

School Lacks Uniform Policy for Phone Use in Classrooms

by Ben Schoenberg '24

Following the return to schools after the pandemic, teachers across the country have seen a troubling rise in phone use during class time. According to a recent Washington Post article, this has led many schools nationwide to implement measures that would regulate or ban mobile devices in the classroom. However, Sherwood has not taken a school-wide approach to stop students from having their phones during class time.

While phone use in classes has always been an issue for teachers since mobile devices were first popularized, many schools noticed that there was significant increase in phone use over the past two years. "I do believe that there is an increased use since online learning, but it is hard to say if this is because the apps--such as TikTok--are more addicting, or if students had unregulated phone use for over a year during the time they were in class virtually. Or potentially a mixture of both," said math teacher Ingrid Ramirez-Fallabout.

Today's digital world creates many new accessible ways to learn such as MCPS schools providing devices like chromebooks to students. But it has also led to new apps and social media platforms

that only act to further distract and engage students when they should be focused and learning in class.

"Apps on phones are programmed to keep students addicted to them, and unfortunately no instruction will be able to compete with these algorithms that keep phone users paying attention to their phones," added Ramirez-Fallabout. "Chromebooks can be used for any electronic educational needs, and don't have pop-ups, so they are much less addicting."

Social studies teacher Michelle Games thinks it is okay if a teacher finishes a few minutes early and wants to allow their students to access their phones. However, she has noticed that availability of phones has stopped students from socializing with each other. "It makes me sad because I remember before we had cell phones and the kids would talk to each other at the end of class instead of staring at their phones," she explained. "They would make new friends and have conversations. Now, they just whip out the phone and stare at it. Living in a virtual world."

The recent uptick in phone use has begun to become such an ongoing distraction for many teachers that they believe

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Spring Fashion Show



The Fashion Club held its annual fashion show on May 19 during lunch. The show gave students the opportunity to showcase styled outfits of handmade or upcycled clothing and accessories they had created over the course of the year. Taking place in the courtyard near the lower C-hall, the show attracted spectators to watch the models show off the student designers' clothing. The Fashion Club consists of students from all grade levels who each got the chance to contribute to the show through designing, photography, advertising, and modeling. Bottom images from left: junior Aiden Cunningham, junior Gael Rebu.

- Jordan Costolo '25

Test Optional Proves More Popular among College Applicants

by Alex Lacey '24

In recent years, an increasing number of colleges and universities across the United States have moved towards becoming "test optional." This means that applicants are not required to submit standardized test scores, such as the SAT or ACT, as part of their application. According to the publication The Hill, schools that require test scores are down from 55 percent in 2019 to less than 5 percent currently. The Hill also reported that fewer than half of students in the Class of 2023 who applied Early Decision to college submitted standardized test scores, according to an analysis by the nonprofit that publishes the Common Application. This figure is down 80 percent from just four years ago.

This shift from non-optional to optional scores changes preparation for college, especially for students with high GPAs who don't necessarily need to show high SAT or ACT scores to get



into college.

"If the school is test optional, it depends on the student's scores," advises College and Career Counselor Joe Hock. "For example, UMD's average accepted applicant has a 4.4 WGPA and a 1350-1450 SAT. If the student has a 1200 and a 4.5 WGPA, I would say they might want to apply for the test optional."

Counselor Amarah Faizan advises students who are considering whether to submit scores or not to see if their scores are above the college's average. She adds that most colleges and uni-

versities have become used to evaluating students' applications without the scores. "When a student does not submit a test score to an optional school, schools do not factor in a test score that was not submitted and they will look at the application materials that were submitted," said Faizan.

One reason why test optional schools are changing where rising seniors are applying is that the removal of standardized test scores as a requirement has leveled the playing field for applicants. Historically, students from wealthier families could afford

expensive test prep courses and tutors, giving them an advantage in the admissions process. However, by removing the requirement for test scores, colleges and universities are able to consider a wider range of factors in their admissions decisions, such as extracurricular activities, essays, and letters of recommendation. This has opened up opportunities for students who may not have been able to afford test prep courses to compete on a more equal footing.

The trend towards test optional admissions reflects a growing recognition that standardized

test scores are not always the best indicator of an applicant's academic potential or future success. Some critics argue that standardized tests are biased against certain groups of students, such as those from low-income backgrounds, non-native English speakers, and students with disabilities. By removing the test score requirement, colleges and universities are able to consider a more holistic view of an applicant's academic and personal achievements, rather than just a single test score.

As current Sherwood High School juniors head into the summer before their senior year, they will have the opportunity to decide whether to submit their SAT or ACT scores, or even pick and choose which colleges to send the scores to or not.

"I had no clue that scores were optional at some schools," said Sherwood junior Andy Ruiz. "It's not a big deal for me, but it may affect one or two schools I apply to."

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Magruder Takes Steps To Change School Name

by Alex Lacey '24

In February, MCPS received and accepted a petition requesting consideration to change the name of Magruder High School. In the fall, six schools in MCPS were identified for consideration of a name change if representatives of a school's community requested it. In addition to Magruder, the other schools were the high schools Richard Montgomery, Wootton, and Montgomery Blair, as well as the middle schools John Poole and Francis Scott Key. It is not known if the communities of these schools also have submitted petitions for a name change.

All six of the schools are named after figures from the American Revolutionary Era who owned slaves. Colonel Zadok Magruder was a Revolutionary War soldier. Born in Prince George's County in 1729, Magruder eventually came to own more than 25 slaves, which placed him among the top four percent of enslavers in the country in 1790. Now that MCPS has accepted the petition, the district is looking for community members such as students, staff, parents, and alumni of Magruder HS to be a part of the steering committee for the renaming process. This Committee will plan and organize the community engagement process to review the renaming petition, determine the community interest in renaming the school, and prepare a report to the Board. This process will last at least through the summer and into the fall semester.

Vape Detectors Piloted in MCPS

by John Castle '25

MCPS released a statement on April 12 announcing that vape detectors will be installed in six high schools in response to an increase of inhalants being used in the restrooms. This action followed county-wide restrictions placed on high school bathrooms, including more frequent checks made by security and limiting time they are available for students to use during the school day.

The six high schools piloting the vape detectors this school year are Richard Montgomery, John F. Kennedy, Northwood, Paint Branch, Quince Orchard, and Walt Whitman. MCPS have selected these schools due to incidents that have happened in the past year within these restrooms. Although there are a couple different models of vape detectors, it is possible that when smoke or vape fumes are detected by the device, they will emit sound and lights. When the alert goes off, security or other staff will receive a notification via text or email. It is still unknown whether these vape detectors will be installed in more schools instead of the original six, as well as if they would be permanent. MCPS also is considering other measures to improve school security, including having students wear a badge to be more easily identifiable when on their school campus.

Surgeon General Warns about Social Media

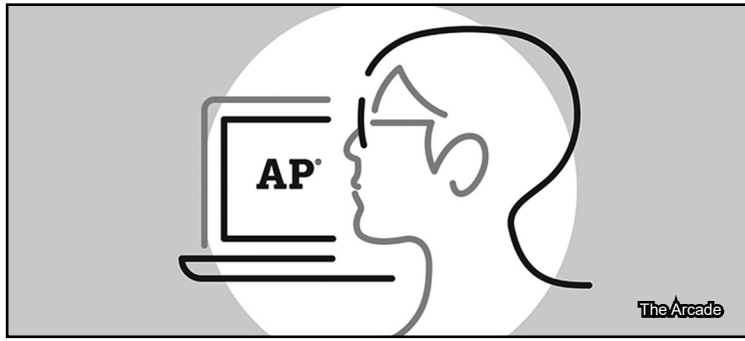
by Liam Trump '24

The U.S. surgeon general, Dr. Vivek Murthy, issued a 19-page Advisory on May 23, warning about the risks of social media on children and adolescents. The report notes that 95 percent of adolescents are on social media, and a third of them state that they use social media "almost constantly."

In the section entitled 'We Must Take Action,' the Advisory states that policymakers should promote greater safety for children on social media by developing age appropriate health and safety standards as well as requiring a higher standard of data privacy for children. Technology companies are also encouraged to conduct independent assessments of the impacts of social media on adolescents by sharing assessment data, assessing the potential risks of online interactions, and establishing specific advisory committees to inform upcoming policies.

"The bottom line is we do not have enough evidence to conclude that social media is, in fact, sufficiently safe for our kids," Muthy said in an interview with NPR. "And it's not even just the risk of depression and anxiety symptoms. But we find that nearly half of adolescents are saying that social media makes them feel worse about their body image."

Some AP Tests Move Digital



by Devin Kosiorowski '24

This year Sherwood had the option to voluntarily offer digital formats for some AP exams and among the classes that made the switch were AP Computer Science Principles, AP European History, AP Modern World History, and AP United States History.

APUSH teacher Caitilin Thompson decided to have her students take the digital exam. "Potential pros [of going digital] I thought about: preparation for the future; typing is easier than writing for many kids, and often typing is faster than writing; it will provide consistency in AP test experience," explained Thompson. "Potential cons we thought about: it's a brand new platform; there could be kinks in the operation; how will students be able to 'mark up' the test -- eliminate answer choices, highlight, make notes, etc."

Despite this, sophomore Sanjeev Linga, a student who took the APUSH exam, expressed his concern with the digital exam. "The multiple choice was challenging because we didn't get to

annotate and it just wasn't convenient at all," said Linga.

However, other students seemed to like the switch to the digital exam. Junior Elisha Mae Gabriel took the digital AP World exam, which has the same exam format as the APUSH exam. "I liked the fact that I could see my own time. It allowed me not to look up and possibly get distracted," explained Gabriel.

Despite schools across the nation facing application crashes, causing them to reschedule exams for different dates, digital testing went smoothly for Sherwood this year. "We were really happy with how our four digitals went this year to the point where we'd be looking at doing mostly, if not all, digital for those that are offered [next year]," said math teacher Rebekah Byerly, who is Sherwood's AP Coordinator.

While CollegeBoard did give schools the option to go digital with the exams, the teachers for both AP Language and Composition and AP Literature decided to stick with the paper version of the exam this year. Following the exam, AP Lang teacher Alexandra

Green gave her students a survey in order to hear their feedback. Green's students concluded that there were more downsides to the digital exam than there were to the paper exam. Students of Green that had taken other digital exams argued that annotating using the digital platform was more difficult than using pen and paper. Additionally, the paper exam was easier to focus on as the digital exam gave students "screen fatigue" as well as the non-stop, distracting noise of students typing all around them. When looking at all these factors, Green's AP Lang students also did find upsides to the digital exam. This includes the unlimited writing space students are provided with, a timer that is always provided on the screen, and the fact that students don't have to worry about messy handwriting when typing.

From her perspective as the AP Coordinator, Byerly argues that the digital exams are much less of a hassle to administer than the paper exams. "[Students] don't have to do bubble sheets at the beginning so there's no general instructions, which saves a lot of time in starting," said Byerly. Paper exams also have to be collected in a specific order without error in order to make sure that all exams are being evaluated accurately. With digital exams, no papers have to be distributed or collected, and the only possible concern is that students remember to bring their fully charged chromebook.

Festival Showcases Student Films

by Connor Pugh '24

The Sherwood Film Club held its annual film festival in the library during lunch on Friday April 28, showcasing student-made films. The festival is the biggest event of the year for the film club.

"We were looking for good audio and visual quality, smooth transitions from scene to scene, multiple interesting characters, specifically for narrative, engaging content, and decent acting" said Junior Aidan Leclere, the club's vice president. "We want to continue the festival and showcase student's amazing work. I would like to see more categories and more genres, for people to show more types of film."

The Film Festival was split into two categories: Documentary and Narrative. Documentary films were infomercials or PSAs dedicated to explaining or arguing about certain topics to the audience. Many Documentary films in the festival were assignments students made for other classes in school and then submitted to the festival, leading to a wide variety of topics in the festival lineup. One highlight of the Documentary category was the film produced for the latest Rock 'n' Roll by senior Nathaniel Hencock, offering a glimpse into the production of the show leading up to its premiere.



Senior Nate Hencock shows his Documentary Award with Club officers.

The second category of films in the festival was Narrative, which were works of fiction telling a story instead of explaining something in the real world. With the Narrative category students were freer to experiment with the many different facets of cinema. Narrative films in the festival include a thriller by Junior Rina Shalvi about a family member who magically rose from the dead, and a story by senior Arya Sharma about a kid confronting his nemesis for "outdrinking" him, with an epic battle ensuing.

"There was a concession stand and you got to hang out and watch movies. I liked it," recounted Shalvi.

A main factor to submitting a film in the festival was the possibility of winning the cash reward for the top two films in each category.

A panel of judges consisting of members of the Film Club and its sponsor, Mrs. Lock, determined the winners of the festival, with a \$100 reward going to the first place of each category and \$50 to the second place. Consequently, the Film Club gave students interested in filmmaking the perfect opportunity to show their films to a wider audience, and also line their pockets with a little extra cash.

In a period of the school year characterized by the collective chaos of seasonal events such as the Spring Play and the looming threat of AP exams, the Film Festival went beyond only helping those submitting their films but also gave students the much needed opportunity to enjoy the student films and the company of others.

Growing Number of Teens Disinterested About Driving

by Briana Sisler '24

A phenomenon is sweeping the nation in which fewer teenagers are earning their driving licenses than in the past. The Federal Highway Administration reported data in 2021 that from 1983 there was a 20-percent decrease in 18 year olds that had licenses and a 25-percent decrease in 16 year olds with licenses. Out of 122 Sherwood students primarily in grades 9-11 surveyed, 57 percent did not have a license, provisional license, or permit. And only 38.8-percent of respondents were learning to drive.

For many teens driving was access to long-awaited freedom and friends, but the growth of the internet and its widespread availability caused many teens to not need to drive to communicate with friends and have fun. With the accessibility of phones and social media all friends are a short text away. Due to the growth of Zoom and many other video communication companies, friends are also able to video chat instead of meeting face to face. If teens do need to get around they have access to services like Uber and Lyft. Some would also prefer to not get in a car at all and would rather help the environment by biking, walking, or choosing from one of many public transportation options. Additionally, with growing urbanization, many teens do



not even need to bike or walk far to get to their desired destination.

Increases to technological innovations is not the only probable cause for the decrease in driving teenagers. Many policies have been enacted in several states to raise the bar for achieving a license. According to The Journal of Safety Research, every state except for seven have made driver licensing laws stricter between 1996 and 2006. In all of these states teenagers would have had a harder time achieving a drivers license and these changes could have put many off from getting one. On the other hand, restric-

tions on drivers above the age of 18 are lax, which may prompt some, including Sherwood students, to wait to get a license until they are above 18.

Some teenagers may not be driving due to mental health reasons. Many teenagers in today's age grapple with anxieties surrounding driving, a stark contrast to the excitement many teens in previous generations felt when learning to drive. According to the National Survey of Children's Health, anxiety has increased by 20 percent in teenagers and children between 2007 and 2012. "I struggle with generalized anxiety

disorder, and just the idea of being behind the wheel is extremely stressful," explained senior Isabelle Andrews on the survey.

Some teenagers that do want to drive face different issues on their own. With the rising costs of everything, many teens struggle to afford a car and the numerous associated costs. On top of that, fewer teenagers are getting jobs, giving them less reasons to drive and less money. For some teens that want to drive, their parents are slowing them down. Many Sherwood students on the survey stated that cars are too expensive. Others reported that they shared

a car with either a parent or a sibling. The lack of a personal vehicle could reduce the amount of time a teenager spends driving and allow them less experience behind the wheel overall. Many parents, especially those who are black, worry that their children will get pulled over and become victims of police brutality. This can slow their progress learning to drive and discourage them from driving altogether.

At the end of the day there are many reasons why teens are staying off the roads. Driving may not be the most important thing anymore to teens in the future.

Phone Policy Lacking

from PHONES, p.1

the issue needs to be addressed, whether through school wide or countywide regulations. According to the MCPS Personal Mobile Device regulation policy that was last revised May 2, 2022, phone rules in high schools are left up to the principal's discretion, meaning that there is no official regulation that restricts phone use across the county. This is in direct contrast to how the district policy regulates middle schools, which prohibits use during class. At Farquhar Middle School, for example, students put their phones in their lockers before classes start.

Sherwood's administration decided that for the 2022-2023 school year each department would determine its own policies for phones in the classroom. Such an approach has led to inconsistencies and a lack of clarity about expectations for phone use, which results in enforcement being difficult. An additional challenge is that teachers are not allowed to confiscate a student's phone, according to Principal Timothy Britton.

"In a perfect world, MCPS would create and publish a clear policy on cell phone use in schools," said Lynnette Evans-Williams, who is the head of the English department. "At minimum, we would have a school-wide policy that could be consistently implemented. I also believe parents and guardians need to talk to their teens about appropriate

use of phones during school." In her own classes, Evans-Williams finds that she has to prompt students to keep their phones put away during instruction.

Neighboring high school, Blake, dedicated a section of its 2022-2023 Student Agenda to their policy regarding Personal Mobile Devices. The policy states that students may not use their mobile devices at all during class, with verbal warnings and occasionally confiscating phones used to uphold the policy.

"I think Sherwood needs a strict cell phone policy. Other MCPS schools have such policies so I don't know why we don't," said Games, who also believes it is important to stop students from using their phones during school not only for improved academics but also for the students' overall well being.

"I would like to see a rule that phones cannot be out in the classroom," Games continued. "There should be a sequence of consequences starting with the teacher taking the phone for the period and escalating to security picking up the phone and keeping it for the day. This is not only an instructional issue it is a mental health issue. We talk about mental health but don't address the harm of phones and social media for kids -- look at the new guidance from the surgeon general. Social media is a leading cause of mental health problems in kids. It is literally addictive, as the Psychology teachers will tell you."

It's not too late to be on the Warrior staff next school year

Students in Newspaper class immediately become members of the Warrior staff. Learn the skills to become a writer, photographer, and layout designer--you pick what interests you most! You also gain important insight about the world today through the discussion and study of current events.

See Mr. Huck in C266 or email Peter_J_Huck@mcpsmd.org for more information about the Newspaper elective, or see your counselor to make a schedule change. Newspaper elective is an Honors credit!

June 8, 2023

Business and Politics Don't Mix Sherwood Needs All Digital Exams for Next School Year

by Brian Wilbur '24

Huge controversy and ensuing boycott threats engulfed Bud Light's sponsorship of Dylan Mulvaney, a well-known transgender rights activist, in a world where social divisions appear to widen daily. While promoting tolerance and supporting underprivileged groups is noble and needed, corporations must also carefully consider the repercussions of getting involved in such sensitive cultural topics. Regardless of political views, it is obvious that AB InBev, the multinational company that produces and distributes Bud Light, did not foresee the adverse impact on a sizable portion of its customer base, making it a dubious economic choice.

To be clear, advancing transgender rights is an admirable cause. It is evidence of development and equality. The choice to support Dylan Mulvaney, a prominent member of the transgender community, shows the company's dedication to promoting inclusivity. Unfortunately, AB InBev and many other companies have neglected the effects on their client base and put themselves in unwinnable situations when they take positions on issues that are politically and culturally divisive. Instead, businesses should make sure that their first priority is to maximize their profits.

Companies in the business world rely on a variety of consumer demographics for their success. It is logical to assume that a sizable percentage of Bud Light drinkers have a variety of perspectives on social topics, such as transgender rights. The business runs the risk of alienating those customers who might feel uncomfortable or disagree with this attitude by overtly sup-



Transgender actress Dylan Mulvaney in front of the Marriott Marquis.

porting a socially controversial issue. According to The Washington Post, "Sales [of Bud Light] are down 3% for the year after the PR fallout." While it is important for businesses to recognize important social issues, it is just as critical to take into account the potential effects on their bottom line when they take sides.

A detailed awareness of consumer attitude, rigorous market research, and an assessment of potential hazards is necessary for making wise marketing decisions. While AB InBev's motivations for helping the transgender population are unquestionably good, it is surprising that one of the largest companies in the world did not foresee negative reactions. They may have accidentally jeopardized their own commercial interests by failing to anticipate the likely unfavorable response from a sizable percentage of their customer base. Businesses cannot afford to ignore the fact that cultural issues frequently elicit strong emotions and a wide range of opinions. The company's, its employees, and its shareholders' best interests should ultimately take precedence in business decisions. It is not a matter of ignoring important social concerns; rather,

corporations must be aware of the potential repercussions and how they may affect their bottom line. Although it is admirable to promote transgender rights, the decision by AB InBev to sponsor Dylan Mulvaney may have been a mistake given the predictable repercussions on customer loyalty.

It is undeniably a move in the right direction that AB InBev is supporting transgender rights activist Dylan Mulvaney. The intentions are good, but companies should, for example, think about different issues like environmental impacts. A topic like this is much less argumentative. However, companies are hurting their bottom lines when they take sides in political debates about issues of race and gender. Businesses need to get a thorough grasp of consumer emotion, taking into account many points of view which is necessary for making wise marketing decisions.

AB InBev might have accidentally risked its own business interests by failing to thoroughly analyze the consequences. Moving forward, it will be crucial for businesses to strike a balance between helping deserving organizations and considering how it would affect their customers.

by Thomas Fenner and Dylan Sondike '24

While Covid-19 has declined, its effects on testing are still being felt throughout the country. During the height of the virus in the spring of 2020, the College Board pivoted to put modified AP exams online. As students started returning to the classrooms, most of the exams initially returned to their original format. However, the College Board saw the potential in digital exams and now offers them for Computer Science, English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, European History, Seminar, U.S. History, and Modern World History. Digital AP exams are a much more efficient and orderly way for students to take these tests and should be administered at Sherwood in all the subjects in which they are an option. The school should take away this year's option for teachers to decide whether to use a paper or digital exam for their students.

Digital exams allow students to pace themselves more effectively and are much more time-organized. Taking the AP World Exam digitally this year, the timer presented on the computer was extremely helpful in allowing students like us to manage our time, rather than trying to read the clock from a far distance as is the case with paper exams. During paper exams, proctors often spend at least 30 minutes reading directions and distributing the materials. These significantly delay exams and force students to sit in testing rooms for longer than necessary. The digital exam required far fewer materials and had all directions provided online

in a much shorter time. This was very beneficial to shortening the wait time before the exam and letting students keep their focus on the exam itself.

The digital formatting also allowed for a less stressful test-taking session. Without the challenge of having to handwrite each long response, students are able to channel all of their efforts into formulating their answers. Fatigue from writing is a frustrating issue with paper exams, especially when writing many responses consecutively. Students have been carrying around their own chromebooks for three years at this point, and many teachers now permit students to type notes and assignments during class time. As a result, students have become very proficient at typing and are faster with a keyboard than with a pencil.

Digital AP exams are the future at Sherwood and across the country. These formats are much more simplified for students taking the test and for teachers administering it. With chromebooks being widely available to all students, taking tests online is much more convenient. AP Teachers should announce to their students at the beginning of next school year that they will be taking the exam in a digital format, allowing students and the teacher to practice and prepare for it throughout the school year.

The days of using paper in school and the workplace are numbered. At a time when teachers are posting materials online on Canvas and students are encouraged to submit assignments electronically, it only makes sense that AP exams use a digital format.



The Flash Must Be Recast

by Noah Bair '24

With *The Flash* releasing later this month, the actor playing the titular speedster, Ezra Miller, is more in the spotlight than ever. Miller will earn upwards of half a million dollars for the film, in addition to a tremendous amount of publicity from the film. But, it is an understatement to say that Miller not only does not deserve the fame and riches that come from starring in the summer blockbuster, they do not deserve to have a job in Hollywood entirely. Miller has been arrested three times, and also been accused of grooming a 14-year old while on the set of *Fantastic Beasts* in 2017.

Despite this, DC Studios co-CEO Peter Safran says that Miller is "completely committed to their recovery" and the company is "fully supportive of that journey that they're on right now." While many have claimed that "cancel culture" has raged out of control, Miller is one that undoubtedly deserves to be blacklisted from Hollywood. They are a destructive, manipulative person who feeds off their fame to commit crimes with little to no consequence. DC has made it very clear that Miller is going to be the face of one of their most famous heroes, but behind the mask, they hired an actor who resembles a supervillain.

Games Should Be Free

by Maggie Reese '24

Imagine the stands of a high school sporting event packed with a crowd. Screaming students, worried parents, proud grandparents—all there to create a memorable part of the high school athletics experience for those on the field. Unfortunately, the reality is that there are only a handful of students in attendance for some games. MCPS charges students \$5 to attend sports events, a cost that contributes to students not coming out to support their school's teams. A simple but effective way to increase the number of fans at games and to promote more school spirit is to reduce or even waive the cost for students.

MCPS should reallocate more of its budget towards athletics rather than requiring teenagers to pay to see their own school's teams play. If it's not feasible for students to attend games for free, they still would be more likely to go to sporting events if the cost was lowered to \$2 or \$3. Varsity football games could remain at the cost of \$5 since it is a high-interest event. There also should be special promotions for underappreciated sports in which there is no cost for attendance for anyone for at least one home game per season. The first priority should be getting students in the stands rather than making a buck off of them.

Performative Protests

by Devin Kosiorowski '24

On May 21, a group of climate change activists dumped vegetable charcoal into the famed Trevi Fountain in Rome, Italy. The charcoal made the waters of the fountain turn a vibrant black, grabbing the attention of locals as well as journalists worldwide. Through this protest, Ultima Generazione wanted to bring attention to the recent flooding in the Emilia Romagna region of Northern Italy. Also, the group was driven by the concerning statistic that the planet's average global temperature is on the verge of being 1.5 degrees Celsius higher than it was during the pre-industrial era. Many groups, including Ultima Generazione, have resorted to vandalizing historic pieces of art in order to bring attention to climate change concerns.

Although the intentions of such acts may be noble, vandalizing historic pieces of art is not an effective way to get the word out on climate change issues because it associates a negative action with a positive result. When a group makes it seem as if they are destroying a beloved piece of art or monument, no one is going to want to side with them even if their cause is something that is beneficial. That's why activists should resort to methods that will make the public side with them.

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You Should Support the Hollywood Writers' Strike

by Noah Bair '24

In the last decade, movie and TV studios have seen their profits rise by 36 percent, while writers' pay has gone down by 4 percent in the same period. On May 2, the Writers Guild of America (WGA) announced that they would be going on strike. The WGA represents over 11,000 film, radio, televisions, and on-line writers who demand higher pay and more stable writing jobs. In a modern age where writers are being hired for single-digit episode seasons on streaming services such as Netflix or Hulu, jobs are becoming more uncertain and hard to come by. The WGA wants to ensure that writers are ensured to have jobs for dozens of episodes at a time to eliminate the risk of having writers search for jobs multiple times a year. Even though shows or movies may be delayed as a result of the strike, ensuring that writers create entertainment for years to come is more valuable than missing a few weeks of your favorite show.

The WGA is reportedly prepared to be on strike for more than a hundred days, which would be the longest strike in more than a decade. As a result of the strike, a number of TV shows including *Saturday Night Live* and *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fal-*



Jenny Maas/-Variety

lon are not able to produce new episodes, and are airing reruns on a weekly basis. In addition to current shows being halted, future shows and movies are also at risk of being delayed or even canceled. Popular Netflix show *Stranger Things* has stopped production until the WGA reaches a deal with executives and upcoming Marvel thriller *Blade* has suspended pre-production until the strike is resolved.

With shows and movies being delayed, the WGA hopes that the public will begin to appreciate the writers more than ever, emphasizing their importance in creating world class television and films. There is no telling how long the strike will last, but it will require both the writers and the executives to make compromises for the entertainment industry to get back up to full speed. The WGA has already laid out their

proposals for returning to write, but executives have either denied requests or sometimes completely refused to negotiate entirely on some issues.

One main negotiating point for writers has been the use of AI in future projects, and everyone should have an interest in the writers' concern of how AI will impact their jobs. After all, countless professions in the coming years also will face similar pos-

sibilities of AI replacing human workers. IBM has already fired 7,800 people, citing that using AI instead of them is more cost-efficient. The WGA wants to create a regulation that "AI can't write or rewrite literally material; can't be used as source material; and MBA-covered material can't be used to train AI." The guild wants to ensure that jobs that were made for writers are filled by human writers rather than computers that can write complete episodes in a matter of seconds. While there have not been produced, live-action TV shows written by AI, there have been a number of examples of AI being used to simulate writing episodes. In February, a Twitch livestream titled "Nothing, Forever" played what appeared to be 8-bit pixelated TV episodes for hours on end. The lines were generated by AI that was fed every single episode of *Seinfeld* and spit back out a similar product based on what it had seen.

While it may provide a small inconvenience to the average consumer who just wants to sit down and watch *Saturday Night Live* on the weekends, the strike is necessary and a long time coming. Writers deserved to be adequately compensated for their incredible work to keep TV shows and movies running smoothly.

Census Should Remove Questions about Race

by Cliff Vacin '25

Every 10 years, the census asks a question that reads "What is your race?" The provided options are "White," "Black or African-American," "American Indian or Alaska Native," "Asian," and "Native Hawaiian or some other Pacific Islander." For Hispanics, there is an additional item, where the respondent marks their origins and what other race they identify with. This particular question is not inclusive, with many options being left out. Since race-related questions require people to choose an identity that they don't really feel is theirs, the U.S. Census should stop collecting such information. This is not a radical idea given that much of the rest of the world does not collect data on race on their versions of the census.

For many people, their origins are outside of the categories listed on the U.S. Census. A few of these groups affected are those from the Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) region, Southwest and Central Asians, Hispanic people, and other races that may fit under the Biracial category such as Mestizo people and the Aboriginal Australian people. A category for people from the MENA region was going to be added to the 2020 Census; however, since it wasn't decided whether or not it was going to be its own category or if it would be a white ethnicity, no change was

made. Most Hispanic people typically have to identify with one race such as white or black, but a considerable number of Hispanics (36.7 percent on the 2010 Census) identify themselves as "Other" because they do not view themselves as one particular race.

Twenty of the 38 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries do not collect race data and in fact, it is illegal in many of those countries to collect such data. With the exception of the United States, the 20 remaining countries record race in a loose way, mainly seeking out if respondents are from one of the country's ethnic groups, such as Colombia asking if the respondent is Indigenous, Rom, Raizal, Palenquero, or if they fit into the Black, Mulatto, Afro-Colombian or Afro-descendant category.

There are valid arguments that race data could be used to aid certain minority groups and more accurately allocate resources to minority populations. However, information about people's socio-economic situation, housing, health, and overall well being still could be collected in the U.S. Census without needing to know the race of respondents. It's a bad idea to split everyone by race, as it creates divisions that may foster hostility among groups. The U.S. Census reduces people's identity to their race, which perpetuates the dangerous idea to define people by how they may look.

Biden Running for Re-election in 2024



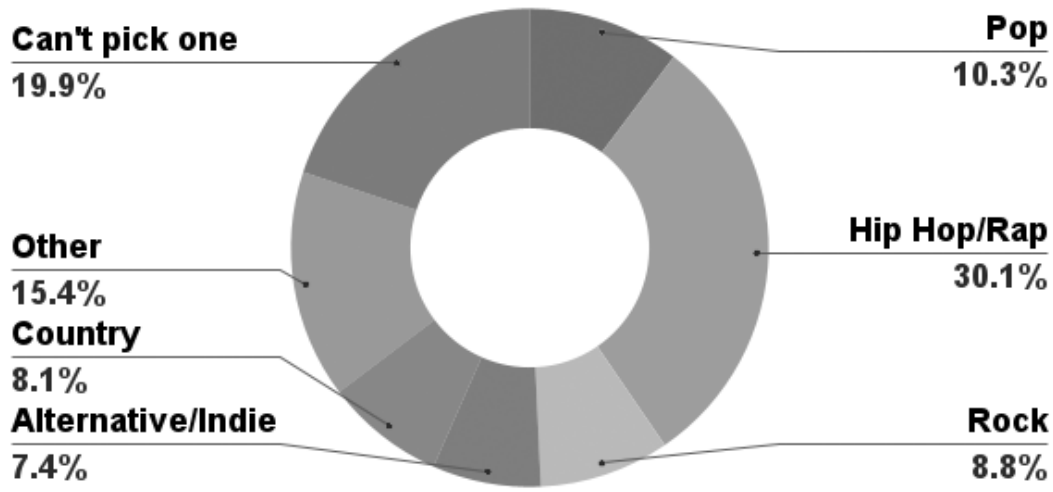
Cliff Vacin '25

June 8, 2023



The Pulse

What is your favorite genre of music?



What's the best concert you have ever been to and why?

"Zac Brown Band, me and all my friends went to Jiffy Lube last year. The vibes were radiating throughout the audience and he was an incredible performer."

-Paul Papadimitris '23

"I went to a show at the Songbyrd in DC for a small-ish artist named Ericdoa last year! It was really fun because everyone there was super into it, and being so close to the artist at a small venue was exciting."

-Nick Hammond '25

"An Alice In Chains concert, they are one of my favorite bands and they were great to see live."

-Shelby Cohen '23

"I went to Olivia Rodrigo in May of 2022. I had to camp out for 16 hours, but it was so worth it. Her set was amazing, and the energy was insane from both the crowd and from her singing."

-Elisha Mae Gabriel '24

"The best concert I've been to was Harry Styles because his setlist was by far my favorite and I went with my best friend."

-Katie Burdette '24

What is your favorite new album?



One Thing At A Time
Morgan Wallen

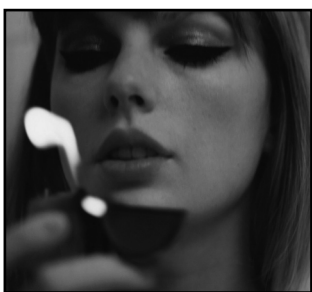


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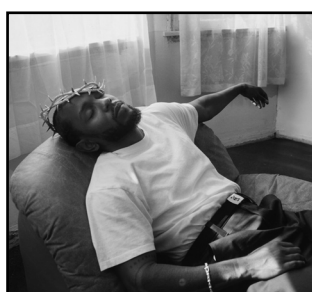


Mr. Morale & the Big Steppers
Kendrick Lamar

What is your favorite band/artist?



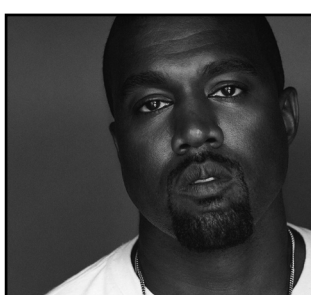
Taylor Swift



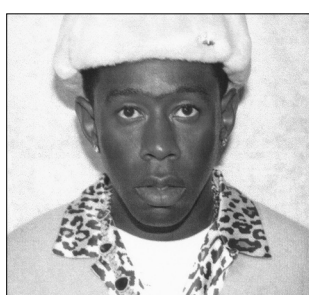
Kendrick Lamar



Luke Combs

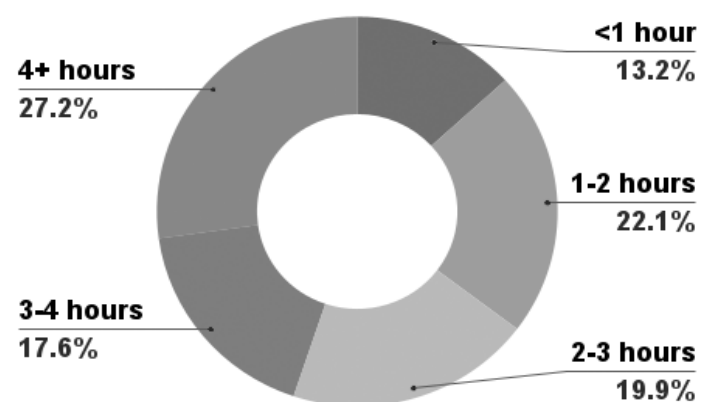


Kanye West

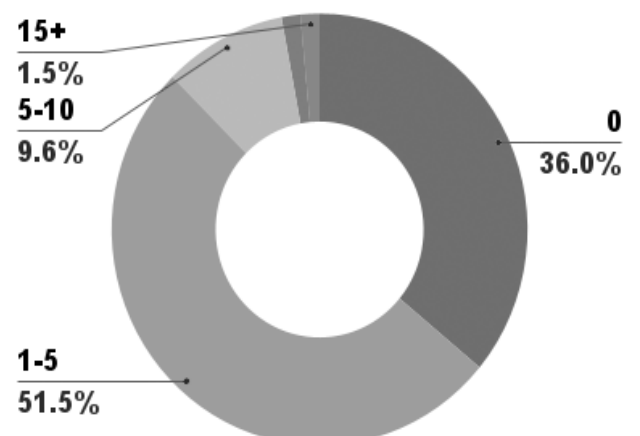


Tyler, the Creator

How long do you spend listening to music each day?



How many concerts have you been to in your lifetime?



States Pursue Changes to Social Media for Minors

by Briana Sisler '24

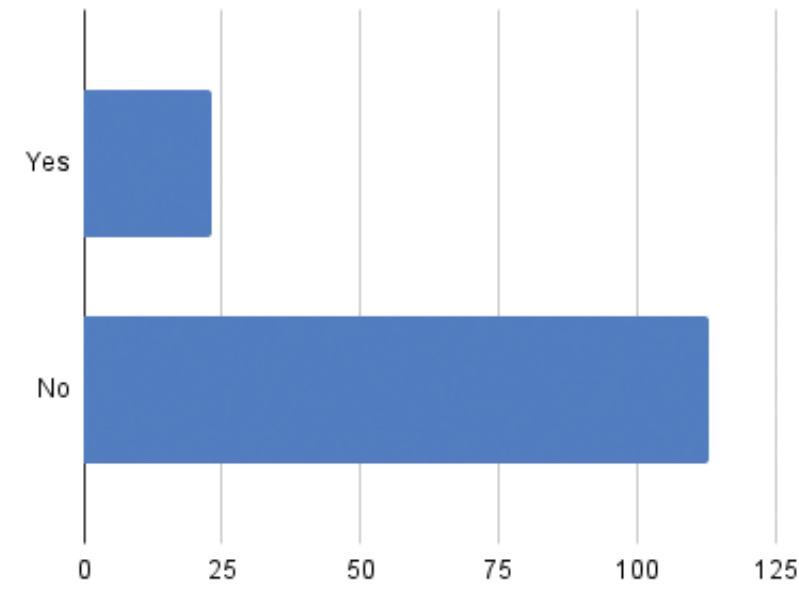
In the past few years many legislators in states across the country have raised concerns about the impact of social media on minors. As a result, a wave of laws are restricting or banning access to social media. California passed legislation to require privacy and safety settings for minors on social media; Utah signed a law creating restrictions and curfews for minors on social media; Arkansas passed a bill requiring parental consent and age verification for minors on social media; and many other states, including Maryland, are pondering social media restrictions for minors. Some states are even passing legislation to ban social media sites altogether.

Parents and lawmakers are in unanimous agreement that social media has adverse effects on teenagers and children. A Facebook whistleblower has revealed that Meta is aware of the harmful effects that social media has on minors. Restrictions to social media focus on increasing the mental health of minors; however, less access to social media may do the opposite. Some minors, especially in the LGBTQ+ community, look to social media for com-

munities, resources, and sometimes help. Minors have been able to use the internet to find support when they were lacking it at home. These restrictions have the potential to prevent teenagers from utilizing the internet.

Utah's restrictions on social media are one of the more recent pushes by states to make social media safer for minors. While the implementation of these restrictions are still in progress, Louisiana's digital driver's license app is providing inspiration. Social media users would need to provide age verification, potentially with a digital driver's license app, and if they do not provide verification they will use a minor account. This is to ensure that minors do not need to give their personal data to a social media company. Arkansas's restrictions on social media are another more recent push. However, the implementation of its restrictions seem to have more hiccups. The bill includes a list of specific exemptions which potentially leave only Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to face the restrictions. This invalidates the reason for restrictions due to the ever growing number of social media platforms and companies available to children outside of those three.

Do you have limits (set by either yourself or your parents) on the amount of screen time you can have in a day?



Screens Causing Attention Span and Education Deficits

by Noah Bair '24

As Paul Simon once sang, "A man walks down the street, he says 'Why am I short of attention? Got a short little span of attention.'" Now more than ever, this statement holds true. The current average attention span is 47 seconds, compared to the 150 seconds that it used to be just two decades ago. This trend is jarring, as there's no telling how far attention spans are going to dip down. Experts have concluded that the main culprit for causing this issue is the constant screens that adolescents are exposed to on a daily basis.

A 2019 Common Sense Media study found that the average 8 to 12 year old spent on average five hours a day looking at screens, and that number jumped up to more than seven hours in teens between the ages of 13 and 17. With apps like TikTok that feature videos about ten seconds in length, kids can no longer focus for long

periods of time on activities, and tend to move from one activity to another very quickly. Most affected by lowered attention spans is the inability to focus during tests and other activities in school.

In October, it was reported that reading scores around the country dropped down to levels not seen since 1992. In math, nearly four out of every ten eighth graders failed to grasp basic math concepts. These results spell possibly destructive results for future generations. If kids can't focus in school, how are they expected to succeed through middle and high school, then college, and into job industries?

While it may take a bit more than just a snap of the fingers to reverse these disconcerting results, something certainly needs to be done. Future generations may be able to multitask and understand technology better than any past generation, but they must also be able to sit down and read a book without looking at their phones.



Screens Proving Detrimental to Childhood Development

by Devin Kosiorowski '24

It's common to walk into any sort of public setting and see a young child, with their parents, who is staring at a phone or tablet screen. Parents frequently, if understandably, rely heavily on screens to keep their children occupied. Researchers are only just discovering the long term effects of extended screen time on young children and their crucial social and emotional development.

According to an article published by the NewYork-Presbyterian, a medical website that has information on a variety of health-related matters, half of all children who are eight years or younger and have their own tablet device spend an average of more than two hours on that device a day. This amount of screen time can reduce performance levels on language tests and thin the brain's cortex, diminishing the ability to reason and think logically.

"If young children spend most of their time engaging with an iPad, smartphone, or the television, all of which are highly entertaining, it can be hard to get them engaged in non-electronic activities ... and playing with other children to develop appropriate social skills," explained Dr. Jennifer F. Cross, an expert in Pediatric Behavior & Development, in the article.

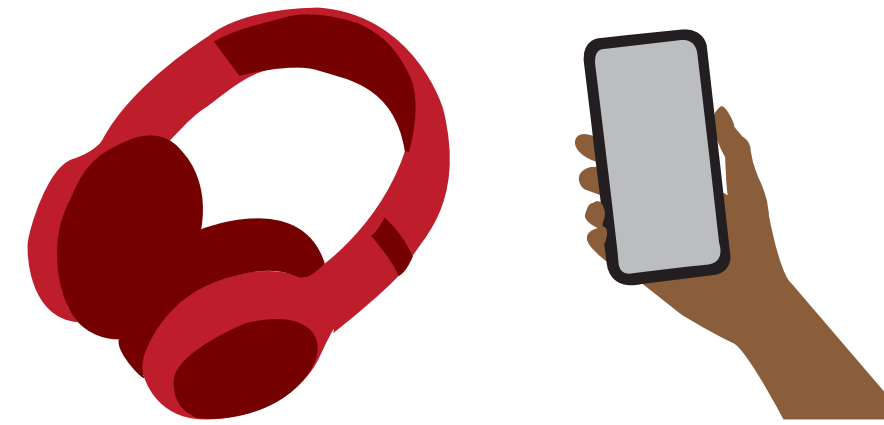
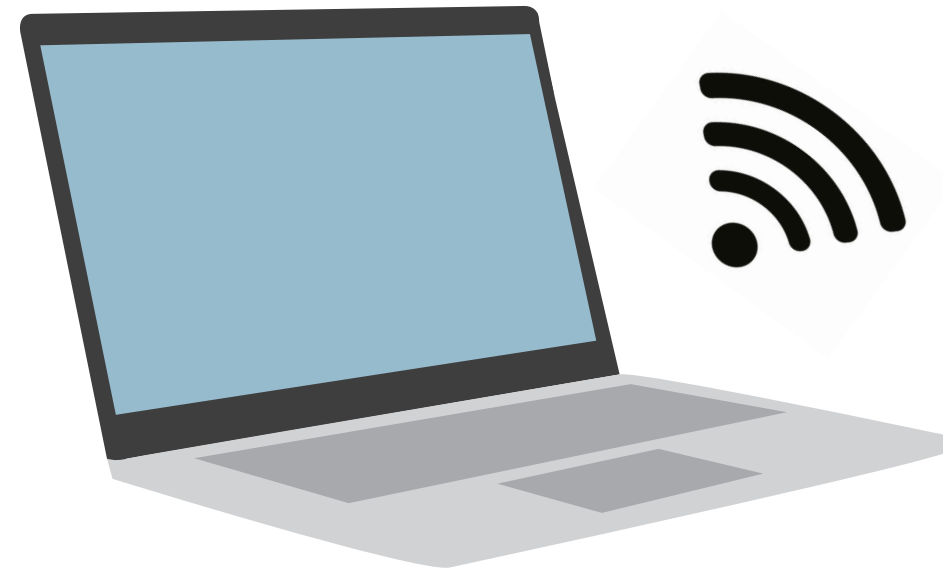
In addition, an increase in screen time hinders children's literacy development. Lauren Lowry is a Certified SLP and Clinical Staff Writer for the Hanen Centre, which focuses on helping children and their communication skills. In a 2020 study, Lowrey explains that results have shown toddlers between the ages of 17 and 36 months had smaller vocabularies when they spent more time viewing screens.

Experts believe such outcomes are why it is important for parents to find alternative methods in keeping their children focused on certain activities. One idea that many researchers support is waiting to give children their own electronics until an older age. Another recommended method to limit screen use is to set up "screen time" on children's devices. All Apple devices have the feature and there are many websites in which parents can set up limits within the device.



SCREEN TIME

the effects of technology on younger generations



Parents and Teens Often at Odds over Phone Use

by Dasun Panapitiya '24

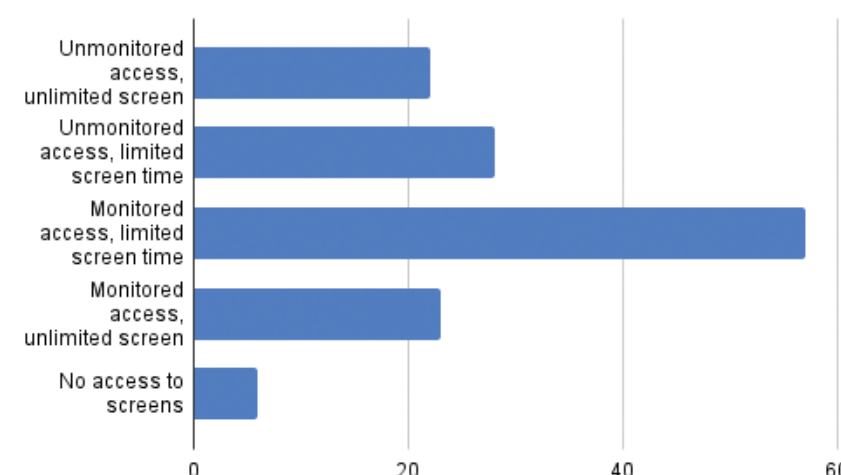
Over the past decade, technology use among teenagers has been growing rapidly. With global smartphone corporations dominating the technology and communication markets, it becomes a relatively simple feat to arm every person with mini-compact computers that are exponentially stronger than the one that sent a man to the moon half a century ago. This also means very nearly every developing and school-going adolescent is carrying around their own phone. This consistently growing tech-dominated society also has become accessible to the historically underrepresented youth. However, many parents of teenagers see this smartphone revolution as detrimental to the stability of their child's success.

ing technology use among teens. However, many teens see these concerns by parents as authoritative, and they resist efforts by their parents to establish restrictions on phone use.

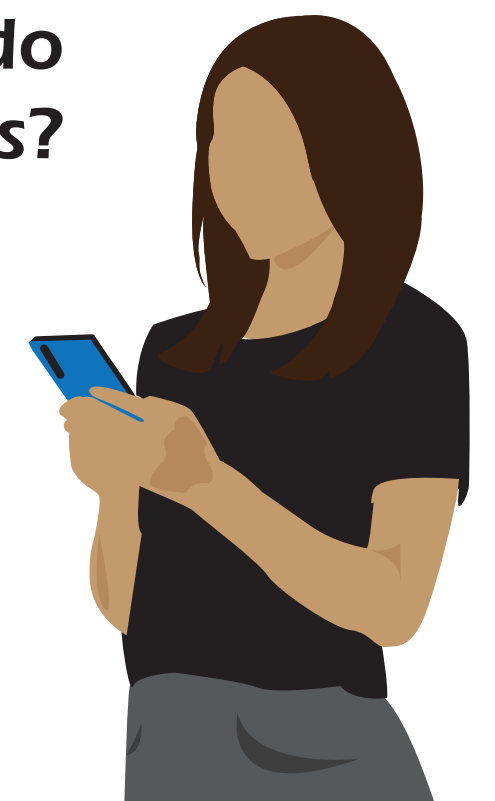
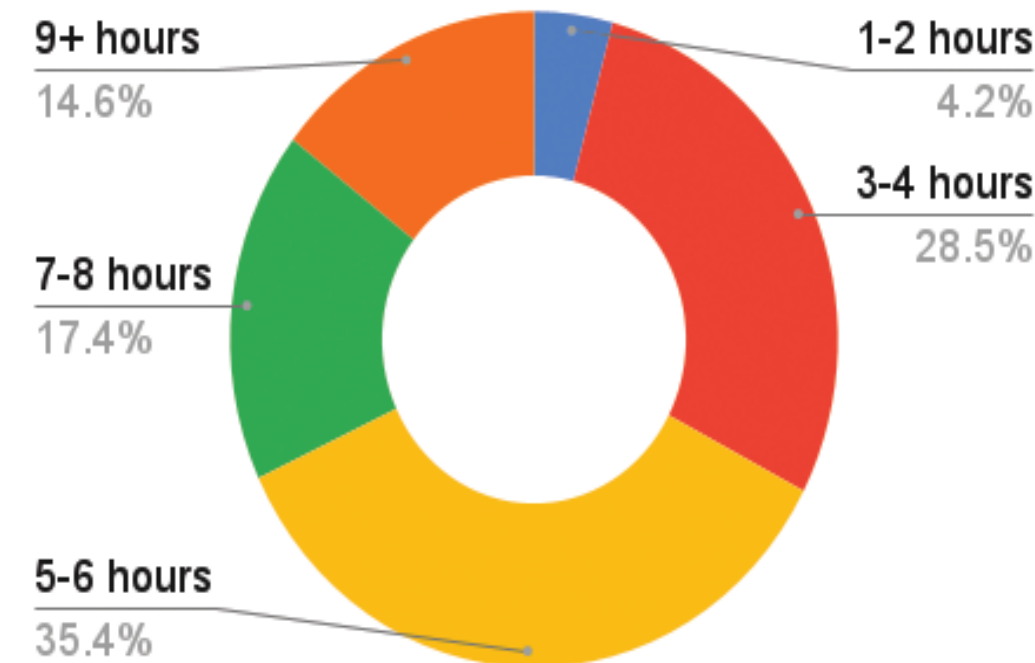
Technology has also created a new generation of adolescents that are more aware of the world. While many argue that this would not be good for someone at such a young age, others might see this as a benefit to a stronger and more active generation. It then comes to the conclusion that screen time limits can feel like an act of suppression for teens, whereas for parents it feels like common sense to apply restrictions to the amount of screen time a teen can have in order to help maintain a healthy lifestyle for them.

There has recently been a growth of more progressive parents who are willing to trust teenagers for more natural growth compared to an authoritative parenting style. A benefit to giving a teenager unlimited access to a screen is that regulating a screen can be more stressful to the parent itself. The teenagers will learn to regulate themselves eventually, usually after making a mistake because of their screen usage.

When you were younger (4-10 y/o) did you have access to screens? If so, was it monitored and did you have a set amount of screen time?



On average, how many hours a day do you spend on your phone/other screens?



Graph data from a survey of 136 students created and compiled by Audrey Farris '25

June 8, 2023

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.

Amending the First Amendment

by Justin Lakso '25

Google defines Cancel Culture as, "Those who have acted in an unacceptable manner are ostracized, boycotted or shunned." The modern definition of "unacceptable" however has become, "not concurring with today's social media hivemind." This new norm has become hazardous for online communities and content creators as not conforming to the societal norms of a mentally egalitarian society can have them deplatformed. We ROBOTS (Researchers Of Belligerent Or Toxic Speech) have scoured the internet to find the very worst of humanity's actions and compiled them into a list. This way YOU know exactly what to avoid saying or doing to keep your status clean.

So here's a list of what NOT to do-

- **Make documentaries about events in history such as the Holocaust, 9/11, or slavery.**

Many people died in these tragedies; documentaries are ALWAYS just a cheap way to gain a social following.

- **Like a series or franchise in an incorrect way.**

Enjoy it the way I enjoy it or you're not a real fan.

- **Use aspects of another creator's work without crediting them.**

This includes things like using the same template in an editing software, and it doesn't matter if it's free!! You can't use it!!!

- **Be suspected of slandering a woman, regardless of how fictional the allegation is.**

Because defamation trials happen when words are Miss-Heard.

- **Eat Chick-Fil-A.**

The owners are Southern Baptists, which looks like Satanic Believers if you squint hard enough.

- **Donate 20,000 pairs of shoes to South African children.**

Giving charity such as this means you see the kids as inferior.

- **Cure the blind.**

This is a demonic act because it exploits people for an improved public image.

- **Enjoy watching a YouTuber or streamer who has played "Hogwarts Legacy."**

You are supporting a transphobe by consuming media related to their IP.

- **Rescue a drowning victim.**

The person did not consent to be touched.

- **Go to the gym to work out.**

Wanting to be in better shape is fatphobic.

- **Be 5'7.**

Vladimir Putin is 5'7 so that basically means you're responsible for tens of thousands of casualties in Ukraine.

- **Have an opinion online.**

Social media is not the place to voice opinions, either conform or get off the platform.

With a whole Constitutional amendments list of basic internet etiquette, it can be hard to determine what can and can't be said. ROBOTS proposes an easy solution for this. Since freedom of speech is already being limited, we should take it one step further. We remove the right to speak entirely! If nobody speaks, we'll eliminate the risk of offending anyone. In fact, let's go even further and eliminate everyone's ability to think as well! Let's limit ourselves to the caveman days of smashing rocks together and foraging for food, rather than stressing about that post we made six years ago. Without technology, we don't have to worry about what anyone thinks of us.

Checkmate, Twitter.



Fox News host Tucker Carlson's face became permanently frozen in place during an April 14 broadcast. His recovery remains in doubt.

Tragic: Tucker Carlson's Face Is Stuck Like That

by Seph Fischer '25

Fox News has been embroiled in controversy as the removal of Tucker Carlson from our roster has become widely speculated upon in recent days. Many believe the firing is connected to the recent settlement in the Dominion Voting Systems v. Fox News Network court case. We at Fox confirm that this is patently false, and setting the record straight has become necessary.

It is with great sadness that Fox News reports to loyal viewers of Tucker Carlson Tonight that the face of the program's eponymous host has, in fact, become stuck like that. Fox is currently conducting an extensive internal investigation into the cause of this tragedy, and will be certain to inform those praying for Tucker's swift recovery of any further developments.

On April 14, about sixteen minutes into a twenty minute interview with first-year undergrad student Alicia Brown (whom Fox producers had been sure to supply with endless drugs and alcohol to keep as incoherent as possible), Tucker signaled to producers that he could no longer respond to Brown with quips from his teleprompter due to his face being "stuck like that."

"We think that [Brown] had said something so 'woke,' in such stark contrast to Tucker's views, that his jaw permanently locked slightly ajar," said Alice Yun, a paramedic on scene at the time of the incident. "It's really an awful situation."

Yun and other paramedics were quick to attempt to un-stick Tucker's jaw, but to no avail. After ten minutes of attempted care,

Tucker was rushed to MedStar Washington Hospital Center and placed in an intensive care unit, where he remains to this day.

Aliza Balkar, a first year medical student and a self-proclaimed "Tuckhead," is devastated by this news. "It's like, total whiplash," remarked Balkar. Just last week, Balkar and other prominent fans of Carlson who miss the host's high-pitched laugh, began a campaign on the crowdfunding site GiveSendGo in order to, "... hold the Woke Left accountable for this deliberate attack on Tucker ..." As of the writing of this piece, the page has reached over \$2 million in donations, outpacing a page for donations to three right-wing journalists who have genuinely been deplatformed nearly 200 fold.

"We'll probably just buy jet skis and a new house," remarked Aliza's mother. "Nobody on the right actually cares where the money goes as long as they're told it's 'anti-woke.'" This crowdfunding campaign directly coincides with another GoFundMe campaign raising money for "Black Trans Latinx Equity and Intersectional Teaching in Commercial Food Transportation," reaching the \$1 million in donations mark, displaying clearly that financial irresponsibility shows no partisan bounds.

Tucker has been let go from Fox as a result of this tragic sequence of events, and Fox News Tonight will replace Tucker Carlson Tonight until an interim host can be found. The Fox family wishes Tucker and his jaw well, and thanks all those who have shown support in these trying and unprecedented times.

June 8, 2023

Push To Ban TikTok Rapidly Grows as Fear Spreads of Imminent Chinese Mind Control

by Declan Rooney '25

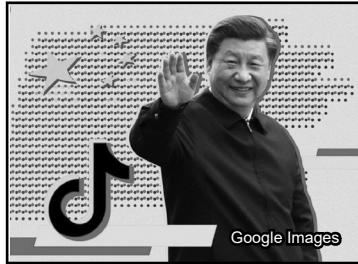
Over the past decade, a fear-mongering frenzy has swept the nation, turning grandparents into schizophrenic maniacs who post on Facebook about how the Deep State is turning their son into a liberal through messaging propaganda on Amazon Alexa. Online privacy is something that all Americans should be concerned about as big corporations look to profit from users' personal data. But older Americans, particularly those who lack knowledge about the world of technology, have focused their fear of the world around them onto a single app: TikTok. The elderly in elective public office share the confusion and fear of the aging nationwide.

TikTok CEO Shou Chew was questioned by members of Congress on March 23 in perhaps the most unprofessional and unqualified fashion. Representatives and Senators elected by their constituents sat before the nation and asked the CEO of TikTok questions that their 13 year old nephews could answer. Georgia Rep. Earl Carter, age 66, asked Chew why TikTok tracked a user's eyes. The answer is that

TikTok uses eye tracking so that certain filters work--a simple and obvious answer. Carter appears to think the trackers are a means of using mind control on citizens. Or it's for tracking a pet lizard named Greg, or to program a microwave to burn up a Hot Pocket that spreads out of control and destroys a house. It's anyone's guess as to what those Chinese Marxists are up to.

Elected officials at the state level are old, too, and Montana took the brave and patriotic step to ban the whole three people who live there from using TikTok. The state legislature of Montana has somehow found a way to make the whole state more irrelevant than it already was. One of the three people affected supported the ban, saying, "The Chinese government is trying to spy on me using this app and I will not tolerate it anymore! They want to come to my ranch in the middle of nowhere and spy on me, and my horses specifically, and that is a danger to our national security."

Montana Governor Greg Gianforte signed the bill into law and insisted that it was a measure to keep Montana the way it has always been. "It is our job here



at the Montana state capitol to ensure our citizens are as miserable as possible living here in the middle of nowhere, and today, I think we have done just that." Gianforte is a software engineer by training and made hundreds of millions when he sold his tech company. He also is a creationist who believes the planet Earth is less than 10,000 years old. Seriously, google it.

The craze over TikTok is just a small part in a greater discourse concerning the online privacy of Americans. Many politicians seem unaware that TikTok is no different than all the other apps that are Made in America. One difference is that TikTok is a great hobby for millions and millions of Americans. Banning TikTok doesn't protect a person's hamster from Chinese state propaganda, nor does it protect Americans from being spied on by their devices.

Boredom Defeats Students

by Jordan Costolo '25

As the school year comes to an end, students have run out of things to do to pass the time during class. Teachers have run out of material (and busy work) to give, leaving most students high and dry in the way of entertaining themselves. With one-week of school still remaining, this has students scrambling to try and find things to do.

"We've all gotten bored of watching TikTok videos on our phones; everyone has been doing that for the past nine months," said junior John Schnap. "We've tried everything: doodling, origami, and Brice even brought in a football. That was fun for a while, until our Chemistry teacher got mad at us for breaking test tubes."

Without assignments, students have nothing to talk about. Without a consistent amount of work to complain about, students have resorted to whining about other issues such as the economic state of the world and political affairs at the state level. "Yeah, ever since we stopped getting worksheets in government class, we've started discussing the state legislative elections in November," explained sophomore Jenna Abrams. "I feel like the Republi-

can supermajority in Mississippi could be in jeopardy come next election cycle."

Even classic ways to pass time have gotten to be too much work. "They were satisfied with playing hangman for a while," reported Chuck Engle, a member of building services responsible for clearing white boards at the end of the day. "But when they ran out of words they knew, they used dictionaries and thesauruses to find new words to use."

Taking walks is another approach that students now take in order to keep entertained. "Just taking walks around the school, I've dropped 10 pounds!" bragged freshman Mike Mann, who claims that the unexpected exercise is helping him get in shape for football next year.

Teachers have stopped bothering with lesson plans, leading to a noticeable uptick in teachers taking more days off from school each week. "The English teacher I'm subbing for usually leaves some pretty detailed notes on what to do," explained Jim Woods, a frequent substitute teacher at Sherwood. "But the most recent instruction from her only said, 'take attendance if you feel like it and let the kids do whatever.'"

Across:

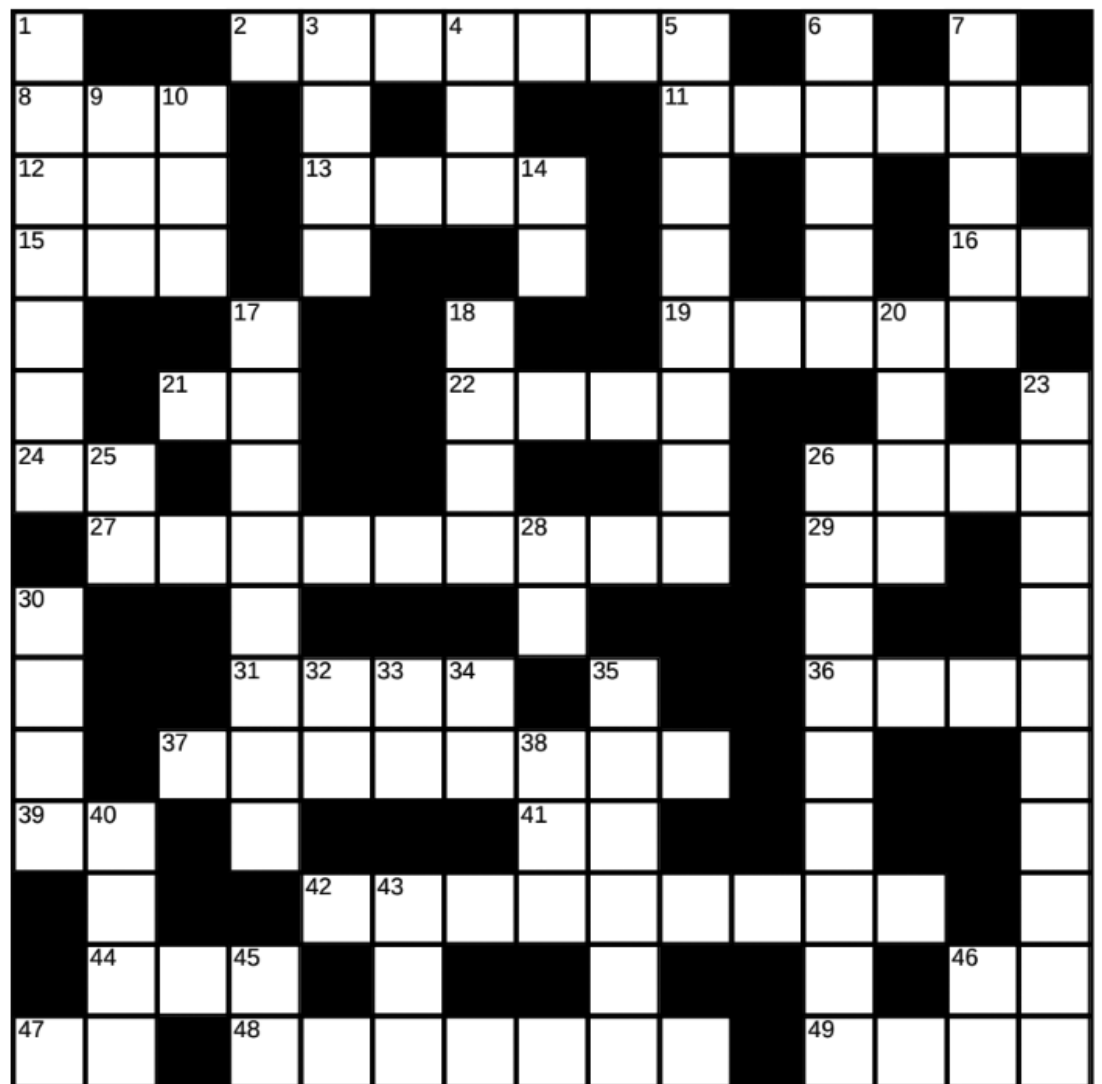
- 2 - Home of the Falcons and the Hawks
- 8 - When You Leave an Apple Out Too Long, it Does This
- 11 - British People Use This to Drink their Traditional Beverage
- 12 - Call for This When You Want a 1v1 in a Basketball Game
- 13 - You Can Have This Food "On The Cob"
- 15 - Acronym, Voluntary Service Overseas
- 16 - This Gas Company has a Yellow and Green Flower as Their Logo
- 19 - Chips with Queso, Salsa, etc.
- 21 - Acronym, Turn This on in your House to Cool Down
- 22 - When Your Bed is Elevated, It's Known as This
- 24 - Ready, Set, ___
- 26 - Not a Kilometer, but a ___
- 27 - Sally sells ___ by the seashore
- 29 - To Go in Spanish
- 31 - Study a lot for this
- 36 - Sound a Lion Makes
- 37 - Most Sold Album of All Time
- 39 - Classic Spielberg

Down:

- 41 - You Can Call Me ___ by Paul Simon
- 42 - Yellow Flower that Appears in the Spring and the Summer
- 44 - Ghosts say this
- 46 - Not off, but ___
- 47 - ___duce, ___use, ___cycle
- 48 - Welsh Football Club owned by Two Famous Actors
- 49 - Synonym of Sour
- 1 - You're Not Allowed to Do This Until You're 16
- 3 - ___ Tock, ___ Tock
- 4 - ___, Matey
- 5 - Fictional Underwater City
- 6 - Opposite of Acidic
- 7 - Disney Movie about Floppy-Eared Elephant
- 9 - Acronym, Open Source Software
- 10 - Me ___ Movement
- 14 - Initials of Person who Wrote The Crossword
- 17 - House Majority Leader
- 18 - Twitter ____, Elon Musk's new Subscription Service
- 20 - Bad ___ Day
- 23 - Kohl's and Macy's are both ___ stores
- 25 - Acronym - Operating

Fun in the Sun

by Noah Bair '24 and Ben Schoenberg '24



- 26 - Company that Bill Gates owns
- 28 - Acronym, Nickname for LaDainian Tomlinson
- 30 - Not win, but ___
- 32 - Go Here When You're Severely Injured
- 33 - Yes in Spanish
- 34 - Acronym, Time Line
- 35 - Capital of Montana
- 38 - Synonym for Kid
- 40 - Use a "water" type of this to have some fun on a lake
- 43 - What you use to chop wood
- 45 - What you Say When You Get Hurt
- 46 - Abbreviation for Oregon

Visit thewarrioronline.com for answers.

June 8, 2023

Guardians 3 Is a Needed Step in the Right Direction for Marvel

by Dasun Panapitiya '24

After a plethora of movies that have fallen flat within the so-called Phase 4 of its films, Marvel steps it up with James Gunn's *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3*. Gunn's departure from the *Guardians* series is bitter-sweet for many fans, but he caps off his involvement by creating a masterful work of cinema out of a superhero movie. Superhero fans also can look forward to his future work on the new DC universe.

Vol. 3 begins in an unexpected way by introducing a new character, Adam Warlock (Will Poulter), flying to the Guardians' homebase, Knowhere, to abduct Rocket Raccoon (Bradley Cooper) for the High Evolutionary (Chukwudi Iwuji), his creator. Warlock is part of the Sovereign, created by the High Evolutionary in his experiments to create the perfect being and was previously teased in the *Guardians Vol. 2*.

Most of the performances given by both the legacy actors and the newcomers were surprisingly above average for a film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). Cooper is the highlight of the movie, bringing lots of emotion and depth to his character. Rocket is forced to face his traumatic past, dragging the Guardians on a journey across the galaxy to fight a god-like geneticist and ruler, the High Evolutionary.



At its core, the film explores themes of deeply connected friendships and forgiveness that accompany this wild adventure, ultimately creating a worthwhile experience for any type of audience member.

Gunn's signature trappings shine in this movie, from the iconic soundtrack of pre-existing songs to his trademark humor and action. He also has a pristine ability to create memorably endearing characters. Mantis (Pom Klementieff), Drax (Dave Bautista), and Nebula (Karen Gillan)

all offer a part in this movie that feels important and impactful despite not being the main focus. In spite of the rewrites to Gamora's (Zoe Saldana) character by the Russo Brothers in *Avengers: Infinity War* and *Avengers: Endgame*, Gunn made the completely new character fit perfectly into his already established world. Star-Lord (Chris Pratt) is the only character that feels bland, possibly due to Pratt's subpar acting, a consistent flaw of the *Guardians* series. Groot (Vin Diesel) remains the loveable and well-recognized

mascot of the guardians.

This film proves itself to be one that can both stand alone as a great experience for its audience, and in its outstanding ability to innovatively work with the already established timeline. It represents a comeback for the MCU after a number of disappointing films, including *Thor: Love and Thunder* and *Eternals*, and the poor beginning to Phase 5 with the likes of *Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania*.

Gunn maintains his position as a highly regarded MCU

director, alongside the previously mentioned Russo Brothers, with this movie having possibly pushed him past that boundary. Fans have regained hope for higher quality MCU movies in the future, and are willing to see what Gunn will offer in his directorial and lead production career in the DC universe.

Grade: B+

An Odyssey of Modern Anxieties

by Liam Trump '24

Veering off of the cult-ish edge from his previous two films *Hereditary* (2018) and *Midsommar* (2019), writer-director Ari Aster returns with a refreshingly surrealist tragicomedy horror film, *Beau Is Afraid*. Delving into themes of fear, paranoia, and guilt, Aster puts his audience through a 3-hour long journey of a man battling his inner demons.

With celebrated actor Joaquin Phoenix playing the title character, the film follows Beau Wassermann through his journey to visit his mother, finding himself in numerous bizarre scenarios, all nightmarish in their own way. From the opening sequence alone, audiences are plunged into Beau's anxiety-induced world. As the runtime progresses, the layers of Beau's psyche are peeled back, unveiling how his mother's control in his formative years fueled the trauma that dictates his current actions and inability to forge his own path in life.

Throughout the film, Phoenix delivers a jittery, childlike performance that perfectly captures the anxieties and fears of this troubled character. Even with a more narrow role, Phoenix is able to showcase his renowned range as a performer. His mannerisms and line delivery impressively portray a fragile man trying desperately to escape the clutches of his own mind.

Outside of the nuanced por-



trayal of Beau, the film's sense of tone and atmosphere is impeccably crafted. The camera often lingers on certain scenes, creating an aura of tension, and there are several music cues that accentuate the more suspenseful elements. The set design is strange and uncanny, reflecting the malaise of Beau. Offsetting the bleak nature is a strong sense of humor that works in keeping the film from devolving into complete dourness.

Where *Beau Is Afraid* falters, however, is in its pace and editing choices. The three hour runtime is hardly justified as many scenes come across as drawn-out and meandering. The movie is divided into distinct chapters and while they do help in exploring Beau's character, connecting specific plot points across the

chapters can be difficult to manage. Another detriment of focusing so heavily on Beau is the fact that other characters such as Toni (Kylie Rogers) and Elaine (Parker Posey) lack much development in terms of characterization, making it so even though their characters have strong performances behind them, they feel one-note when on screen.

But even with its shortcomings and while it is a vast departure from Aster's previous films in terms of pace, subject matter, and overall cohesiveness, *Beau Is Afraid* still manages to present a unique and stylized story that will be sure to leave a lasting impression.

Grade: B-

Across the Spider-Verse Lives up to Original Film

by Noah Bair '24

Even though the first movie in the series, *Into the Spider-Verse*, saw a 97-percent score on Rotten Tomatoes and numerous awards including the Best Animated Feature Film at the 2019 Golden Globes, *Across the Spider-Verse* may have topped it. Shameik Moore and Hailee Steinfeld provide incredible voice performances once again as Miles Morales and Gwen Stacy, respectively. In addition, Oscar Isaac (Spider-Man 2099) and Issa Rae (Spider-Woman) are fabulous as newcomers in the series, expanding the Spider-Verse.

Following the plot of the first movie, there are many cameos from Spider-Men from multiple universes. While a few cameos seem forced and unnatural, most will be nostalgic for Spider-Man fans of all ages. Comic book fanatics should be sure to keep their eyes out for references to past movies and TV shows throughout the film. *Across the Spider-Verse* does a great job of sneaking in small easter eggs and callbacks to past films in the Sony and Marvel franchises.

Not only does the anticipated sequel feature an incredible cast of actors and actresses, but the soundtrack is full of superheroes in their own right. Producer Metro Boomin creates a near-perfect soundtrack with help from hip hop icons such as Lil Wayne,

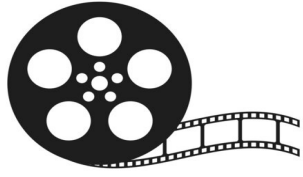
Future, and 21 Savage. Despite jumping between worlds in the movie, the soundtrack accurately captures the feel of each respective universe over the course of the thirteen songs.

The movie's official runtime is 140 minutes, 24 minutes longer than the first movie of the series, but it still doesn't feel long enough. Even though the movie jumps between universes and features dozens of characters, it is very easy to follow plotlines and character stories, as when a new character is introduced, they are given a "comic book introduction" where they are able to tell their origin story.

Across the Spider-Verse is a must-see for all superhero fans. Not only does it have a compelling and inventive storyline, but the animation style that the directors employed has a very individualistic feel that is far different from any live action superhero movie. The film sets the stage for a possible crossover between Sony's animated Spider-Verse and Marvel's live action universe. Viewers should be excited for more Spider-Man movies to come in the next few years, and more fan favorite characters to be introduced with the development of the Spider-Verse.

Grade: A-

MUST-SEE SUMMER MOVIES



Staff Picks

June 9

Transformers: Rise of the Beasts

The latest film in the long running live action *Transformers* franchise, *Transformers: Rise of the Beasts* follows the Autobots and the maximals as they fight the Terrorcons and the planet eating Unicron in order to save Earth. With notable actors such as Peter Dinklage and Michelle Yeoh playing important roles alongside longtime *Transformers* actors like Peter Cullen, this new entry in the franchise promises to deliver an enjoyable experience of watching robots fight each other and turn into cool things.

-Connor Pugh '24

June 23

Asteroid City

By the award winning director Wes Anderson comes another quirky comedy with unique atmosphere about a small town somewhere in the desert of the U.S. in which a junior space cadet discovers aliens, sending things into disarray. With stars such as Tom Hanks and Scarlett Johansson, as well as plenty of other well known names tied to the movie, *Asteroid City* is setting out to be another movie that adds to Anderson's great collection of films.

-Jordan Costolo '25

July 12

Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part 1

Featuring Tom Cruise in his iconic role as Ethan Hunt, *Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part 1* is a movie worth looking out for. The *Mission: Impossible* franchise is a long-lasting series of movies that are persistently of high quality. Despite growing in age, Cruise has seemingly not stopped upping the ante of dangerous stunts he personally is willing to do for the movies. It will be a fun and action-packed blockbuster to see this summer.

-Dasun Panapitiya '24

July 21

Barbie

Directed by Greta Gerwig, of *Little Women* and *Lady Bird* fame, *Barbie* will star Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling as the iconic Barbie and Ken in an adventure that will follow Barbie leaving Barbieland. The movie has already garnered pre-film hype online due to the film's star studded cast that includes actors such as Simu Liu and Michael Cera and the fun, bright visuals and costumes shown in the trailer. As a result *Barbie* is building up to be one of the most anticipated films of the year.

-Ben Schoenberg '24

July 21

Oppenheimer

Starring Cillian Murphy as J. Robert Oppenheimer, acclaimed director Christopher Nolan's upcoming film will follow Oppenheimer's role in the Manhattan Project, developing the atomic bomb that ended World War II. This will be Nolan's first biopic and the story of Oppenheimer's life will hopefully mesh well with his filmmaking style. With Nolan's key eye for strong, dynamic visuals, as well as his preference for practical effects over CGI, *Oppenheimer* is looking to be a strong entry in his filmography.

-Liam Trump '24

August 2

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem

In June of 2020 it was revealed that Nickelodeon would be making a new *TMNT* movie entirely with CGI, a first for the studio. The movie will have an *Into The-Spider Verse* like art style with an almost stop-motion animation feel that will revitalize the franchise. Plus, with an acclaimed roster of voice actors such as Jackie Chan, Nicholas Cantu, and Giancarlo Esposito (just to name a few), the film's release is guaranteed to be a sellout in theaters.

-Justin Lakso '25

Halo Disappoints Fans Despite High Expectations

by Justin Lakso '25

With its riveting multiplayer, captivating campaign story, and iconic protagonist, Master Chief, it's no wonder the *Halo* series has sold more than 81 million copies worldwide. Taking inspiration from *The Last of Us*, Xbox Game Studios decided to create a TV series based on its ever popular space arcade shooter. With production by Kyle Killen and award-winning director Steven Spielberg, fans were ecstatic about the show due to the names involved. The series, however, took missteps in three key locations that left fans confused and dissatisfied.

Master Chief is most notable for his faceless character, a consistent aspect of all *Halo* games. Killen, however, had different plans for him. During the final minutes of the first episode, Chief (Pablo Schreiber) reveals his face to Kwan (Yerin Ha) to show he is

human. This reveal already split opinions on the series, but it got even worse when the helmet was tossed aside for a majority of the show. Schreiber is handsome and all, but Killen rewriting Chief's canon appearance seems insensitive to the series.

Spielberg does a great job maintaining the game's slogan, "Combat: Evolved," with the initial fight scene putting Chief and Silver Team against an army of the Covenant. After this fight, however, the tone shifts from a high-octane war story to a Sherlock Holmes style mystery with a powerful artifact as the focus. This plot point is intriguing for the first episode or so, but drags on for four long episodes without another shootout until episode five. The series starts to blend together as the story focuses on Master Chief's internal struggle rather than the war between humans and Covenant.



There is also a deviation from the continuous timeline about the struggle to keep humanity alive against an extraterrestrial threat that the games have maintained since the start. In an interview with Deadline Breaking News, producer Kiki Wolfkill revealed that Paramount's version of *Halo* would have a separate canon from the video games. Video games and movies are different forms of

media, but taking an existing universe and changing large points of the core story seems unfaithful to the source material. Among these changes are a human leading the Covenant, Chief having a love life, and the Flood antagonist being completely cut. Many fans are critical of these changes, making the point that the show would be better if the story wasn't attached to the *Halo* brand.

It's not all bad, though. The CGI is phenomenal, the fight scenes are thrilling, and characters are played very well by their actors. However, it's not enough to excuse the faults in storyboarding and retconning of the established *Halo* story.

Grade: C

June 8, 2023

Sherwood Claims Top Spot as Best Sports Program in MCPS This Year

by Kobi Gyan '24

Sherwood has a well-regarded sports program among MCPS high schools, but the school still is probably more well known for its Rock 'n' Roll Revival show than its athletics. "W-Schools" such as Whitman and Winston Churchill are widely considered as top sports schools for their soccer teams. Other schools like Quince Orchard, Northwest, and Damascus have prominent reputations as "football schools." However, Sherwood legitimately claims the top spot as having the best overall sports teams in MCPS this past school year.

Despite being one of the smaller schools in Division 4A, Sherwood sports teams across all three seasons claimed regional titles and advanced to the state level of the playoffs. In the fall, Sherwood football, volleyball, and field hockey all secured regional championships before falling in the state quarterfinal. In golf, senior Bryan Kim finished second in the state. During the winter, boys basketball made a historical run to the state semifinal. In addition, senior Jace Munoz won

School:	Points:
Sherwood	66
Winston Churchill	52
Whitman	46
Damascus	36

Team Sports: 10 pts for state title, 8 pts. for state finalist, 6 pts. for semifinals appearance, 4 pts. for quarterfinals appearance; Individual Sports (cross country, swim, golf, track, tennis, wrestling): 8 pts. for 1st place as individual athlete in state, 6 pts. for 2nd, 4 pts. for 3rd place.

a wrestling state championship and senior Lilia Atanda won one in diving. Most recently, baseball captured its third state championship in a row while softball reached the state semifinal. The boys lacrosse team reached the state title game for the first time in its history, while girls lacrosse made it to another state-quarterfinals. Senior Jack Link won a state title in track in the high jump.

The Warrior created a formula to determine which high schools in MCPS had the most successful overall sport programs this school year. Points were delegated for how far a team went

in the state playoffs. For team sports, 10 points were allocated for a state title, 8 points for reaching the finals, 6 points for semis, and 4 for quarters. In individual sports such as track and wrestling, schools received 8 points for 1st place, 6 for 2nd, and 4 for 3rd place at states. When the numbers are tallied, Sherwood ranks as the number one team in the county.

Athletic Director Jason Woodward attributes much of Sherwood's success to the school's coaches. "I'm not so worried about wins and losses, but more worried about building a program," said Woodward.

"When you have coaches that all believe in building a program, players are consistently going to perform well on the field, play for each other, and play for their community."

"Community" also has a large role in the success of Sherwood sports. The Olney/Sandy-Spring area has played a pivotal part in the skills development of youth. By introducing sports to kids at a young age, Olney/Sandy-Spring youth organizations have been able to create a solid foundation for youth progress into the future. When high school coaches receive already skilled players into their program, they have an upper hand on other teams who have to teach the basics to incoming players. Organizations like Olney Boys and Girls Club (OBGC) in the area have strengthened young players' baseline skills, preparing them for high school sports.

High schools with strong feeder programs tend to have very good sports programs. Woodward gives the example of Watkins Mill to illustrate how important youth sports organizations are to the fortunes of a high school's

programs. Watkins Mill may be known now as one of the weaker athletic programs in the county, but not too long ago the school won states in both football and baseball in the same year. This success was largely a result of the Montgomery Village Sports Association, which fed into Watkins Mill. Without that pipeline of athletes in place, a school's sports program suffers.

Because of how ingrained Sherwood sports has become within the local community, there is every reason to believe that the state titles will keep coming. "Our youth partners are an integral part of our success, we have kids that play for different organizations but it's a partnership," said Woodward. "They come to our youth nights, they support the high schools by advertising those youth nights, they hire my coaches to work camps and clinics so we're able to get our name out there. The parents and kids get to know our coaches ... The more we put into it, the more it's going to be rewarded down the line. And we've seen that for the last five or six years."

Link Claims Victory at 4A State Championship



Senior Jack Link capped his Sherwood athletic career by winning the State 4A High Jump championship on Friday, May 26.

Link, who was one of the two favorites going into the event, cleared his first two heights, 5'10" and 6' 0" on his first attempts. When the bar was raised to 6'2", ten jumpers remained in the competition.

Link then proceeded to clear 6'2" on his second attempt, but so did three other jumpers. The bar was then moved to 6'4". None of the competitors cleared the height, but our own Jack Link and Yulie Pieters of Wootton were tied for first because both had

identical clearance records.

A jump-off ensued. In a jump-off, the bar is moved down 1". Each jumper has one attempt at the height. If they both miss, which Pieters and Link did, then the bar is lowered another 1". At the height of 6'2", Pieters jumped first and missed. Link then calmed his nerves, made his preparations, and advanced toward the bar. 9 steps later, he soared over the bar and became the Maryland State 4A High Jump Champion, Sherwood's first HJ champion in over 20 years.

by AD Jason Woodward
Sherwood Website

New Owners Provide Commanders with Hope

by Noah Bair '24

Over the last decade or longer, fans of the Washington Commanders have watched their team go through controversy after controversy ranging from Dan Snyder's workplace harassment scandal to multiple team rebrands. The team hasn't won a playoff game since 2005, and they haven't won the Super Bowl since 1991. With fans eager for a revival of what used to be one of the most successful teams in the league, a new owner might just be the spark that reignites the franchise.

Since he became the owner in 1999, Snyder's time on top has become broadly known for all the wrong reasons. In this span of time, the team has won 164 of their 384 games, which is just over a .400 winning percentage, and only won two playoff games. An example of bad signings that was typical under Snyder, the team tried to make a big splash by signing a 33 year old Deion Sanders to a seven year, \$56 million deal, but Sanders retired after only one year. Then, In July of 2020, a bombshell Washington Post report revealed that the Commanders fostered an unhealthy workplace culture and allowed the harassment of employees to take place. The study cited the allegations of 15 women who worked in the Washington organization, who claimed that they were sexually harassed during their time with the team. While Snyder, the owner of the Commanders, was not directly accused of sexual harassment, he was blamed for "an understaffed human resources department" and "a sophomoric culture of verbal abuse among top executives."

Now, after years of investigation by both the NFL as well as Congress, it seems that Snyder's



time as owner will finally come to an end. On April 11, it was announced that the Commanders would be sold to a group led by Josh Harris for \$6 billion. Harris is a 58 year old Maryland native, who amassed a large fortune from an equity company that he created. In addition to being the new majority owner of the Commanders, Harris also owns a majority of the Philadelphia 76ers as well as the New Jersey Devils.

A new owner might be exactly what the Commanders need to get themselves out of the rut that they've been stuck in for the last few decades. FedEx Field in Landover, Maryland, that the team has called home for more than two decades, is known as one of the worst stadiums in the NFL. In September of 2021, a number of pipes burst and sewage spewed everywhere onto fans in the stadium. Then, in January of 2022, Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts was leaving the stadium to enter the visitor's locker room

when the railing between him and the fans broke and fans fell on his legs.

In 2007, Snyder met with DC officials to attempt to move the stadium to Washington instead of Maryland, but nothing ever came of it. In addition to DC, there have also been rumors that the team could move to a new home in Northern Virginia. In 2019, Amazon announced that their second headquarters, HQ2, would be placed in Northern Virginia. While this would be the perfect opportunity for the Commanders to move to a thriving region, action was never taken and now Amazon has stopped construction on HQ2.

Even if a new stadium isn't imminent, not having Snyder own the team is the biggest step the team has taken to improve. Harris has the ability to revive the excitement of the fans, attract new and talented players for the team, and change the culture as a whole.

June 8, 2023

MLB Changes Lead to Drastic Improvements

by Dylan Sondike '24

With two months already gone by in the MLB season, new rule changes have not disappointed in making games faster and increasing the level of action. With MLB attendance dropping in recent years, the new rules have done precisely what they were intended to do in order to bring back fans. Pitch clocks, larger bases, shift bans, and pickoff limits have significantly re-energized the game.

Last year, 9-inning games averaged 3 hours and 3 minutes. With the addition of 15 or 20-second pitch timers in between pitches depending on the situation, the games have drastically shortened. After the first two weeks of the season, game time dropped to 2 hours and 37 minutes. There have even been some sub-2-hour games, unheard of in a pre-pitch clock era.

Despite the wide praise for the pitch clock, some players have voiced potential concerns. Veteran pitchers, including New York Mets star Max Scherzer, have spoken out about how stressful the clock can be and will be even more difficult in summer games. "You gotta pitch a hot day game somewhere, and you're at this pace ... that's going to be a lot of pitches in a short amount of time," said Scherzer.

Stolen base attempts and success rates have also significantly increased. Pitchers are now limited to two pickoff attempts/step-offs per plate appearance unless a runner advances during the plate appearance in which case it would reset. Bases have also increased to 18 inches square from 15 inches square. Within the first two weeks, changes have



already been visible. Stolen base attempts have increased to 1.7 per game which is the highest in a little over 10 years. Success on attempts also has increased by nearly 6 percent to approximately 80 percent. Both of these changes have produced much more action-filled games and activity on the base paths.

Limiting extreme infield shifts has been the final impactful rule change to the game. In past years, certain MLB hitters have been known as pull hitters meaning they often drive the ball in the direction of the follow-through of the bat. With shifts allowed in the past, these hitters have had a much harder time getting on base due to infielders shifting the way they pull the ball, leaving much fewer gaps. Banning these shifts

has allowed for much more offensive production and larger gaps in the field of play. The batting average rose by 20 points and total runs per game increased in the first two weeks compared to the early parts of last year. These changes have also added to the excitement levels of games.

Overall, these changes have improved games significantly. As of April 26, MLB attendance was up 5 percent from last year and two-thirds of teams have seen their attendances rise. Not only are people going to the ballparks more due to the added excitement, but viewership is also on an upward trend. Over 100,000 more people are watching MLB on TBS telecasts this year. Despite a few hiccups, these changes have positively affected the game.

Perspective

Sports Betting Scandals are Deservedly Ironic

by Noah Bair '24

Last month marked five years since the Supreme Court ruled that states had the power to allow legal sports gambling in their state. Now, half a decade later, 33 states allow legal sports betting on almost any sport imaginable. There are limits, however, to who can bet on certain sporting events to prevent bias or game fixing. For example, NFL players are allowed to bet on any sporting event that isn't hosted by the NFL. Similarly, college athletes are not allowed to bet on any NCAA event where there is a championship such as football, basketball, or baseball. Nonetheless, there have been a frightening number of recent scandals involving athletes betting on sporting events and potentially compromising the integrity of the game.

On May 2, the NCAA notified the University of Iowa and announced that there was "potential criminal conduct related to sports wagering that also suggested possible NCAA violations." Six days later, the school announced that 111 students were the subject of the investigation, with 26 being current athletes. Then, less than a week later, Iowa State University released the "approximately 15 athletes from football, wrestling, and track and field may have violated NCAA rules."

In addition to collegiate athletes being the subjects of betting investigations recently, a number of professional athletes have also been involved with betting scandals in recent months. Last month, three NFL players were suspended for an entire season as a result of violating the league's betting policy. The league found those players were not only betting while in NFL facilities, but also betting directly on NFL games. Then, only a few weeks later, Major League Soccer (MLS) player Max Alves was suspended indefinitely by the Colorado Rapids after the team found that Alves took \$12,000 to commit a yellow card foul in a September game, which he did after just over a minute on the field.

Alves' incident is not the only instance of someone in a sports organization potentially throwing games for the motivation of payment. In April, Alabama baseball coach Brad Bohannon was suspended and later fired after the team was notified that Bohannon was in communication with someone who bet against the Crimson Tide baseball team. The Louisiana Gaming Control Board found that "both bets--one of which was 'large'--had LSU winning."

While these instances are some of the only ones that have been discovered so far, there are certainly more to come. With betting advertisements being shoved in fans' faces, there are bound to be players and coaches who take the bait and choose to break team or league rules. To ensure that the integrity of the game stays solid for years to come, betting scandals must be treated seriously and met with strong and swift action from leagues.

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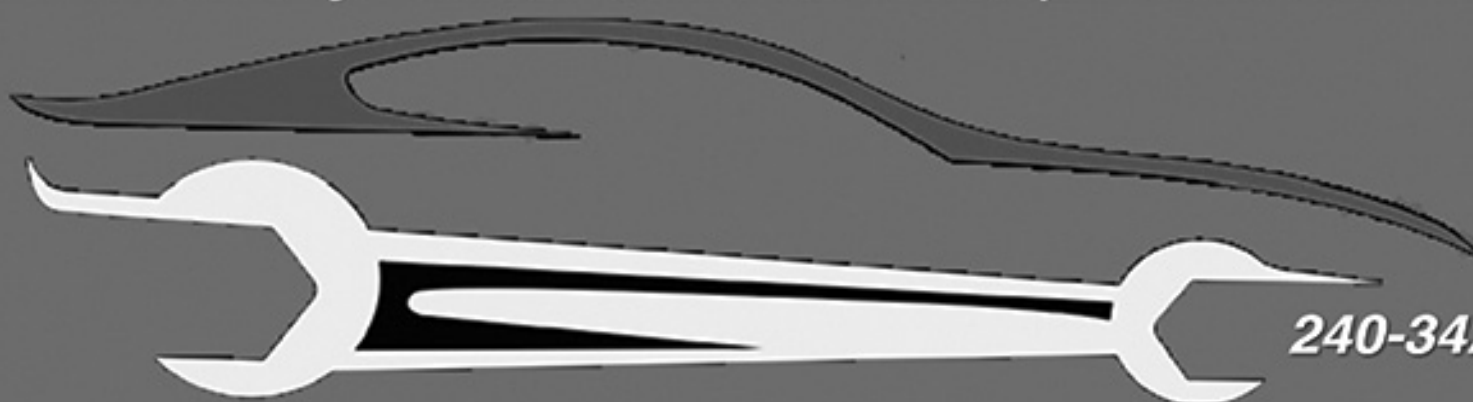
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June 8, 2023

Baseball Beats Urbana To Win Third Straight Title

by Dylan Sondike '24

Sherwood's baseball season started and ended with victories over Urbana from Frederick County. The Warriors beat the Hawks 13-2 on March 21 but the second win by a score of 7-4 will be much more memorable for the players. That victory came on May 26 giving the Warriors their third consecutive 4A state championship. Senior Brian Scott didn't let the pressure of the title game get to him as he went 3 for 3 with a total of 2 RBIs that included a leadoff home run. Scott also came in relief on the mound and pitched three strong innings to get the save.

"I was just able to be relaxed and aggressive at the plate at the same time, making me able to get it done," recalled Scott. "[When pitching] I stayed calm and composed and tried to make them beat me by attacking them with fastballs over the plate while relying on my defense to back me up and we got it done."

Thanks to Scott's home run, the Warriors jumped out to an early lead followed by 2 more runs in the second inning. By the fifth inning, they were up 5-1 due to an errant pickoff throw and never let up. Thanks to a 7 strike-out performance by junior Mac



The Warriors celebrate their 7-4 victory over Urbana in the 4A state championship game at Regency Furniture Stadium in Waldorf, Maryland.

Crismond, 3 runs being scored by sophomore Jacob Bagania, and incredibly strong production from many other players throughout the game, Sherwood became the first high school in Maryland state history to win three straight baseball titles at the 4A classification.

"I was never concerned with our team's mindset," said head coach Sean Davis. "I am aware of how hard it is to win and really wanted this team to go out on

top."

The Warriors' journey wasn't easy, however. After the re-seeding for the final 8 of the 4A bracket, Sherwood landed at the number 2 spot and faced Perry Hall in the quarterfinals. Despite being a 7 seed, Perry Hall put up a strong fight against the Warriors until the end. Seven strong shut-out innings pitched by Crismond gave the team a chance to win in the bottom of the 7th inning. With the bases loaded, junior Gavin

Hughes hit a walk-off single to end the game by a score of 1-0.

Sherwood's next challenger came against Severna Park who they mercied in last year's finals. Severna Park's strong regular season performance led them to the number 3 seed in the playoffs. Sherwood senior Ben Berger started the game on the mound and pitched three innings of two-run ball. Along with pitching, Berger led the team with 3 RBIs and a key double to help

the Warriors to a 9-2 victory. Seniors Amari Allen and Brian Scott also factored into their win. Scott came in relief of Berger to pitch and Allen had an important RBI double which helped to rack up more runs.

"Our mindset was to attack fastballs early in the count and put pressure on the pitcher and defense," said Berger. "We did a great job of doing that so I was proud of everybody for how we played."



Provided by Gary Peters

Senior Kat Hanson pitches during Sherwood's 18-0 win vs Glen Burnie in front of home crowd on May 18.

Softball Falls Short of Back-to-Back State Titles and Loses in Semifinals

by Maggie Reese '24

For a program that has won seven 4A titles in the past 10 years, there are lofty and maybe unfair expectations set each year to add another championship to that storied history. Although softball came up short of winning the state title in a 2-0 loss against Urbana in the semifinals, the team this year still had an outstanding regular season with a record of 18-1, with the one loss coming against Clarksburg on May 3 by a score of 5-2. In nearly every game, softball dominated the opponent with their booming offense and locked-down defense. The Warriors' regular season

included seven games in which they shut out the opponent, and eight games in which they scored 10 runs or more on offense.

Their dominance continued into the playoff. After securing the regional title against Blair in a 4-0 victory, the girls blew away Glen Burnie in the state quarterfinals by winning 18-0. For whatever reason, however, the bats weren't working in the Warriors' semifinal matchup against Urbana. Unable to make good contact and hitting a number of popups, Sherwood did not get a hit until senior Kat Hanson smacked a single in the 4th inning. Hanson's pitch runner reached third base but that was as close as the team

got to scoring a run in the game. Urbana scored in the 6th on a sacrifice and added a solo home run in the 7th in their 2-0 win. The Hawks went on to beat Dulaney by a score of 8-2 to win this year's 4A softball championship.

After moving past the initial disappointment of losing a close game that was decided in the final innings, the players on the team recognized that they had a lot to be proud about. "We had a really great season," said senior Chloe Patil. "It definitely didn't end the way we wanted it to, but the lifelong friendships and memories made it unforgettable. I truly wouldn't have wanted to play with any other group of girls."

Spring Sports Recap

Varsity Baseball

20-2 Record

Beat Urbana in State Championship 7-4

Varsity Softball:

13-1 Record

Lost to Urbana in State Semifinals 2-0

Boys Varsity Lacrosse:

16-4 Record

Lost to Broadneck in State Championship 16-6

Girls Varsity Lacrosse:

13-3 Record

Lost to Dulaney in State Quarterfinals 13-9

Co-ed Volleyball:

10-2 Record

Lost to Northwest in Quarterfinals

Boys Volleyball:

9-4 Record

Lost to Blair in Regional Playoffs

Track and Field:

2-3 Boys Record; 1-4 Girls Record

Senior Jack Link won High Jump State Title
Sophomore Akhili Reece placed 8th in Triple Jump

Tennis:

5-7 Boys Record; 4-8 Girls Record

Allied Softball:

8-0 Record

Beat Whitman in County Championship 10-9