as it makes drug use safer and it would reduce racial disparities in incarceration.

Furthermore, the bill would allow for automatic expungements of some marijuana-related arrests and resentencing of those convicted of some marijuana-related charges. It would also establish the Cannabis Business

Assistance Fund and the Cannabis Public Health Fund, requiring specific studies on the use of cannabis, the medical cannabis industry, and the adult-use cannabis industry, all funded by taxes placed on the drug.

Colorado and Washington were the first states to legalize the recreational use of cannabis in 2012. And now a decade later, if approved by voters in November, Maryland would join the list of now 18 states, such as Virginia and New Jersey along with Washington D.C. Furthermore, on April 1, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill aiming to legalize and decriminalize the use of medicinal and recreational marijuana. The push to legalize marijuana by many state and federal legislatures has become a



Beachgoers relax at Oak Bluffs Beach in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, during a time of segregation.

## Historically Black Beaches Need Preservation

by Perri Williams '23

Nearly a century of racial segregation in the United States during the 20th Century was detrimental to the African American community and over time has led to black individuals playing catchup with their white peers. If there is any positive that came out of such systematic racism, it might be that black communities and families created their own spaces. This is true of so-called "black beaches," such as Highland near Annapolis in Maryland, Sag Harbor on Long Island in New York, and Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts. These beaches, necessitated by segregation, became havens for affluent blacks for decades and still today. Even when black communities were given beach areas in the more undesirable areas, they became places that thousands of black people visit each year. In the end, the plague of racism led to multiple safe havens for black americans. The ongoing history of these beaches are a testament to resilience and pride.

In the black community word travels quickly, which is why it should be no surprise that the only beaches they could go to became the only beaches they wanted to go to. Despite such obstacles, some beaches thrived and the

homes built around them stayed in families, ultimately leading to the growth of historically black beach towns. Most of the land African Americans bought was considered unwanted and purchased at a cheap price, but this ownership allowed for black families to overcome segregation. They created communities where they could not be oppressed due to their race because they were surrounded by people who looked like them. Highland Beach is the first known historically black beach in Maryland. Originally the beach was a place where black families in the area would go and visit for a weekend. Over time it became an area where black families began moving as their permanent residence. Today, the Highland area is much more diverse but still holds a majority black population. Its deep rooted history accounts for a community that is no longer segregated while still acknowledging its historic past.

After World War II many working class black families (usually New York natives) built houses in the Hamptons, unknowingly creating a predominantly black community of professionals unlike anything seen before. Black families were able to buy land in Sag Harbor for about 700 to 1,000 dollars (which is equivalent to 13,000 to 18,500 dollars

today). Over the years the residents of Sag Harbor have fought off gentrification to retain a safe haven for black families where they can live around people that look like them and have the similar values and experiences as them.

Even farther north in Massachusetts right off the Cape is Martha's Vineyard. Oak Bluffs is a popular vacation spot for middle and upper-class black families who live up and down the east coast. Shearer Cottage was a black-owned inn in Oak Bluffs and grew in popularity when it began being featured in The Green Book (an annual guidebook for African Americans roadtrippers). The Green Book was a key factor in the growth of safe havens for black americans because it allowed for word to spread about each place, which inevitably convinced more black families to visit and buy houses in the places they were learning about through the Green Book.

Each beach town individually has its own beautiful history that needs to be preserved, so that black people have access to spaces like these for many generations in the future. Segregation had terrible impacts on black americans, but historically black beaches are one example of how they overcame that adversity.

nationalwide movement.

The legalization of marijuana would allow for the government to more thoroughly regulate the industry, minimizing potential harms and ultimately making marijuana use much safer for consumers. The whole supply chain of the drug would be under government regulation, from the grower to the distributor to the consumer, phasing cannabis and money out of underground markets, such as drug cartels, street gangs, and organized crime.

A study correlates the legalization of cannabis to a decrease in opiate use. In 2019, opioid overdoses accounted for more than 70 percent of the 70,630 drug related deaths in the United States. The study also shows that states with recreational cannabis

laws such as California, Maine, Massachusetts, and Nevada, have seen a 7.6-percent reduction in opiate related emergencies during the six months after legalization laws went into effect, in comparison to states that have not implemented such laws. As the opioid epidemic continues to rise, the legalization of cannabis may be a timely solution to help curb the dangerous use of opiates.

The current criminalization of marijuana use disproportionately affects those of color, as racial disparities in drug enforcement are apparent. In the United States, black people are 3.73 times more likely to be incarcerated for the possession of marijuana than white people, even though white and black people use marijuana at roughly the same rate. A sur-

vey showed that around half of all Maryland residents have admitted to using marijuana. As Maryland Delegate David Moon (D) of Montgomery County notes, "Half of Maryland residents likely got away with a jailable offense when they did this. The more disturbing part of this is that White Marylanders have been getting away with this jailable offense at much higher rates than all the rest of us [people of color]."

The legalization of recreational marijuana in Maryland would make drug use safer for consumers, and it would help reduce racial disparities in incarceration, as current drug enforcement disproportionately impacts those of color. A vote to legalize marijuana use is a vote for common-sense and fairness.



## School Came Up Short Communicating with Students about Covid

by Gabi Admi '23

I think everyone can agree that these past few years have been strange, even after returning to in-person instruction. At the beginning of the school year, sitting in a classroom with so many new restrictions felt odd. We had to stay 6 feet apart, keep masks on at all times, and ask permission to eat or drink outside the classroom. Yet as time went on, the school relaxed its stance on Covid-19 protocol.

When the Omicron variant arrived in January, the outbreak caused school closures and panic across the country. Though a large number of students and faculty were infected, especially at Sherwood, MCPS decided to keep most schools open. It was clear to students and parents during this time that underreporting occurred to keep the schools open. Not to mention, Superintendent Monifa McKnight backpedaled out of the initial plan to close schools if more than 5 percent of students and faculty were infected, causing confusion and concern.

From my experience, Sherwood also often didn't do well handling communication about Covid-19 this year. I was told by teachers that students needed assigned seats so the school could contact and trace any cases. And yet there wasn't communication between the administration and students when someone tested positive. This was confirmed for me when my cousin, who sat next to me in class, tested positive, and the school never contacted my parents or me. When my mom asked the school why they had not been contacted, she was told that they were only contacting students who came within three feet of the sick person. I measured the distance between our

seats - it was definitely less than three feet. In general, safety protocols in classrooms lessened without students knowing if such changes were intentional or not.

Teachers also were left out of the loop, as I would often hear them talking about how they had no idea why some students were often absent. Once students returned to school, they would inform oblivious teachers that they had been out with Covid. All communications from the county and school said that quarantined students would be provided virtual learning and assignments but if the teachers were not even notified of a student's absence due to quarantine, that clearly wasn't happening.

On May 7, there was another Covid-19 outbreak after prom when some students reportedly attended the event despite knowing they had tested positive for Covid-19. An email sent to all teachers and students regarding the situation strongly suggested that students test themselves for Covid. That was the extent of the communication from the school to students and parents, even as cases surged at Sherwood and throughout Montgomery County.

After more than two years of this pandemic, I would have expected Sherwood's management of Covid-19 to improve over time. In particular, staff, students, and parents have made it clear to Sherwood administration that better, clearer, and more frequent communication would be appreciated. No one expects the administration to be able to truly "manage" the pandemic, but they do control how they communicate with the school community. Improvement is needed before the next school year begins.

of what they say are the tests' inherent unfairness. But the truth is, an SAT and ACT score can demonstrate vital characteristics, such as study habits, test-taking skills, and common knowledge, and should remain test-optional throughout the United States.

The most logical way in ensuring a fair, equal opportunity for students is to give them the option of whether or not to submit their SAT or ACT scores to colleges to which they are applying. For their part, colleges and universities should stop considering test scores as a measure to deny admission and instead only regard scores as an enhancement or bonus to a student's application. In other words, a student's scores only can help, not hurt, their chances for admission. This would allow each student to be able to submit their good, impressive scores, but also have the opportunity to refrain from sharing a worse, disappointing score.

by Carter Braun '23

The SAT and ACT have been administered to students across the United States for more than 60 years. According to the College Board who administers the SAT, its test measures a high school student's readiness for college and provides colleges with one common data point that can be used to compare all applicants. The SAT and the competing ACT traditionally have been used to give colleges a consistent standard to compare students to one another. However, the pandemic hastened a national movement for many colleges and universities to go "test-optional" and remain that way in the future. The California State University system has gone even further in permanently ending the use of the SAT or ACT for college admissions to its schools.

As time progresses, students are more vocally calling for the end of the tests altogether because



Nicholas Schade '23

## Emphasis on College Places Too Much Stress on Students

by Tatiana Rodriguez '23

Teens have to make many increasingly important decisions, especially while transitioning from a high school student to a young adult. Students start with smaller decisions like what classes to take and which friends to make but, as we progress through high school, the decisions start becoming bigger as we decide if we want to go to college and where. What college will be a good fit? What's affordable? What future career? These are hard questions that in general do not get any easier when there is the common expectation of going straight from high school to college. Schools and families have high expectations and add pressure that makes tough decisions even more difficult.

Schools add to the unrealistic expectations for students and add more stress to the future by administering career tests in middle

school with the message that the test will spark ideas for eventual careers. However, people change a lot, especially in their teenage years, making it impossible to know what they are meant to do. Along with this, schools plan their entire curriculum around what they think colleges would want rather than taking into consideration more course offerings that work for those who want to go straight into the real world by working or doing something else. This makes college seem like the only option for students once they are out of high school since it is all they have been prepared for.

Some families heighten these expectations by saying that going to college is the key to success. Parents might give examples of the benefits that come from going to college or the opportunities they missed by not going to college. First-generation students face added pressure as some parents might shame them

for not using the advantage given to them to go to college. There is also the issue of money. Since some students are not given the money they need for college, students have to face the anxiety of coming up with the money they need through working or taking out loans, which will most likely leave them in future debt.

Despite the fact that there is a lot of intimidation for students to go straight to college and some see it as the only path to success, this is not true. Though college can be helpful since a degree can open doors and even can help people learn more about who they are, it is not meant for everyone. Sometimes people need a break and not every career path requires a college education. Schools and families have to take these situations into consideration as they set expectations and should not make the assumption that without college someone would not be successful.

Standardized tests such as the SAT and ACT have been said to provide an unfair advantage to students with more wealth and privilege, as these students are able to afford private, personalized tutoring to prepare them for the test. These private tutoring sessions certainly can provide a leg-up for students able to afford it, and could result in these students getting a higher score than those with less access to tutoring. However, if these tests were to be optional, it would provide students with the chance to submit, or not submit their scores, even if they were to have tutoring or not. On top of that, colleges and universities in their decision process need to acknowledge the fact that some students are presented with tutoring while others are not.

The main reason why the SAT and ACT should remain optional to submit in college applications is because test taking skills are vital in demonstrating

how well someone can work under pressure, and these scores represent that. Beyond merely test taking skills, the SAT and ACT scores are representative of basic knowledge and information that is beneficial to the future success of many students.

Despite many beliefs that the SAT or ACT can make or break one's college hopes, it should simply be a sliver of the pie of criteria in which colleges look at when accepting or rejecting a student. The same goes for GPAs, extracurricular activities, leadership roles, and essays, due to the fact that some may not truthfully represent a certain student. For example, some students take extracurriculars solely for colleges to look at, and aren't committed to that club or sport that they claim to be a part of. In addition, in a time of grade inflation, it's become an unspoken rule that the expectation for college-bound students is to have an unweight-

ed GPA above 3.75. This makes it harder to judge high school GPA because so many more are higher, making it difficult to differentiate high-achieving students from each other. The fact that no single criteria is perfect is another reason why SAT and ACT score should remain an option in the mix for evaluating students' college applications

Keeping these tests optional for college applications would give students with good scores the opportunity to flex their knowledge to the college they are applying to and increase their chances of acceptance. This would also allow for students who are poor test-takers to not be required to submit their potentially below-average scores, which may ultimately cost them an acceptance to university. There is a place for the SAT and ACT as long as colleges and universities make them an option rather than a requirement.





# PRIDE MONTH



## Synergy Offers Name and Gender Change Option

by Audrey Farris '25

Recently, the education platform Synergy that is used by MCPS has provided students with the option to change their name and/or gender as it appears on their profile, which is visible to any staff member or parent. These changes can be made without parental permission or consent. This update may provide transgender students more comfort in their identities and prevent the stress that may occur when a student is referred to by the name they were given at birth or one they had used pre-transition, rather than their current chosen name.

Science teacher Mary Baker, who is the Stand Proud club sponsor, explained the importance of this change. "Names are important and it hurts to be called the wrong name or to be misgendered ... [This change] means they don't have to put up with the teacher forgetting and dead-naming or misgendering them in front of other students, therefore outing them."

Support of transgender students in school is more important than ever, as America is facing dramatically high suicide rates among LGBTQ+ youth. The Trevor Project, an organization that provides suicide prevention resources for LGBTQ+ youth, found that 45 percent of LGBTQ+ youth across the United States have considered suicide last year, and 14 percent attempted suicide. The rate was even higher in transgender youth. Additionally, the increase of

anti-LGBTQ+ legislation in numerous states causes stress in the community as the legality of LGBTQ+ people's identities is being threatened.

The support from MCPS for this change in Synergy is important recognition for LGBTQ+ students and staff in the school system. In another signal of support, MCPS hosted its annual Pride Town Hall at Walter Johnson on May 21, and more than 150 students, staff, family members, and others attended and participated in workshops and a resource fair. Baker believes that MCPS still needs to invest in more training for staff. "Right now, the 'training' is a short slide presentation that staff can just click through. One of the most common excuses given for dead-naming/misgendering is a lack of experience." Baker also touched on bathrooms, and how "[MCPS] could make the single-use staff bathrooms unisex—that just requires changing the signs."

Another important factor of LGBTQ+ support in MCPS includes staff members. Baker said that two trans staff members at other schools were harassed and threatened by students and eventually had to leave this year. "If it's not safe for LGBTQ+ staff members to be out, what message is that sending the students," Baker asked.

MCPS may still have a way to go before LGBTQ+ students will feel fully supported by their schools, but the option for students to be able to change their name and gender as it appears on their Synergy profile is an important step.

## Conservative States and Biden Administration Moving in Opposite Directions on LGBTQ+ Rights

by Lauren Frank '23

June marks the beginning of Pride Month and for years, people from across the United States have rallied together and celebrated the LGBTQ+ community, whether it be through parades, rallies, or commemorations. While there have been many momentous steps to protect the rights of those in the community, many lawmakers and states are swiftly counteracting these measures. This past year, several conservative states, largely in the South, passed new laws, many of which have promoted homophobia and anti-gay values in schools and in society itself.

In schools, these new laws have made the environment less accepting and welcoming for students in the

community. Notably, Florida's "Don't Say Gay" bill limits the access to mental health and counseling at school for kids who might be questioning their gender identity or sexuality, giving parents the option to opt out of these services. Also, it restricts LGBTQ+ related material and discussions in the classroom. Overall, this law has caused a domino effect of new legislation and proposed laws throughout the country that would further limit the rights of LGBTQ+ youth in school settings.

New legislation at the state level is also restricting transgender people's access to healthcare. Alabama has already enforced a law that outlaws gender-affirming care for minors, meaning those seeking out gender reassignment surgery or puberty-blocking hormones aligning with their gender identity are

denied this care. The law also makes it a felony for a doctor to prescribe medication or perform the surgery for anyone under 19. More than a dozen states have proposed new legislation following Florida and Alabama. For instance Texas, Ohio, and Louisiana have all proposed legislation that would similarly restrict gender-affirming care for children and restrict LGBTQ+ related material and discussions in schools.

In the midst of all this legislation, a strong and allied community of those fighting to protect the rights of the LGBTQ+ community is pushing back. Many government officials and organizations have condemned the recent rise in these hateful and discriminatory laws and hope to keep fighting for protection and equality.

The Biden Administration's urgent

## Queer Unity Matters

by Ella Scher '23

Queer is a multilayered term, defined specifically as all attraction and identity that deviates from the cisgender heteromantic and heterosexual "norm." There is no doubt that the time in which we live is one when the queer community is stronger than ever. However, issues inside the queer community detract from the larger fight against those bigoted and intolerant forces that want to erase decades of social change.

According to Case Western Reserve University, one third of LGBTQ+ students still experience harassment because of their orientation, while 43 percent of students describe their campus as homophobic. Inside the queer community, gay male misogyny as well as biphobia and aro/acephobia (the exclusion of bisexual and aromanticity from the LGBTQ+ umbrella) are too normalized. The oversexualization of queerness has led to a deep disconnect between label and identity. Since the early 2000s, when any well-dressed young man would be labeled 'metrosexual,' assumed to be queer simply from their style of clothing and cleanliness, people have been all too happy to paste labels onto others based on their own judgment, never giving time to let people figure it out for themselves.

One issue that the LGBTQ+ community faces is the misogyny rampant in the cis gay male community, particularly white gay males in liberal areas. From RuPaul, host of the hit show Drag Race, openly admitting to exclusion of assigned female at birth (AFAB) queens in now-deleted Tweets, to Sierra Mannie's 2014 piece "Dear White Gays: Stop Stealing Black Female Culture," prominent figures have noted that gay men tend to appropriate the

culture of minorities and women, while failing to adequately recognize them for their contributions.

Secondly, exclusionary and "gatekeeping" mindsets remain common in the LGBTQ+ community. In Varsity.co, columnist Joel Lucyszyn explains that as a bi person, he and other bisexual people remain alienated from the strictly binary hetero- and homo-sexual communities and that biphobic language and attitudes are common. In the queer community, biromantics and bisexuals are often misunderstood and asked to choose between being "gay" or "straight", defining their attraction in very limited terms that often can't express the complexity of a bi identity.

Yet in the straight community, biphobia stems back to the days of the AIDS crisis, where the world shamed bisexual men for bringing into the straight community a disease that it would rather stay isolated among queer communities. The same is true of aro and ace people, who have been the victim of hate-based language and crimes for decades. Where they face harassment from bigots, there should be a place for those of all queer labels and identities to feel safe.

Though the queer community has made enormous strides since the 1960s in visibility and acceptance, issues within the community must be addressed, so they do not detract from the overall struggle for equality and acceptance for all. Every individual deserves the chance to be themselves and be supported by those around them in equal measure, regardless of gender, sexuality, or presentation. By opening our minds and hearts to any and everyone, we can ensure that the queer community grows stronger in the face of adversity it has yet to overcome.

## Tension with Corporate PRIDE

by Jena Le '23

As Pride Month begins, LGBTQ+-themed merchandise will show up in stores across the nation. While many are excited to see corporations supporting the LGBTQ+ community, others are skeptical about whether these companies actually support the LGBTQ+ community, or are just doing it as a stunt for marketing and public relations.

This skepticism is understandable. Corporations such as Walmart may seem LGBTQ+ friendly, with its rainbow-colored logo and promotional Pride Skittles on the front page of its website. The reality is that Walmart donated around \$400,000 to politicians who actively oppose the Equality Bill, a congressional bill that would help prevent LGBTQ+ people from being discriminated against.

It's not just Walmart; McDonald's, CVS, and Amazon, to name a few, have all contributed thousands of dollars to support politicians that are attempting to implement anti-LGBTQ+ bills. These same companies claim to support the LGBTQ+ community while also donating to politicians who want to limit their

rights. At the end of the day, the main objective of companies is to make money. A reason that corporations like Amazon and Walmart donate to politicians that support anti-LGBTQ+ bills is that those same politicians help Amazon and Walmart through tax breaks and less regulatory control.

Not to mention, truly standing up for the LGBTQ+ community now can come at a cost for companies. Disney publicly opposed the "Don't Say Gay" bill in April after activists and its own employees pushed the company to take a stand. Florida Republican lawmakers were not happy that Disney took a public stance against the bill. So, they took away Disney's long-held designation as a self-governing entity of its theme park and surrounding areas. Such retribution by state officials shows other corporations that they could face serious financial issues if they do decide to publicly support the LGBTQ+ community.

The bottom line is that the LGBTQ+ community deserves genuine and concrete support from companies and if those companies cannot offer that, then they at least should be upfront and honest about it rather than figuratively waving Pride flags.



## Conspiracy Theories Seep into Conservative Mainstream

by Declan Rooney '25

Since President Joe Biden was put in office, conservatives have aggressively pushed their agenda on cultural issues at the state level. Two examples of such efforts are Florida's so-called "Dont Say Gay" bill, signed in law by Republican Gov. Ron Desantis, and a new Alabama law that makes it a felony to provide gender-affirming medical treatment to transgender youth. What has gone mostly unnoticed is the influence of far right reactionaries and social media figures in putting these laws into motion.

Ever since Alex Jones founded the website Info Wars in 1999 he's been

branded as an outsider, someone on the extreme right of the Republican Party. That is until former President Donald Trump endorsed Jones on his show and called his reputation "amazing." Jones's reputation includes numerous baseless conspiracy theories, his most famous of which was his denial of the Sandy Hook school shooting.

But Jones' more recent attacks have been aimed at public schools, LGBTQ+ education, and transgender individuals. "They're [teachers] now saying sex with machines or sex with cars or sex with appliances—there's a whole big movement where people are marrying their cars, marrying their toasters, marrying their dogs, their cats, their

horses. I'm not kidding," said Jones.

Such outrageous conspiracies have found a place in the extreme wing of the Republican party. Georgia Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor-Greene went on Jones' show in February and promised the "Alex Jones Legislation" that would withhold funding from any school "indoctrinating children" or "teaching them to change their gender."

The far right and left have long existed in the United States. However, fringe figures on the right such as Jones have moved from corners of the Internet to currently influencing and perhaps even shaping decisions by Republican politicians.





June 14, 2022

**HUMOR DISCLAIMER: This section is intended as satire and uses the tools of exaggeration, irony, or ridicule in the context of politics, current trends, recent school events, and other topical issues.**

## **(not) exactly news**

by Ella Scher '23

### **Forever 21 Is Actually Closing For Real This Time--No Guys I'm Serious**

Tens of thousands of teens across the nation were left shell-shocked and stunned after Forever 21, which has been having closing sales for the last five years, announced that it was actually closing for real this time. The brand which has lined the closets of so many fashion-forward American teenagers with slightly out-of-style couture is finally disappearing, leaving a void which can never be filled. "Where else will I ever find a perfectly good shirt ruined by the embroidery of the words Hot Cheetos or Slay Gurl in an obnoxiously obvious location on it?" lamented one bereaved shopper. "Am I just supposed to wear clothes that are actually cute now? What about the tacky sequin tank tops or the magenta track pants?" Forever 21 representatives have announced that the stores will, however, not be closing for a few more months, giving the mall fashion industry time to recover from this damaging blow.

### **My Chemical Romance Fans Let Down Their Faves Are Normal Now**

At 6PM EST on Friday the thirteenth, My Chemical Romance fans received the shock of their life as the news broke that for the first time in almost a decade, the disbanded group had dropped a new song. As MCR tours the world, fans are going rabid over the six-minute "The Foundations of Decay." However, many fans are very disappointed at the news that the four-member group is startlingly normal and seemingly well-adjusted now. In their 40s, the group posed for a publicity photo in tees and jeans, no eyeliner, crusted blood, or leather jackets to be seen. "I dunno," Twitter user Frankyyxx13\_Death complained. "What's the point of idolizing a group that's no longer addicted to drugs, alcoholism, wearing leather and skulls, and promoting a strangely homosexual lifestyle?" Many fans are boycotting the concerts, citing their deep sadness that the band is now choosing mental and physical wellness as well as acting as responsible role models for their young adult and teenage fanbase.

### **Stressed Teenagers Microdose on Microwave Radiation**

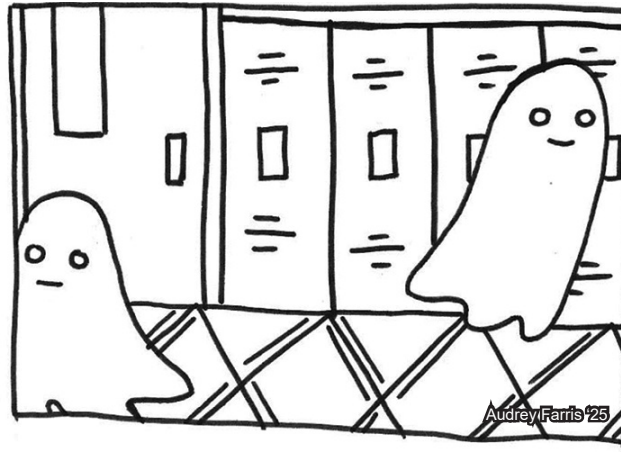
As summer approaches, stressed juniors are turning to new coping mechanisms as they start the tedious process of filling out college applications and the horrible waiting period as they await acceptance to the mediocre state schools of their dreams. One easily accessible stress-reliever for many anxious teenagers, bypassing more obvious methods, is simply opening the microwave door before the countdown has stopped, bathing one in a wave of highly concentrated radiation, sure to increase your chances of getting cancer by 0.00001 percent each time. "It's very relaxing," one unnamed Sherwood student explained. "I find that the wave of radiation entering my bones, plus the excitement of knowing my microwave taquitos are just 2 seconds underdone, really soothes me as I procrastinate on my Common App essay for yet another hour." Studies have shown that students who microdose on microwave radiation are far more likely to be calm, less prone to emotional breakdowns, and much more likely to get yelled at by parents who were raised in the golden age of "MICROWAVES CAUSE CANCER!"

### **CIA Employees Horrified They Can't Ruin Any Third World Countries**

As war rages in Ukraine, the CIA has come to a startling realization that right now, if all available resources are devoted to stopping Russian belligerence, they simply don't have the manpower to topple any more already fragile third world country governments. "For some of us, that was the only fun we ever had," CIA director William Burns admitted, choking back tears. "Get in there, shoot whoever's in charge, and watch the mass panicking as the economy crumbles. Now what are we supposed to do to relax?" Now limited to messing with Cuban tourism and paying off useless spy assets around the world, the CIA finds its internal structure in shambles. Bored employees are pushing back, complaining that waterboarding terror suspects has lost its luster now that the United States has abandoned Afghanistan. At press time CIA agents were caught poring over maps of rural South Asian principalities and identifying key infrastructural weaknesses in a frothing fit of withdrawal symptoms.

## Abnormal Advice: Revolutions

by Ben Schoenberg '24



**Dear Benjamin,**

I read an article in The Warrior about ghosts in our school. I have a horrible fear of ghosts and don't want them to keep running rampant in our school. Why is no

one doing anything about this?

-- A Fearful Friend

**Dear Fearful Friend,**

I too have also read this article, knowing it was published by

**Dear Benjamin,**

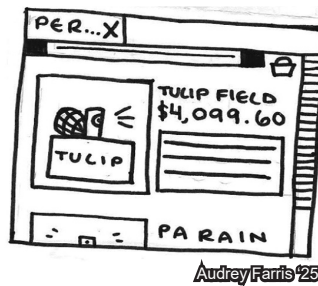
Recently my best friend has been putting together horrific outfits where she has been mixing many colors and patterns. She seems really happy in what she is wearing but has become much of an eyesore in my opinion. How do I tell her she looks terrible?

-- A Fashionista

**Dear Fashionista,**

To solve this ongoing issue you must turn to the power of arts and crafts, the most convincing form of artistic expression.

I'm sure you or your family have magazines or newspapers laying around that you can use to cut letters out of, as these letters could be glued onto a colorful piece of cardstock. After formulating a well written response to your friend's horrific outfits, also gently place two dead rats into an envelope of your choice to accompany the card. Trust me that this ominous touch is crucial for ensuring your intended effect. Once your friend receives this, you'll never have to worry about her looking bad ever again.



**Dear Benjamin,**

My boyfriend and I have been going strong for a year now but recently he started wearing a really expensive cologne. The

problem is he puts way too much on. Whenever he comes within a fifty-foot radius of me, I have to hold my breath. There's a fume cloud that trails him when he walks. He's really proud of his cologne, and never leaves the house without it. I don't know how to tell him he needs to stop wearing it. What should I do?

-- Concerned Girlfriend

**Dear Concerned Girlfriend**

I feel that your problem stems from jealousy. It's clear

that you're having trouble dealing with insecurities stemming from the wealth of your boyfriend. This cologne issue feels like a scapegoat for you to complain about your boyfriend's disposable income, which he chooses to spend. What you should be doing instead of whining is get a job to increase your own spending power. Cash that first paycheck and buy your very own really really expensive perfume to balance out your boyfriend's really really expensive cologne.

## Unsolved Mysteries of Sherwood's Lockers

by Jordan Costolo '25

It's not that we ran out of ideas for the show. We've covered numerous mysteries, such as mysterious monsters, kooky kidnappings, and spiritual shenanigans. But today we tackle the biggest--and perhaps the most terrifying--mystery of all: why is no one using lockers in Sherwood? Welcome back to Unsolved Mysteries.

Founded in 1906, Sherwood High School in Olney, Maryland seems like an ordinary school for local teens to pursue their education. Yet something sinister lies beneath the surface of this harmless center of learning; a terrifying epidemic of unused, abandoned lockers. Though Sherwood is a thriving center of learning, each day banks of lockers stand

cobwebbed, students seemingly allergic to the idea of even touching them. Today, we will try to find out why.

We start off by asking some of the local teachers about the lockers. Computer science teacher Swikrit Manandhar insists that "carrying around backpacks is good exercise." Is physical fitness really that important, or is a more sinister reason lurking beneath? "No one really ever uses lockers. Even when they were required to use, a majority of students never even touched them," added an ancient, anonymous teacher.

It seems it's not just been a recent problem but a long term issue. To find out why no one uses lockers, we will go back to Sherwood's roots. The school was built on a piece of land do-

a reliable and respected source. Everyone knows that Sherwood has a ghost problem but no one does anything due to the school system intentionally denying-paranormal activity. Sherwood was built in the United States, a country whose history has been continuously written by the winners and there's no bigger loser in history than the dead. For years ghosts have been voiceless, leading to their existence being forgotten and written over by those who are still alive. That leaves us in the present day where many recognize ghosts and their possible existence in our schools, but our systems in place and educational institutions have told us differently for years. Next time you see a ghost in Sherwood remember their historic histories.





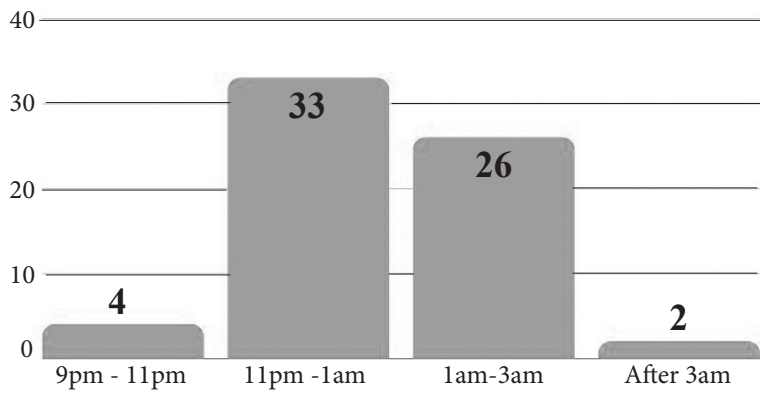
June 14 2022



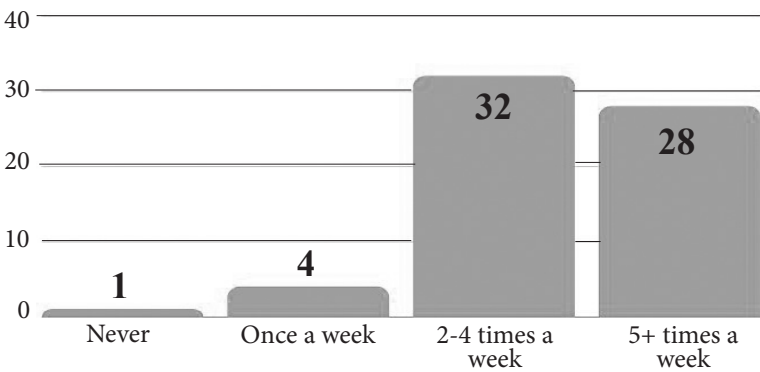
## The Pulse

Debating as its own section in the June issue, The Pulse is dedicated to surveying the Sherwood student population. Summer officially starts next week, meaning the next few months will be filled with new jobs, beach trips, summer movies and lots of downtime for everyone. This edition of The Pulse focuses on how Sherwood students plan on spending the upcoming summer months.

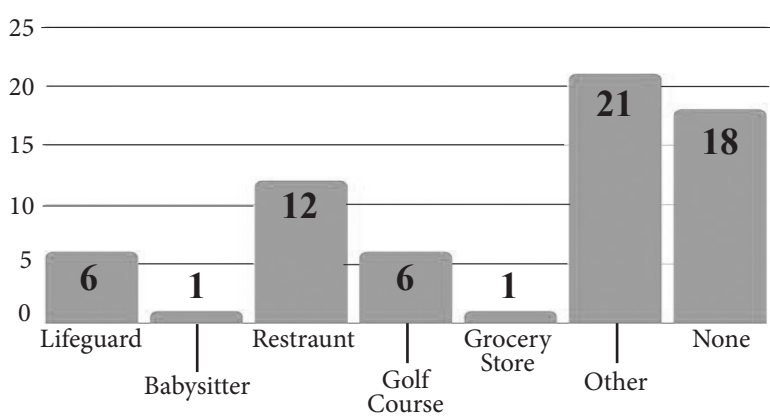
### What time do you go to sleep during the summer?



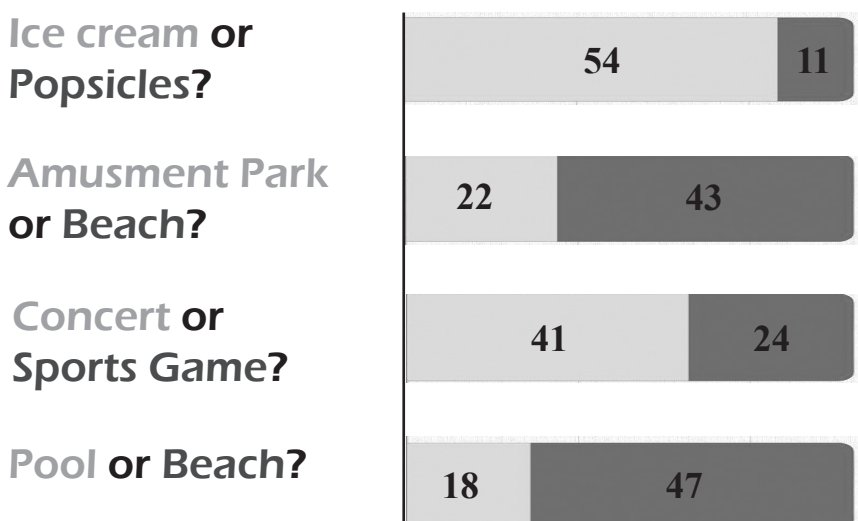
### How often do you exercise during the summer?



### Do you have a summer job? If so, what is your job?




## Either/Or?



Survey of 65 students compiled by Audrey Farris '25

### What is your go-to summer movie?

- "Avengers Endgame, because it has it all" -Neel Batheja '25
- "Teen Beach Movie" -Colby Moody '23
- "The Princess Bride, just in general a great movie" -William Dawson '23
- "Sandlot" -John Healy '23
- "Superbad" -Jackson Derrick '23
- "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days" -Ryan Bouma '23
- "Any Adam Sandler movie" -Nicholas Brown '25
- "Cars 2" -Cael Comstock '23
- "Ratatouille" -Nick Hammond '25

### What beach is your favorite, and why?

- "Number 2 beach in Sierra Leone." -Jennifer Kroma '23
- "Sunset Beach, NC." -Lizzie Abel '23
- "Ocean City." -Matt Wise '23
- "The South of France because its absolutley stunning." -Lilly Stewart '23
- "Beathany Beach because I get to meet up with friends." -Katrina Hanson '23
- "Ocean City, because it has very nice boardwalks." -Jonathan De Araujo '23
- "Wild Wood because we went and it was a really great area and experience." -Jordan Goodman '23
- "Bethany Beach because of all the good memories I have from there." -Cliff Vacin '25

### What are you looking forward to this summer?

- "Spending time with my friends and getting more sleep." -Safiya Alam '23
- "To travel and to go to play in the U.S. National Table Tennis Tournament." -Todd Klinger '23
- "Having no school." -Samhal Kesetebrhan '25
- "Hanging out with friends." -Hallie Pontell '23
- "Being online, hanging out with people, and seeing others." -Thomas Robinson '23
- "I am looking forward to hanging out with my friends and going to the beach with my family." -Ella Hawkins '23
- "I am excited to go on a 2-week hiking trip at Philmont in New Mexico." -Owen Farris '25
- "Traveling to Rock Beach, they have really good food." -Desmond Noble '25



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## Kendrick Lamar Return Worth the Wait

By Matt Kauffman '23

On May 13, acclaimed rapper Kendrick Lamar released his highly anticipated fifth studio album, *Mr. Morale & The Big Steppers*. This release came five years after his last album, 2017's *DAMN*, which was certified triple platinum. Lamar's discography has already been solidified as one of the best of 21st century hip-hop, both from fans and critics alike, as the Compton artist has racked up 14 Grammys, including best rap album for both *DAMN* and the jazz-infused *To Pimp a Butterfly* from 2015.

*Mr. Morale & the Big Steppers* is not *DAMN*, nor is it any of Lamar's vastly successful and innovative past projects. In true Lamar fashion, *Mr. Morale & The Big Steppers* is not simply an attempt to repeat his past success, but a journey into a new style that has become the artist's trademark throughout his career and what his fans have come to love and expect.

Lamar opens his newest project with the introspective track "United In Grief," where he raps, "I've been going through something/ One-thousand eight-hun-

dred and fifty-five days," signifying the amount of time since he released *DAMN*. He acknowledges this hiatus as the result of a necessary mental process and the need to focus on himself, which Lamar elaborates on throughout the album.

Lamar must also grapple with the responsibility of being the king of hip-hop, a role that he's claimed for himself. "Heavy is the head that chose to wear the crown/ To whom is given much is required now," he raps on *Crown*. Throughout the album, thought-provoking and rhythmic lines like these are commonplace.

On the final track to the album, "Mirror," Lamar raps about perspective and issues a sort of apologetic explanation for his five-year absence. "I choose me, I'm sorry," he repeats during the melodic and intriguing hook. He justifies the patience of his fans by using his music to discuss the importance of personal growth, an important aspect of his album.

Also on this track, Lamar harps on the need to take care of oneself before fulfilling their commitment to others or the world at large. "Sorry I couldn't save the world, my friend/ I was

too busy buildin' mine again," he raps. This sense of individualism is another facet of Lamar's mindset on this album. Instead of focusing on his troubled childhood as on "good kid", *m.A.A.d city*, or on the many sides of his rise to fame prevalent in *To Pimp a Butterfly*, Lamar is rapping about himself as a man and nothing more.

In a musical sense, the album blends R&B influences with classic rap beats and melodic instrumentals. Lamar's vocals often seem to lead the song through its journey, a product of his hands-on work with producers such as Pharrell Williams, The Alchemist, and longtime collaborator Sounwave. He draws listeners in, then tells them his story.

Although fans had to be patient, *Mr. Morale & The Big Steppers* was worth the wait. It continues themes from Kendrick Lamar's past work, such as his struggle with being considered a savior and the need to focus on himself, while also crafting what may be considered his most personal project to date.

Grade: A-

## Controversy Follows Novelist's 'Swift' Rise

By Alexis Booker '23

The New York Times best-selling novel *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens has sold millions of copies since its publication in 2018. The fictional story depicts Kya, a reclusive girl living in North Carolina who chooses to surround herself with animals rather than people. Her life in isolation, however, is interrupted when she is accused of murdering a local high school boy named Chase.

In March, it was announced that Owens' iconic novel would be turned into a film adaptation produced by Reese Witherspoon with an original song written and performed by Taylor Swift. The movie is set to be released in July and features Daisy Edgar-Jones, who is playing the young Kya Clark, and Harris Dickson as a football star Chase Andrews. The announcement of the movie in combination with Swift's popularity has created attention leading to controversy.

Prior to releasing the novel at age 70, Owens and her husband of the time, Mark, had lived in the desolate spaces of Africa for 22 years, dedicating their lives to conservation. The New Yorker published an extensive article detailing their time there. They were reported to have first settled in Deception Valley in Botswana, gaining the trust of the nearby animals and observing their social habits and interactions. The Owens slowly gained attention for their work, establishing a research station with the support of outside funding. All was well until they interfered with the cattle industry and were expelled from the



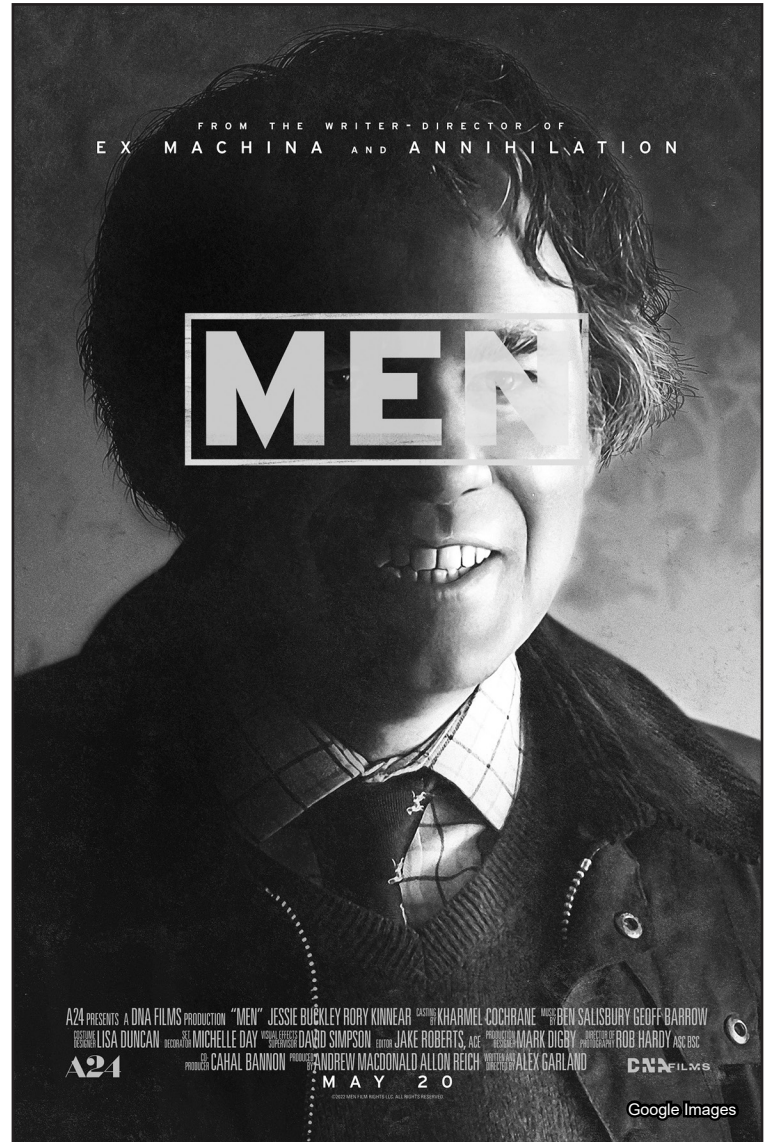
country. They relocated to North Luangwa to continue their conservation efforts but quickly ran into trouble with poachers. It was during this time in 1999 when the couple accepted an offer to participate in an ABC documentary about elephant poaching. When faced with possible poachers one night, a round of shots was heard caught on film. The identity of the shooter or shooters as well as who was shot to death have not been discovered or disclosed.

The Owens left Africa shortly after and avoided any direct involvement in the investigation at first. When asked to come in for questioning later on, they remained in the United States. However, the announcement of a film adaptation, combined with the news that Swift is performing a self-written track for the film, led to news media and fans digging into the questions of what happened in Africa. Audiences began connecting details between the story and Owens' real life. Both she and Kya live reserved lives in the wild and spend more time with animals than humans. With these connections in mind, the previous murder that had taken place 30 years before began

to be discussed in relation to the murder that takes place in the novel's story. Though Owens herself has been confirmed innocent of killing the suspected poacher, her now ex-husband and son remain primary suspects.

The rising acclaim to her book also has sparked debates about racial stereotypes she uses in her story, as well as her views on Africa. Some critics and readers have complained that the characters Jumpin and Mabel mirror black stereotypes and have little to do with the story other than to support Kya. Whilst in Africa, reports have commented on the Owens' condescending attitude towards locals.

Neither Witherspoon nor Swift have commented on the brewing controversies. On their social medias, both praised the book for its writing and how impactful it had been on their lives. Owens and her husband divorced some years ago, and the investigation in Gambia persists with their wanted commentary on the case. However they all continue to remain in America, Delia Owens specifically living in a remote homestead in Idaho.



## Men Creates an Aura of Muddled Commentary

By Liam Trump '24

Truly committing to the horror genre for the first time, Alex Garland's *Men* is a metaphorical dip into a woman's grief after suffering a terrible tragedy. Garland's style is very evident throughout the entire film, with his dynamic lighting and camera work as well as his high concepts taking center stage. The previous movies he's directed, *Ex Machina* and *Annihilation*, focused on themes of gender roles, so with a title like *Men*, it's pretty clear the genre shift won't inhibit the ideas he's trying to present.

The story follows Harper (Jessie Buckley) as she travels to the English countryside after witnessing the suicide of her husband James (Paapa Essiedu). Upon her arrival, she's greeted by Geoffrey (Rory Kinnear) who's the owner of the house she's staying at. This seems to be a nice break for her, but she soon realizes there's something more sinister going on. As her stay prolongs, Harper bears witness to the true horror of what men can become.

*Men*, more than anything, is psychological horror and as such has numerous ideas bidding for their own time in the spotlight. From victim blaming to sexual assault, the film tries to have commentary on a plethora of issues. As a result, the story is cluttered with ideas that feel unfinished and uncreatively integrated into the story. The script is awkward and uneven, with concepts being brought up and then completely dropped by the end. It's pretentious to a degree Garland never came close to before.

What encapsulates the film's

shortcomings the most would have to be the last half hour or so which is nothing but tacky gore and trite symbolism. The sequence is so bland and repetitive that it ends up serving nothing of value, even on a visual level. Earlier in the film, there were at least interesting lighting choices and not such a high reliance on CGI. The color palette and makeup had led to an eerie atmosphere and there was subtlety to be found in the imagery. This all gets thrown away for an ending that merely serves as a cheap vessel to shock its audience.

But what does stay consistent and is ultimately the one true strength of the film is the cast's performances. There are only six actors, but each of them has such a key understanding of the character they're playing that it tends to distract from the poor writing. While some of the more tropey horror sequences leave a lot to be desired, Zak Rothera-Oxley and Kinnear both deliver some truly unnerving performances.

It's a true shame that Garland's latest directorial outing is as sloppy as it is because there are ideas presented, that if given room to breathe, could carry the entire film. His projects always teetered the line of becoming self-indulgent dribble, but they had interesting stories to be told. An argument can be made about the film having a much deeper meaning to it, but for a movie to be worthwhile, it shouldn't have to be overanalyzed to find its quality.

Grade: C-



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## New Doctor Strange Film Succeeds Despite Flaws

By Jordan Costolo '25

*Doctor Strange In The Multiverse of Madness* does not disappoint its audience, but it's not something that transcends the common expectations for a Marvel film. The basic plot is that Doctor Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch), a powerful sorcerer and superhero, meets America Chavez (Xochitl Gomez), a girl that can supposedly travel through the multiverse. What follows is Doctor Strange and America Chavez traveling together throughout the multiverse from one universe to another. Lots of trailers lead audiences to expect this movie to alter the Marvel Cinematic Universe, or to at least lead up to a bigger movie later on, but neither of these things occurred.

While the movie was certainly not as impactful as expected, that's not necessarily a bad thing. The main plot is very contained and by the end of the movie, the central conflict is wrapped up tightly. While this may be a turn-off to some fans, it is refreshing to see a movie that is able to stand on its own rather than being just another piece in the chain of the Marvel Universe franchise. One aspect that is great about *Multiverse of Madness* is the editing and sound mixing with quiet beats heavily contrasting the louder and more intense points. Another positive of the film are the more gruesome special effects which create a movie with more suspense and intrigue. This touch

### Grade: B- Heartstopper: a Showstopper

By Jena Le '23

Following its April 22 release date, *Heartstopper* has captivated audiences around the world, amassing over 23 million hours watched in its debut week. The success pushed Netflix to renew the show for two more seasons.

The Netflix show, based on the graphic novel by Alice Os-eman, follows Charlie Spring (Joe Locke) and Nick Nelson's (Kit Connor) love story. Unlike other LGBTQ+ themed shows, which often trend towards darker themes, *Heartstopper* highlights the pure happiness of falling in love. Rather than the constant angst that LGBTQ+ viewers are used to seeing, *Heartstopper* offers viewers a heartwarming relationship between Charlie and Nick, providing a window for many viewers to see a normalized gay relationship. Longing stares, holding hands, and first kisses make *Heartstopper* a feel-good watch for anyone regardless of sexuality.

One of the reasons why *Heartstopper* is praised by many is because of the realism of the characters. Locke, who plays Charlie, and Connor, who plays Nick, are actual teenagers and not actors in their late twenties or ear-

ly thirties playing high schoolers as we've grown used to seeing. Many actors and actresses on the *Heartstopper* cast are also part of the LGBTQ+ community, which brings in more representation for LGBTQ+ youth. For instance, trans female character Elle Argent is played by transgender actress Yasmin Finney. Locke, who plays Charlie, is also openly gay.

*Heartstopper* stands out as a breath of fresh air from the explicit and mature themes that most high school shows seem to be based on, yet handles the more serious plotlines with care, allowing viewers to find themselves in the struggles and triumphs of the characters. It is light hearted, cute, and funny for watchers to enjoy. The show is eight episodes long, with a run time of 30 minutes per episode, making it an easy show to rewatch whenever you're in need of a serotonin boost.

*Heartstopper* is a feel-good LGBTQ+ centered show. With LGBTQ+ representation, age appropriate actors, and a beautiful storyline, there's no reason for anyone to turn it down. This Pride month, give the show a click and it won't disappoint.

### Grade: A-

# Summer Calender

## Movies

### ***Thor Love and Thunder* (July 8)**

The next chapter in the Thor series has Thor (Chris Hemsworth) face up against one of his most powerful villains yet, Gorr the God Butcher (Christian Bale). With returning love interest Jane Foster (Natalie Portman) taking the Thor mantle, *Thor: Love and Thunder* seems to be another fun adventure into the more cosmic side of the MCU.

### ***Nope* (July 22)**

Caretakers at a California horse ranch encounter a mysterious force that affects human and animal behavior alike. From Jordan Peele, director of *Get Out* and *Us*, comes a new horror backed up by a notably great cast.

### ***Bodies Bodies Bodies* (August 5)**

Set in a remote family mansion, a group of wealthy 20-something friends take part in a game that turns deadly. The film aspires to be a fun modern horror-comedy that takes a fresh look at fake friends and backstabbing all whilst satirizing the horror genre.

## Albums

### **Alanis Morissette - *The Storm Before the Calm* (June 17)**

Alanis Morissette is known for her iconic early 2000's pop-indie music, meaning this album will portray a new side of her fans haven't seen before. Though it isn't certain what *The Storm Before the Calm* entails, it will be refreshing to hear something new and experimental to kick off this summer.

### **MUNA - *MUNA* (June 24)**

MUNA's self-titled album is predicted to be full of airy vocals and synths instrumentals, further contributing to the overall indie-pop vibe the band has held since their very first album.

### **Superorganism - *World Wide Pop* (July 15)**

Superorganism's second album, *World Wide Pop*, is forecasted to combine the use of sound effects and monotone vocals familiar to their fanbase from their debut album.

## Upcoming Concerts

### **Kool and the Gang (June 3)**

Kool and the Gang, the staple 70's funk band known for their hit song "Celebration," are playing at the Wolf Trap National Park in Virginia. Tickets are still available for purchase on Wolf Trap's website.

### **Still Woozy (June 10)**

Psychedelic pop singer/songwriter Still Woozy will perform in Baltimore at Rams Head Live. The combination of groovy instrumentals and unique vocals will provide an unforgettable experience. Tickets are still available for purchase through Ticketmaster or through Rams Head Lives' website.

### **Jack Johnson (June 24)**

Jack Johnson, family favorite soft-rock artist, is returning to Columbia, Maryland at Merriweather Post Pavilion. Johnson is well known for his work on the Curious George soundtrack. Tickets are still available on Ticketmaster and Merriweather's website.



June 14, 2022

# Baseball Wins Back to Back State Titles

by Jack Link '23

Sherwood's baseball team needed only five innings to win the 4A state championship after beating Severna Park 11-0 on May 27 in a game that ended with the mercy rule. Last year, the Warriors also beat Severna Park in the championship, and Sherwood is the first team to win consecutive 4A titles since 1989.

Head coach Sean Davis entrusted sophomore Mac Crismond with the start on the mound, and the youngest player on the roster delivered a one-hitter with six strikeouts. "I was just attacking the zone more and throwing my curveball for strikes, and they couldn't touch it," Crismond said in an interview with the Washington Post.

Junior Amari Allen, a transfer this season from DeMatha, continued his tremendous season in the championship game and went 3-3 with two RBIs. Allen hit more home runs for the season than the rest of the team combined, including a decisive grand

slam in the quarterfinals against Urbana. Down 2-0 in the bottom of the 6th inning in this game, Allen stepped up to the plate with the bases loaded with two outs.

"When I was in the box, I just thought about hitting a ball hard and putting it in play," Allen recounted. "But he threw me a pitch I liked and I kept my head on it, swung as hard as I could, and it went out!" Allen looks back on this moment as one of his best memories in his young and promising baseball career.

However, many more Warriors chipped in during the title game against Severna Park, and the team scored 4 runs in the first inning, 3 more in the third, and 4 in the fourth.

Davis complimented his team's mental toughness throughout the season. "No situation seem[ed] to rattle them," said Davis. This fortitude was on display after the Warriors suffered a 17-7 loss on March 28 to Churchill. That blowout ended up the only loss for The Warriors who

finished with a 23-1 record. The Warriors played Churchill twice more, once in a victory in the County Final and then, more importantly, in a 3-1 victory in the state semifinals.

"It was either us or them, and we as a team were not ready to let our senior's season end without winning another state championship," said junior pitcher and first baseman Ben Berger.

"I think we are the two best teams in the state, and we are looking forward to going after them," Davis said before the playoff game against the Bulldogs.

Allen took the mound in the semifinal and pitched 5 scoreless innings that included eight strikeouts. He also went 2-3 hitting.

The victory over Churchill set Sherwood on the path towards a consecutive 4A state championship. "It felt extremely good to win two consecutive state championships and graduate on top," said senior pitcher Steven Tameris, who was one of eight seniors on a deep and experienced team.



Junior Amari Allen takes a cut at a fastball in the state championship.

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## Girls Lacrosse Falls Short

by Dylan Sondike '24

In the 4A state semifinals tournament, Sherwood traveled to Crofton High School to face the number 1 seeded Broadneck Bruins. After scoring the first goal of the game, The Warriors struggled in the draw and found themselves down 12-2 after the first quarter. The Warriors managed to score the same number of goals as the Bruins in quarter 2 but struggled to produce much offense in the second half, leading to a 17-7 loss. Broadneck continued on to win in the championship game by a score of 17-4 against B-CC.

"In the game against Broadneck, I think we really held our own and performed to our best ability," said senior Brooke Walsh. "A lot of the younger girls had to step up and compete against a team that's been in states back to back. We all learned a lot and believed it was a good way to end our season."

While the Warriors may have come up short of reaching the state championship game, they once again reached the state semis for the second consecutive year and had a strong and productive season with a 13-4 record led by their senior leadership. The Warriors' depth and overall talent helped them focus on their strengths such as speed and limiting the opponents from scoring. During the season, the Warriors outscored opponents 243-111. Appearing in back-to-back state semifinals in the past two years has shown their continued dominance in Montgomery County and against other strong teams in the state.

Senior Greer Cohen explained that many things led to the success of the team this year. "I believe the biggest strengths of the team were individuals and

their skills being put together to create a team full of skilled people," said Greer. "The ability to combine individual skills to a team whole created an unstoppable defense and offense in most cases. We were balanced throughout the field, never lacking skill in any position."

The Warriors had some exciting and nail-biting wins that helped improve their record in the regular season and continue in the playoffs. In the state quarterfinals against Old Mill, the Warriors were tied going into overtime 10-10. Freshman Avery Graham scored the game-winning goal for the Warriors and the celebration began. The Warriors' determination late in games was significant in their success throughout the season.

Sherwood is not the only Montgomery County team who has struggled to become state champions in recent years. Teams like Whitman, Churchill, and Walter Johnson, among others, have all reached the semi-finals but often failed to go any farther. Since 1990, no Montgomery County girls lacrosse team has been crowned state champion and only have a combined two finals appearances.

Teams in Howard, Frederick, and especially Anne Arundel county have succeeded in recent years to win many state championships. Annapolis, Severna Park, and recently Broadneck have particularly flourished in girls lacrosse, and these three teams have often been the reason that Montgomery County teams have not won a state title. However, the Sherwood girls lacrosse team has shown for a number of seasons that they will not shy away from the challenge or give up on the ultimate goal of a state championship.



## Title IX Turns 50 as Women's Sports Grow

by Sydney Wiser '23

On June 23, 1972, President Nixon signed into law the groundbreaking civil rights legislation, Title IX. It provided new opportunities for women in many different areas but it has most famously been credited for revolutionizing women's sports in the United States.

Before Title IX, one in 27 girls in the U.S. participated in organized sports according to the Women's Sports Foundation (WSF). There were few intercollegiate sports for women to participate in and no professional leagues. Since Title IX's passage, female participation in sports has grown exponentially. By 2016, the WSF reported that two in five female adolescents played sports. Title IX outlawed discrimination on the basis of sex for public institutions receiving federal funding. It requires that women receive equal access to resources and opportunities in public school athletics, expanding the number of sports available for young girls to play. This increased participation at the collegiate level and laid the groundwork for women's professional sports leagues.

While Title IX has supported female youth development through the collegiate level, it's been unable to address the inequalities that women's sports face on the professional level because leagues are not federally funded institutions. Many U.S. professional women's sports leagues have struggled to gain traction and female athletes continue to highlight inequities in their resources and pay. However, what has changed since Title IX is viewership.

Soccer is one such sport where women have broken into the mainstream. Domestically, the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) preseason matches drew in an average of 368,000 television viewers per game while Major League Soccer (MLS) drew



USWNT's Megan Rapinoe celebrates goal in 2019 World Cup Final.

an average of 318,000 viewers in their regular-season matches. The NWSL now has access to a broader audience since their broadcasting deal with CBS. Previously, NWSL games were streamed on Twitch, Go90, and Lifetime. Internationally, women have also experienced recent achievements. The Barcelona women's team recently broke the record for most spectators in the stands at a women's soccer match with 91,648 fans during the first leg of the Champions League semi-final.

Other recent milestones have marked just how far women's sports have come. On April 3, the NCAA Women's Basketball March Madness championship game drew 4.85 million viewers, making it the most-watched women's basketball final since 2004. On April 30, fans tuned in for the most-watched female headlined boxing event between Katie Taylor and Amanda Serrano. Across over 170 markets internationally, 1.5 million fans watched virtually

and the Madison Square Garden venue sold out. The 2022 Winter Olympics were also the most gender-balanced Olympics to date with women making up 45 percent of the athletes competing.

While women's sports have celebrated great achievements in the 50 years since Title IX was passed, many still acknowledge that there's still progress to be made. In the past year, six NWSL head coaches have departed or been fired from their clubs because of verbal and sexual harassment allegations. The detainment in Russia of star WNBA player Britney Griner has highlighted the pay inequities that send even the highest-level female basketball players overseas in the off-season.

The 50th anniversary of Title IX serves as an opportunity for athletes, leagues, and organizations to reflect on past successes and work towards building a more inclusive and equitable future in sports.

## Perspective

### The Growing Risks of Sports Gambling

by Evan Joseph '23

Televised sports have played a big role in entertainment for a long time and therefore people are always trying to find new ways to interact and enjoy them. Recently, sports betting has skyrocketed in popularity as more virtual sports betting platforms come online. Sports gambling allows fans to have a deeper connection with sports by betting their own money on players and team success (or failure). Initially, a more personal connection with sports sounds like a good thing, but the increased popularity of sports betting actually has led to conflicts between athletes, sports clubs, and the fans because of the tension created by the money these fans are putting on games. The growing popularity of sports gambling could be more harmful than helpful for the sports world.

Sports betting has caused problems on all levels of sports, which will only increase in frequency as the market grows from its already \$9 billion value, according to Front Office Sports. ESPN's sports analyst Adrian Wojnarowski commented on an interaction between Boston Celtics fans and Nets guard Kyrie Irving where Irving gave the fans his middle finger and said he did it because the fans were heckling him about their own sports bets. Wojnarowski said he believes such incidents will continue to happen as the sports gambling industry grows. The increased passion in fans have because of their bets could lead to a toxic relationship between fans and athletes and as the industry grows, more instances of aggression from fans are likely to occur.

As sports betting becomes more convenient and fans are able to gamble 24 hours a day on their mobile devices, gambling problems and addictions are guaranteed to increase. The National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) reported that a study of sports gamblers found that 16 percent of online sports betters met clinical criteria for gambling disorder and another 13 percent showed signs that would classify them as having gambling problems. As more and more Americans gamble, the dangers that the athletes themselves will want in the action will grow. But this inherent risk is nothing new, and the infamous Black Sox scandal was an early sign of the possible consequences of sports gambling. In the 1919 World Series between the Chicago White Sox and the Cincinnati Reds, eight White Sox players were accused of throwing the World Series in exchange for money from a sports gambling syndicate.

Although the MLB and other major sports leagues have implemented strict restrictions on sports gambling so instances like this don't reoccur, online sports gambling allows a new array of ways for athletes to gamble anonymously. In the NFL, Atlanta Falcons wide receiver Calvin Ridley was recently caught attempting such sports bets. When the NFL found out about Ridley's bets, they issued him a suspension spanning over the entire 2022-2023 season. This is only the most recent example of the risks to the integrity of popular sports as the popularity of sports betting grows.

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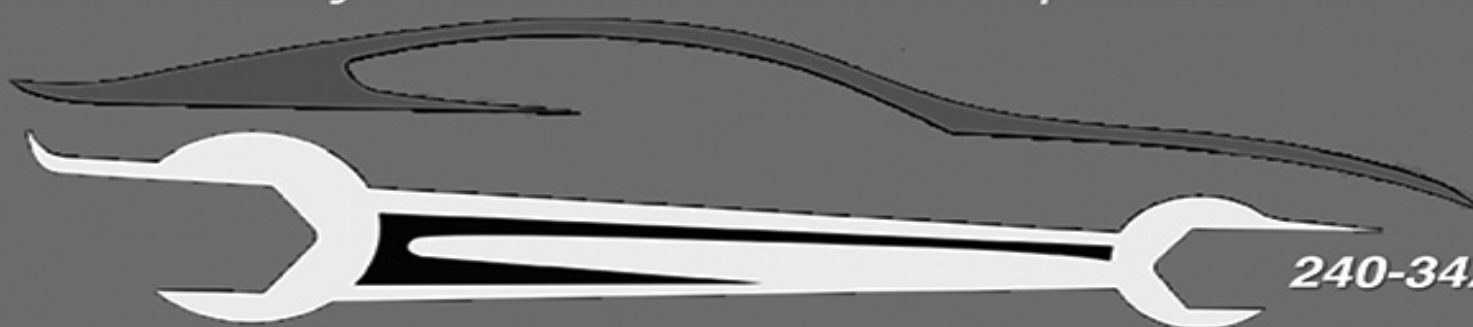
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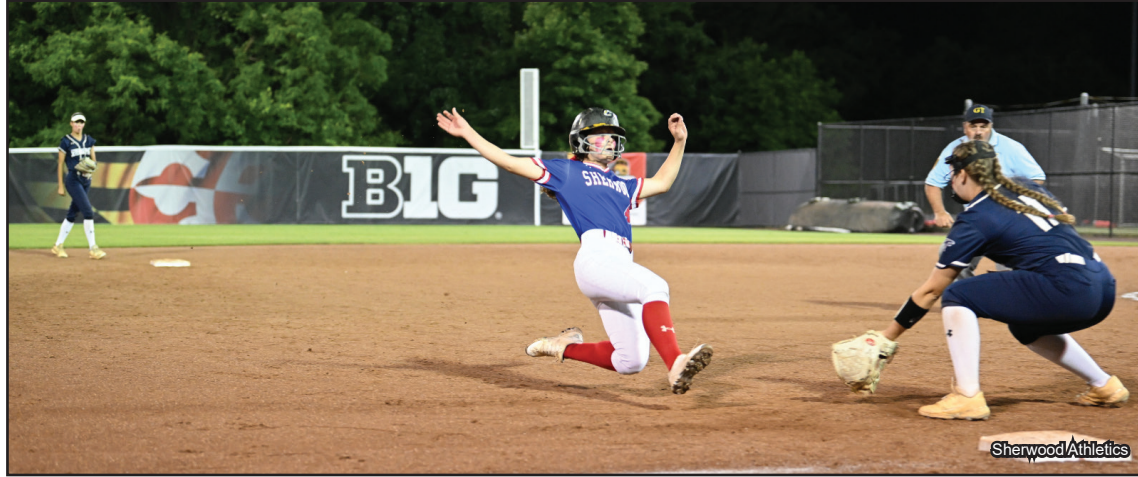
## Softball Continues Dominance Winning its 7th State Title in 10 Years

by Lizzy Herмосilla '23

Late into the evening after many delays at the Maryland softball tournament, Sherwood beat Severna Park 21-5, securing their 7th state championship title in the last 10 years and their fifth one since Ashley Barber-Strunk became the head coach. The Warriors got off to a torrid start and scored 13 runs in the first inning to cruise toward a five-inning, mercy-rule victory.

The scoring started with a double by senior Summer Green that scored three runs. The lead kept growing in a 14-hit inning that also included triples by senior Kay Sakala and junior Hannah Friend. In the fifth inning, the Warriors had one more out to go and then they would be named state champions, but the lights in the stadium went off, postponing the game for 30 minutes. When the game resumed, Severna hit right to second base where junior Ally Long fielded the ball and threw to Sakala at first base. The long wait was over--Sherwood was 4A softball champions.

"We all ran into the middle of the field and gave each other hugs and even some tears were coming from some of our eyes,"



Freshman Kiera Schlutz safely slides into 3rd base for a triple in the championship game vs. Severna Park.

said Sakala. "We had worked so hard all season to reach this goal and the goal was achieved."

Before the Warriors made it to the state finals they faced Churchill in the state quarterfinals and got a mercy-rule victory by beating the Bulldogs 19-0 in five innings. The team's closest game of the playoff was against reigning state champ Catonsville, who won the 4A state title last spring after the Warriors fell to North County in the state semifinal game. Sherwood wasn't to be denied this year and won 5-0. Junior Kat Hanson threw a two-hitter for the shutout.

"I knew [Catonsville] was

a good hitting team so I made sure I was on point with all my spots and using all my advantages against the batters," said Hanson. "There's no better feeling than when it's an important game, everyone's watching you, and you strike out somebody."

Although the Warriors entered the season as perennial favorites to compete for a state title, the season was not without hiccups. The team lost 8-7 in early May to Churchill, and they later faced strong pitching in a 11-4 loss to Damascus. As a result, the Warriors as a No. 3 seed did not compete for the county championship. However, the two

losses in the regular season only focused the players on their primary goal of winning a 4A state title, as well as giving them time off before they entered playoffs that were only a few days away.

"Missing the opportunity to play in the county final this year did not really deter the mindset for this season which was to win states," said junior left fielder Julia Peffer. "[Losing to Damascus] was also a huge driving factor going into playoffs because we wanted to prove that a regular season loss doesn't affect how a team performs in the playoffs."

The Warriors graduated a number of key seniors, some

of whom were freshmen when the team last won a state championship in 2019. Even with the losses of such seniors as Sakala, who was named All County First Team, and catcher Holly Rogers, who was named All County Second Team, the Warriors bring back so much talent that expectations will continue for more titles.

Hanson and junior center fielder Brenya Schlutz, alwere named All County. Just as Sherwood utilized young talent when it won its last state title in 2019, this season freshman right fielder Kiera Schlutz increasingly contributed to the team. She went 3-3 in the state championship, hitting 2 triples and bunting for a single.

"Starting and playing in the state final game as a freshman was such a fun experience. I never expected to start, especially because I struggled at the beginning of the season but stepping on that field was one of the best feelings ever," said Schlutz. "Our drive to win this season was so great and played a big role in winning the state championship. Throughout the season we kept the same work ethic and every practice we gave it our all, which needs to continue into next year so we can win another state championship!"

## Boys Lacrosse Don't Reach Their Lofty Goal of Winning State Championship

by Carter Braun '23

The boys lacrosse season came to an end on Saturday, May 21, after suffering a 10-8 defeat against eventual 4A State Champions Churchill. With the game tied 5-5 after the third quarter, the Warriors couldn't hold on and conceded 5 goals in the final quarter. Although the team's goal was to win the state title, the team should not hang their heads after making it back to the semifinals for the second straight year.

Senior defenseman Austin Conerly was upset after the semifinal loss but found some silver linings. "It definitely hurts coming so close to the state final game in two consecutive years but with that being said, there are some positives that came from it, like adding another regional championship to our school," Conerly said. He also noted that many underclassmen stepped up and were able to prepare themselves for the future years of their Sherwood careers. Unfortunately, Conerly and 13 other seniors played their final minutes in blue and white in the semi-finals.

The only team that the Warriors did not beat this year was Churchill, who defeated them three times during the year, with close wins in the regular season and county championship in addition to the semifinals. Head coach Matthew Schneider acknowledged that the team ultimately couldn't overcome one opponent in Churchill. "We played them very tough in the playoffs and fell 2 goals short," said Schneider. "I think we needed to win a couple more faceoffs and eliminate a



Junior attacker Drew Stahley lines up a shot in semifinal vs. Churchill.

couple unforced turnovers. However, our defense played very well and we had our opportunities to win that game."

On the bright side, no team played Churchill closer than the Warriors this season and the Bulldogs crushed Broadneck in the final by a score of 15-7. "We managed to beat every team except the state champions, and being the closest team to beat Churchill demonstrates how great our program has truly come," said senior midfielder Sean Scott. "A lot of things went well during the year," said Schneider, "We scored a lot of goals, picked up a ton of ground balls, gave up few goals on average and earned a lot of personal player recognitions."

Three players from the team were voted as first team All County and another three were voted for the second team. Ten players

from the team in total were voted to the All-Central Division team. Of all of the personal accolades earned by the players, none stand out more than Scott, being voted as one of four midfield All-Americans in the country. In 17 games, Scott scored 29 goals and dished out 17 assists en route to the 10th ever Sherwood player to receive All-American honors. "I was able to accomplish these statistics and awards due to my physicality and determination to outwork everyone," Scott said.

That sense of perseverance and effort likely will define the team next season as they continue the quest to get to a 4A state final. But this quest will not come easy, as the team will need underclassmen and new additions to step up next season and perform, in order to get over the hump, and win a state final.

## Outdoor Track Team Ends Season Strong

by Nicholas Schade '23

With five different athletes qualified for state championships, the outdoor track and field season has drawn to an impressive, but chaotic, close. Disunited and undisciplined at first, the team strengthened and matured throughout the last half of season with most athletes demonstrating exceptional improvement in the final meets of the year.

Stepped against heavy competition in the county championships, the track and field team as a whole did not score well among its opponents. In counties the boys placed 20 out of 23 teams, and the girls placed 23. However, the field eventers placed much higher in individual events, with junior Noah Sussman placing third in the pole vault and junior Jack Link placing fifth in the high jump.

In regionals Link continued his performance streak by placing third in high jump, qualifying for the state meet. The boys 4x100 relay team—composed of freshman Po Gweama, sophomore Leo Cantor, and seniors KJ Edwards and Christian Gillmore—also qualified for states by placing third among 13 teams.

When the track season started, the team, particularly the sprinting group, was full of young and inexperienced runners. At first these new athletes were unfocused during practices, inciting tensions with upperclassmen. "The biggest challenge to the coaching staff this year was the lack of maturity of students who were new to the sport ... They

proved to be a distraction to the athletes who truly care about the sport and brought down the level of performance," remarked coach Daniel Reeks.

Towards the middle and end of the season many athletes quit or could no longer participate due to low GPAs, depriving the team of some of its faster runners. However, as the season progressed and workouts became increasingly demanding, the remaining athletes developed both individually and as a group. "Over time the team has definitely become more united, and I see a very successful future ahead of them," said senior Marissa Harris.

Finally, towards the end of April, the team was thrown one final obstacle: Covid-19. Several runners could not compete in county or regional championships because of positive tests, while others did not have enough time to fully recover from Covid-19 before the meets began.

Despite the season's setbacks, many of the varsity runners were satisfied with their own results and those of the team. "Everyone ran their best ... and we definitely exceeded expectations for regionals and counties," recounted senior Noam Tuchman.

The team convened one final time for a casual pizza party on May 24. Once a divided and inexperienced group, at the party each athlete cheered and congratulated each other as they received their varsity and junior varsity certificates, demonstrating a commendable amount of maturity and progress from months of hard work.