



SPORTS

Take a look at LFA's newest college athletics commits. Congratulations on your accomplishments, Caxys!



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A&E

Need new movies to watch? Check out the A&E section for many new, exciting films to see!



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GLOBAL

Learn about how the COVID-19 vaccine is being distributed in Illinois and how it will affect the LFA community.



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A new addition to LFA's campus: What went into the new Atlass apartments

By **Angie Cotton**
Managing Editor of Features

Over the past few months, it has been very evident how much the Atlass dorm has changed from the construction going on. However, with the construction completed, there are now four new faculty apartments attached to the dorm. Here's what went into the build:

According to Dean of Faculty Tom Johnson, the construction of the new Atlass apartments cost \$1.8 million. This extension of the dorm was built out onto the parking lot. Johnson mentioned during an interview that this has always been the initial design, along with the fact that this layout makes it appear as if the apartments were always supposed to have been there because they line up with neighboring buildings such as Cressey and the Science Center. The new apartments are surely a beneficial addition to the dorm, as it lowered the student to faculty ratio from 18:1 to 9:1 in Atlass, which is closer to the 9:1 ratio other dorms on campus have.

These faculty apartments are essential to continue growing the LFA community. Johnson stated that "because the cost-of-living in the Lake Forest area is quite high, we often cannot hire teachers from around the country or around the globe." This is the case since LFA does provide housing for most of its residential faculty, even if that means a residence has to be off-campus, as several have needed to be over the past few years. However, this socioeconomic restriction simply doesn't help LFA grow and maintain a global mindset. Limited space can even affect facul-

ty retention. Yet, it simply isn't convenient for a boarding school to spend so much money on off-campus residency while also trying to encourage a boarding program for students, for which on-campus faculty is a must.

In order to resolve this, it is hoped that new and improved housing will continue being added onto campus over the next several years. Chief Financial Officer Mike Reidy noted that, "While I'm sure we will have future in-

stances where faculty have to wait for an opening on campus before they can move in, we feel like the current resident faculty level is sufficient to support the boarding program for all students." Therefore, nothing large or specific is necessarily in the works for now.

Additionally, despite the annual Gala being virtual this year, \$875,000 was raised to go towards the construction of the new apartments, making it a huge success regardless of the given cir-

cumstances this year, as just about the same amount of funds were raised compared to previous years.

Yue Chen, a faculty member of many years who's recently moved into one of the new Atlass apartments, mentioned that although she and her family will have less privacy living in an apartment attached to the dorm, she's still very happy about moving in. "It saves my commute time, and it's very convenient to fire a kiln of students' work." (As an art

teacher who teaches ceramics, such is a significant point for Chen.) She's also happy about the fact that her apartment is close to Cressey, where she teaches the majority of her classes.

Regardless of everything that the LFA community has gone through over the past months, having a change this significant and positive on campus is a refreshing sight, as well as one that faculty residing in the new apartments will be able to enjoy now.



The new Atlass apartments can be seen immediately as one drives into campus.

Photo by Angie Cotton

New schedule changes and what they mean

By Gemma Fink and Shylee Saladi

Staff Writer and Managing Editor of Production

In-person learning at Lake Forest Academy this year came with a few alterations, one of which being Spring Break, or rather, a lack thereof. For the second semester of the current school year, Chris Tennyson, Dean of Students, and Anna Kliner, Director of Health Services, along with a few other faculty, decided that it would be better for LFA students to have “Cycle Breaks” instead of Spring Break.

Cycle breaks at LFA are designed to give students one day off per week. Though they sometimes appear on a Friday or Monday, the majority of LFA’s cycle breaks will take place on Wednesdays.

Tennyson stated that the school’s choice to remove Spring Break from the schedule was informed by decisions that both universities and other boarding schools were making. Many schools in similar situations to LFA chose to relocate their Spring Break time to a more “COVID-19 friendly” place in the schedule, as student travel poses major risks to the safety of in-person learning.

While some schools decided to tack on their Spring Break at the end of the year, LFA decided against this, as it would force end of year ceremonies to occur the weekend after AP Testing. It would also eliminate time on campus in May, which is usually very enjoyable and community oriented.

In lieu of ending the year early, the school

decided to distribute the break across the second semester schedule in the form of cycle breaks. These breaks are supposed to be a “no work or homework day,” just like Spring Break would be.

The intention behind this plan is to allow students and faculty to have a break every week to alleviate the stress of school, whether it be remote or in-person. “Normally” many students wouldn’t think twice about being in person, but with the added fact of wearing masks 24/7, along with all the other regulations, it has taken much more out of the students to be in-person at LFA. Cycle breaks “give everybody a day to say, ‘Okay, I don’t have to wear my mask all day’” noted Tennyson. Not only do cycle breaks have an effect on the physical health of students, but they also have an effect on their mental health. These cycle breaks are supposed to allow students and faculty alike to have a day of rest which would otherwise be filled with lots of work.

A regular week of school consists of five full days of school starting from 8:10 to usually 3:20, but now a regular week during the pandemic consists of four full days of school. From a mental health standpoint, having one day per week (especially in the middle of the week) off from school gives the community a chance to relax and practice self-care.

In an interview with Kliner, she said “In weighing what’s best for students’ mental health, being together for all those non-

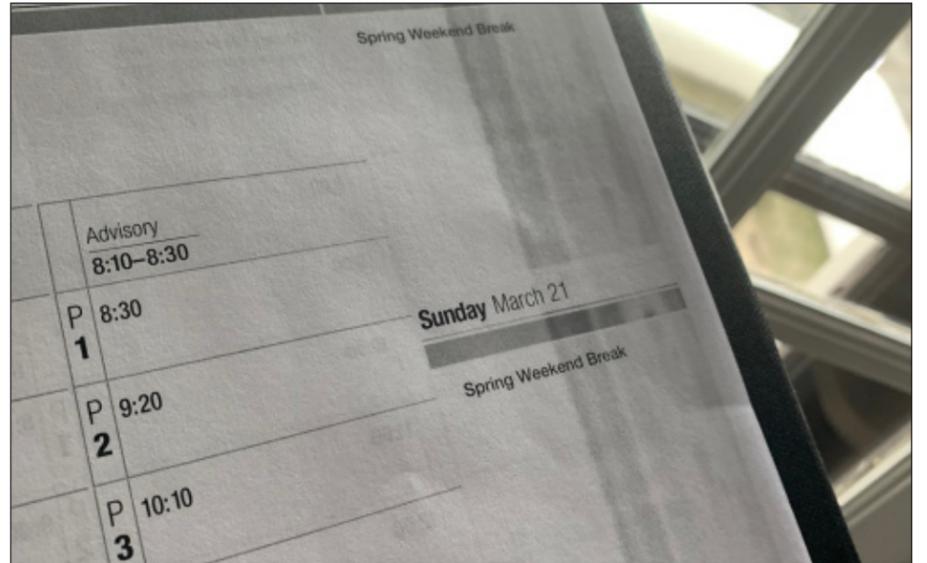


Photo by Gemma Fink

The new planner includes these cycle breaks and spring weekend breaks.

Spring Break times is healthier than not being together at all.” The choice a group of faculty members had to make was the decision of “having an in-person semester versus not having an in-person semester” said Kliner.

Jennifer Madeley, School Counselor and Health, Wellness & Community Department Chair, said, “We can’t go straight without breaks, and if we can’t have a Spring Break, then we have to have breaks.” The basic idea of cycle breaks is to encourage students and faculty to take a break on these days and do something other than schoolwork or lesson planning. As students and faculty, “we don’t take good care of our mental health and taking care of ourselves,” said Madeley.

Speaking with Tennyson and Kliner about suggestions to keep the school open for as

long as possible, including cycle breaks in the schedule came with having students and faculty “stick closer to home” and adhering to COVID-19 regulations while outside your home. The school can only do so much to prevent new cases popping up at LFA, but in order to keep them from coming from outside, each student and faculty member has to be aware and cautious of what they do and where they go. One of the main reasons for not having a Spring Break was to mitigate many of the students and families traveling during that period, then coming back to the states and having to quarantine for at least ten days. In light of this, it is important to adhere to the school’s new guidelines to make in-person learning a safe environment for all.

Common application crash causes closing of college process

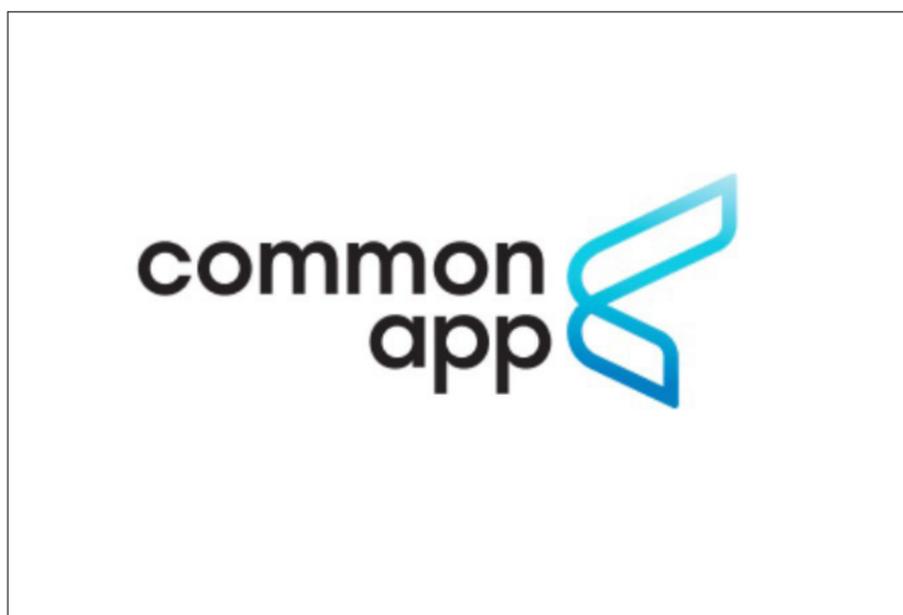


Photo Courtesy of Commonapp.com

The Common App allows for students to easily submit essays and information for college.

By Mimi Osborne

Managing Editor of A&E

2020, to say the least, was a year full of lessons: students learned how to keep themselves occupied whilst under a mandated quarantine, find sources of entertainment in isolation, and, for seniors, how to navigate a rapidly changing college pro-

cess. In the midst of a semester riddled with chaos and turbulence, the Lake Forest Academy seniors have faced a seemingly endless amount of problems with poise and composure. The college process is infamously regarded as one of the most stressful times in an academic career: sleepless nights, strenuous essays, and soaring caffeine addictions. Despite this, nearly ev-

eryone has triumphed over these obstacles and are now towards the end of the college application process.

After spending months writing essays, pressing the submit button and finalizing your application is intended to be a moment of relief. However, on January 8th, the Common Application website crashed, sending many seniors into a panic fearing that they would not be able to meet the application deadline.

Senior Calvin Osborne noted this occurrence as being, “something uncontrollable that I could only laugh about.” Another senior echoed Osborne’s thoughts and jokes that it was, “almost unreal as it came at potentially the worst time imaginable.” Many seniors across the country have expressed their fears and frustrations with the situation through online forums. However, this was not the only instance of the Common App website crashing, as it has been reported to “freak out” every few weeks.

Osborne, luckily, was able to get in contact with his schools; most colleges

expressed understanding towards this occurrence as there was nothing that could have prevented this crash from happening. Many students, similarly, vocalized their concerns to respective colleges, and faced similar outcomes. Colleges, as a Lake Forest Academy Senior stated, are “much more understanding this year as compared to others. They have gradually become more perceptive towards their applicants, making sure to attempt to mitigate individuals’ concerns on how COVID-19 has affected their specific application.”

Completing the college process is a major accomplishment, and submitting a final application is a momentous occasion. Unfortunately, this past year of stark twists and turns has morphed this occasion from one of excitement to one of incredible stress. Osborne reflected, “Having the task of college applications during this unprecedented year of physical and mental challenges is incredibly disheartening, as its outcome will determine the next few years of our lives.”

New hand-held hobbies take hold

By Briana Murphy
Creative Director

With travel and contact with other people still limited due to Covid-19, it's essential to take part in acts of self-care. While I'm sure there are many articles out there about ways to take care of yourself, oftentimes, one important tip is neglected — partaking in a hobby.

While hobbies are something that aren't considered when talking about self-care, being enjoy something outside of the normal workload is very important. On top of this, hobbies are often only enjoyed for a select amount of time. It is disappointing to spend time and money on it. Here are some cheap hobbies that can be easily taken up.

1. Gardening

While it can be time-consuming depending on the size, gardening can provide relief in a day focused on screens. Gardening is an easy hobby to take up, especially when considering the possibilities of all the plants that could be grown, from miniature plants

that can be stored near the bedside to giant apple trees planted in the backyard. There is gardening for both inside and outside environments, and each plant is unique in the amount of care they need. It's a time consuming practice, but it's a worth-it hobby.

2. Whittling

This option requires patience, a little strength, and a certain level of responsibility. It is not exactly easy to pick up. However, the skill is fun to learn and doesn't take much money to start-up. It's important to note that no one under 14 should try to partake in this hobby as the shaper tools could be dangerous to handle; however, if possible start off with softer wood and blunter tools in order to practice. It's an interesting hobby that can create unique gifts and kinkknacks.

3. Calligraphy

After buying some pens and new notebooks, it's easy to practice the art of calligraphy. Writing letters and creating beautiful inspirational posters can be a

fun pastime. This hobby is useful in the sense of writing letters or even doing handmade projects. Not only is it something that can be used to destress, but it also has a practical use in life as well.

4. Bullet journaling

Journaling is a way to release built up tension, knowledge, or art onto paper, and this hobby can be a way to not only organize thoughts but also a way to write out feelings and organize day-to-day life. It can help with schedules and add another point of organization, or it can be a place to write down simple thoughts. These journals are all over pinterest and instragram and are a great way to destress.

5. Learn sign language

Learning sign is once again not only a hobby but also a useful skill to have in day-to-day life. It can help in situations in which there is a need for sign to be used. It's also always good to have ways to express emotions non verbally. On top of that, it's often times hard to learn new languages due to the need of learning a new script and how to speak it. Sign is something that can be a bit easier to pick up on then a written language, and studying sign is free.

6. Crocheting

Crafting things is always a good way to take up time, and crocheting is a fun way to do this. It's fun to constantly learn new stitches and how to create different fun things like a sweater or a small wool toy. It's something that people can spend a lot of time or a short time doing depending on the project, and it yields something tangible for all the work. For smaller projects, this hobby is fairly cheap; however, it can become expensive when a lot of yarn is purchased at once.

7. Flower pressing

Flower pressing is oftentimes a forgotten hobby; however, it's so easy and fun to take part in. Using a large book or

even a paperweight, flowers are pressed, dried, and used in a variety of different ways. The flowers can be used for decor, a journal on flowers or even a small gifts for others. Flower pressing is typically easier to do during the warmer seasons, but it can be enjoyable to see which plants in the winter can be pressed.

8. Embroidery

Embroidery is a hobby that takes a lot of time to master and complete; however, the end result is extremely satisfying. If there's an issue with having too much free time, or if you like working with your hands, this is the hobby for you. The time and money spent usually depends on the project; however, the materials are usually fairly cheap and easy to come across. The finished products can be used as gifts, decorations or even made into clothing.

9. Origami

Origami is something most people have experience with; however, the options for this hobby are endless. There are many different things that can be crated with origami other than a paper crane, but people tend to forget that. It's possible to make functional toy cards or small replicas of buildings. Spending time figuring out the different possibilities is a fun challenge to take on.

10. Urban sketching

Urban sketching is personally my favorite hobby on the list, despite it being last place on the list. It's a realistic type of art where the artists sketches the view in front of them as close to reality as possible. It's about capturing a snapshot of the world's beauty. It can be a sketch of the city skyline or one of the nearest starbucks. Either way, it's a good hobby for people who want to be able to destress with a very random schedule and not have to buy supplies. In this case, the only materials necessary are some paper and a writing utensil.



Photo by Briana Murphy

Senior Ramya Herman's collection of yarn for her hobby of knitting.

Realism in modern television

By Tyler Watts

Managing Editor of Op-Ed

If you're reading this, congratulations. You've made it to high school! For better or worse, this four year span is one of the most formative periods of life, in transitioning from childhood to adulthood. Being a teenager in 2021 bears little resemblance to the portrayal of the teenage experience shown in shows and movies of decades prior; given social pressures and the pandemic, it likely has more in common with psychological experiments. Nonetheless, how teenage years are portrayed in entertainment has evolved with recent waves of more honest realism. New shows such as Euphoria (2019-) Grand Army (2020-), and We Are Who We Are (2020-) can be considered refreshing and reflective of the sentiments of Gen Z high schoolers.

Euphoria, an HBO series created by Sam Levinson, became a hit among certain populations as soon as the first season premiered. It is difficult to remain objective in my description of the show because I felt so seen by the show in many different ways.

A common criticism of Euphoria is that it is difficult to relate to, which could be a valid case for many teens. However, it would be wrong to dismiss the show as an

idyllic, escapist take on the suburbs-gone-wild. It blends heavy, real life events and emotions with a twist of levity and fantasy. The show's makeup, wardrobe, soundtrack, and many elements of the plot don't match everyday life for the majority of high schoolers, so this may skew the surface level relatability of the main characters. But many feelings and experiences of characters reveal relatable and poignant substance. Complex motifs such as addiction, identity, love, and family arise in the show and resonate universally, even if one's situation isn't identical to another character's.

Grand Army is a Netflix original series released in October of 2020. It's set in a New York City public high school, and it feels very familiar as soon as one enters the world of the show. People are dressed how we dress, and the music is what we listen to. They discuss college admissions, the Common App essay, and AP Classes, making it a refreshing watch that is not oblivious to the stresses of high school academics. It features flawed and interesting main and supporting characters that are likely to remind viewers of people at their school or in their friend groups. It is diverse in an intentional way, looking at intersections of race and socio-economic class, race and gender/sexuality, and the



Photo Courtesy of Netflix

The Netflix promotional picture for Grand Army shows the diversity of the show.

diversity of the teenage human experience.

We Are Who We Are is a completely new idea with an extremely capable and talented cast. It examines the teenage experience on an American military base in Italy, exploring the nuanced concepts of gender and sexuality, religion, politics, family dynamics, and identity in the meantime. Though conceptually a large undertaking to showcase these many themes in 8 episodes and with substance, its execution is very raw and natural. It is difficult to call to mind another television show that took the time and care to make such multidimensional and complex characters with relationships, thoughts, and actions that are so unique and striking.

A common thread among these standout coming of age shows is that the stories are very character driven. In all of these series, the plot is still pushed forward with a multitude of impactful events, but the heart of each show stems from watching the characters develop and interact throughout the different important events of youth. Another important aspect to note is that the heavy topics of these series are not encountered without content warnings, support, and resources at the start and end of certain episodes. The capacity of these shows to incorporate real struggles, provide commentary, and open up dialogues about life and social issues is a very impressive and mature step in a new direction for young adult dramas.

Capitol riots amid administrative changes

Student & Faculty opinion corner

The opinion corner is where students and faculty alike can express their opinions on a given topic anonymously and freely. It's a new addition to the paper, and thoughts would be appreciated. The topic will change each month, and the option to share personal feelings or suggest specific topics will be available. These topics will usually be something controversial or highly contested. In the case that there is something that goes against personal morals, respect each other opinions.

The attack on the capital was supposed to be a peaceful protest organized by established conservative activists and figures that took a turn when the protesters broke into the capitol building and started to storm in. The figureheads associated with the incident very quickly denounced the event's violent turn and tried to distance themselves from the events of that day.

People began to storm in the capitol, holding weapons and yelling threats at lawmakers, specifically democratic congress members. They broke windows, climbed up the building,

"I think it was one of the saddest days in American history, and it will be there forever." - Mr. Gerber

wrecked and looted congressional offices, and refused to leave.

While many people saw what happened in the capitol as a massive oversight and a severe lack of security, the building's security was more worried about evacuating the government officials and getting them to a safe and secure place away from the chaos rather than the protesters roaming the halls. The chaos of the situation had the nation shocked

tion in power from the Trump to Biden administration. Despite the dissatisfaction, it was unacceptable to barge into the capitol in such a manner. The LFA community was in shock that such a situation took place.

From the outside looking in, most government buildings seem impenetrable. The systems put in place to protect government officials and uphold democracy are something that the American people generally put trust in. To see these systems being defeated and how close the nation was to losing some political figures--it instilled fear and unrest in society.

It was not only the shock of the history being created, but also the way the situation was handled. The government officials once untouchable within the capitol were almost reached by the protesters easily, and if not for the quick thinking of the security inside, the situation could have been much worse.

There were five casualties from the event at the capitol on January sixth. Brain Sicknick passed away at 42 the day after the event from his injuries after getting overpowered and beaten by the mob of rioters storming the building.



Photo Courtesy Creative Commons

The capitol building that was stormed earlier this year after the violence began.

and fearful as other political offices braced for similar treatment.

The protesters had various reasons for their dissatisfaction and eventual invasion of the capitol; however, the consensus was that the unrest was from the transi-

Ashli Babbit 35, an Air Force veteran, passed away from a gunshot as she tried to scramble through a broken window that led to the speaker's lobby.

Kevin Gresson, at 55, passed of a heart attack while at-

"I am very against what happened at the capitol, and I feel that President Trump did not do a good job telling the American people what they needed to hear. And I honestly have been very interested in what has happened with the changes in administration. I hope that the new administration will do what is best for the American people and find a way to unite all of us again. Along with that, I hope that we have less historical events this year than last year"

Anonymous LFA student

tending the protest. His family says that he was not there to participate in the violence.

Rosanne Boyland allegedly passed away at 35 in a crush of fellow rioters while trying to cross a police line. Although this has not yet been confirmed

Fortunately, despite the chaos, others were only injured, and no government figures were injured. "It felt weird seeing the differences in the way the media portrayed these protesters and the Black Lives Matter protesters earlier in the year, especially with the language news anchors used. It just felt like the situation was downplayed." -Anonymous LFA stu-

This incident and the absolute chaos it left in the minds of people will be in the history books.

The Caxys for one definitely believe that this event is something that will serve as a reminder that we're living through history.

Students saw Republican figureheads denounce the riots and the violence and try to distance themselves from the collateral damage, and at the same time saw figureheads like AOC call them out, urging them to do

"I was scared that it was happening, scared and speechless, and I knew that when it was happening, that it was history and something had to be done about it." - Ms. Kalis

better for the people, saying, "I urge my colleagues to please take what happened on January sixth seriously... We can do better. WE must do better."

In the transition between the Trump and Biden administrations, there was speculation of backlash and general discontent; however, no one saw this coming.

The most important thing is to remember this event and prevent it from getting lost in history. It is a day that will serve as a reminder of the changes within the country and the constant push for change and safety within the country.

Most of all, it's imperative to prevent violence and spread messages of peace and with the intention to better the country.

The Lake Forest

SPECTATOR

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PUBLICATION

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EDITORIALS

Opinions of the staff are presented in the form of unsigned editorials. Personal views are bylined or presented as formal dissents.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

The Spectator welcomes responses to its articles in the form of Letters to the Editors in addition to letters on subjects of the author's choosing. Please e-mail Letters to the Editors to Mrs. Krause at akrause@lfanet.org

AWARDS

The Spectator has been awarded several prestigious journalism awards in recent years. It has consistently taken first place in competitions against schools of similar size held by the American Scholastic Press Association and the Kettle Moraine Press Association.

Quote of the Month:

"There is no better than adversity. Every defeat, every heartbreak, every loss, contains its own seed, its own lesson on how to improve your performance next time."

— Malcolm X

Asynchronous vs. synchronous classes

By **Bia Leffingwell**
Staff Writer

Though the E-Learning period may be over, the terms asynchronous and synchronous still hold value in our daily lives as we make continuous transitions from in-person to online schooling, especially given the uncertainty of weather and the Coronavirus. Synchronous means a 30-45 minute class on Zoom; whereas, asynchronous entails using those 45 minutes to complete an assignment.

Each teacher has his or her own approach to E-Learning when they have the ability to choose the approach. LFA required only three synchronous days per cycle in each class during the E-Learning period in January. Taylor Haist, a math teacher at LFA, said that, "Deciding whether to hold synchronous vs. asynchronous classes, or whether the asynchronous class is a video lesson or a worksheet, depends on the material that we are covering and how easily it can be understood by my students." She ensured that she had at least one asynchronous class per cycle, as she wanted to give her students a break from Zoom. "Asynchronous classes can also be beneficial to students who appreciate

learning at their own pace," Haist noted.

Olivia Poska, a Fine & Performing Arts and English teacher, mentioned that online schooling is difficult for teachers too, and there can be anxiety in teaching virtually. "I prefer to communicate through writing and so, for asynchronous classes, I typically create an activity for students to complete independently. I usually create some kind of worksheet, questions, or other sort of prompt that students can complete," she said.

Teachers want their students to work just as hard when they are asynchronous. Poska noted, "If you really commit to it by tuning out all other distractions, I don't see why [asynchronous is any less productive]." Haist also added that, "As [long as] the asynchronous day is structured correctly, it can still be a productive day. I also think that as long as a student is motivated, both synchronous and asynchronous can be equally beneficial if done correctly."

The balance that is needed for both teachers and students was always kept in mind each week when teachers created a schedule. "When students are working on a task like an essay or something that requires quiet focus, I schedule asynchronous classes. However, I always make myself available via Zoom, even during

asynchronous lessons," Poska said. Both Poska and Haist feel that it is important to be available on Zoom on an asynchronous day, so that students with questions can easily access the aid they need.

"While some students prefer asynchronous classes because it gives them the freedom and flexibility to learn at their own pace, others prefer to be live in class.

Striking the right balance between the two is a challenge that is still being finessed by teachers," Haist said, as both Poska and Haist emphasize that no teacher is perfect. "Routine is helpful when home is school and vice versa. You can't enjoy one without the other," Poska said.

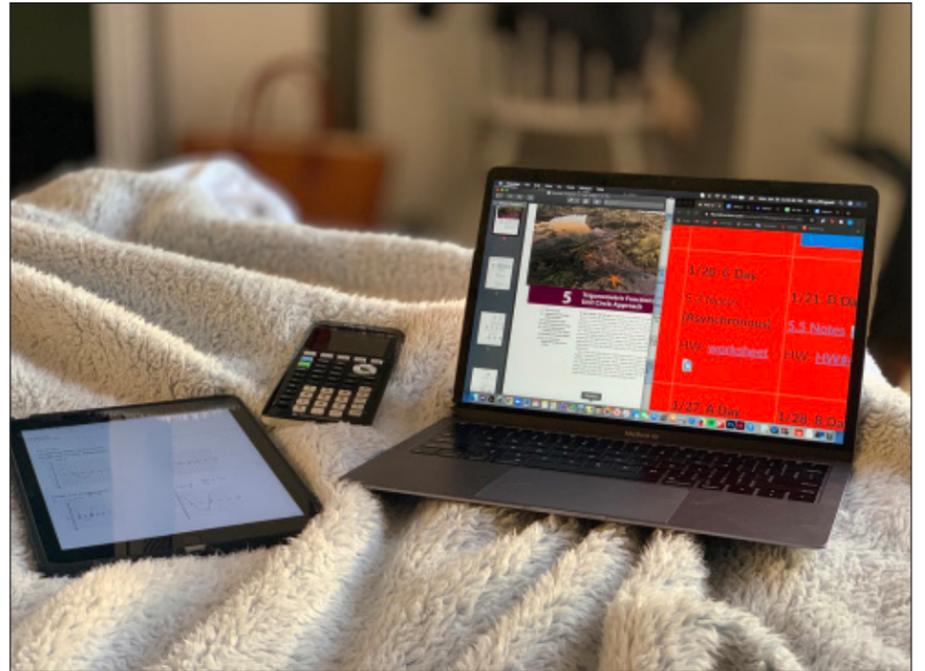


Photo Courtesy of Bia Leffingwell

Bia Leffingwell '22 sets up for a day of virtual school.

Don't know what to do on Cycle Break days?

By **Angie Cotton**

Managing Editor of Features

Life at LFA this semester is clearly a unique experience compared to previous semesters, with athletic seasons being changed around, possibly not having events like Winter Formal and Prom, and even having the February Frog Hunt be a completely different experience from previous years. However, perhaps the biggest change to come this semester is having no Spring Break, which entails the addition of Cycle Breaks. Cycle Breaks are meant to give students a chance to rest and make up for the lack of Spring Break. However, chances are you may find yourself catching up on schoolwork or maybe even getting ahead. What can one really do besides that when Cycle Breaks are normally in the middle of the week? Here are some ideas on how to entertain yourself with something that isn't schoolwork.

- 1. You could participate in a House Cup competition:** Whether it's a scavenger hunt or submitting a picture of yourself for house points, there's no harm and plenty of fun in winning points for your house.
- 2. Try a sport you've never done before:** Make use of that on-campus ice rink! Call up some friends and go skating, or maybe go by yourself! Or maybe shoot some hoops in the gym, or spike some volleyballs. Get some racquets from the cages and go play



Photo by Angie Cotton

Ferdoss Ibrahim '22 is playing her guitar in order to relax and have fun during her cycle break free time.

- tennis with a friend, or maybe even toss a frisbee. You may get pretty good at it!
- 3. Watch that movie/show you've been meaning to watch:** We all have that list of movies or shows we've been meaning to watch but just can't get to with how busy our lives are. Take that Cycle Break and make use of it to binge watch that show!
- 4. Lay outside and do absolutely nothing:** Snowing? Put on a big coat, and go lay down on the quad to see the snow fall. Sunny? Put on some shorts and also go lay on the quad and watch the sunset. Maybe play some music. There's nothing hard about doing this; it's literally the least stressful activity one can do.
- 5. Cook:** Although it's much easier for day students to just grab a couple eggs from the fridge and turn on a stove, who's to say a boarding student can't challenge themselves to recreate the same dish using a microwave in the dorm (unless you live in Warner, then go cook with your pretty stove)?
- 6. Go for a run:** All weather is great for running! Challenge yourself. Take some laps around the track. Go jogging on Caxy Drive. Not only is it an effective way to destress, but it's also good for your physical and mental health overall.
- 7. Organize:** Whether that's your closet, your desk, your fridge, or maybe even your pantry, we all get a kick out of seeing things be neatly organized. It's very satisfying. So why not treat your eyes to a clean and organized space?
- 8. Lift:** Go up to the fitness room, and get those muscles working! It's there for your benefit, so why not make use of it?
- 9. Listen to music you don't normally listen to:** Let's face it. We all get a bit tired of listening to the same five songs every day, even if they're our favorite songs. Ask around for music recommendations! Stretch out of your comfort zone, musically and socially, by asking people you don't normally talk to about what they've been listening to recently. Hey, you may end up making a really good friendship in the process!
- 10. Actually get some sleep:** Let's face it--not many students get in that much sleep during a regular school night, so why not make use of the time to catch up on that much-needed sleep? Your body will thank you later.

Bridgerton: Worth the watch?

By Rachel Johns
Managing Editor of News

Salacious scandals, peacockish pageantry, and affairs of ardour? What else could it be other than Shonda Rhimes' Regency era TV series *Bridgerton*.

Bridgerton, based on the hit book series by Julia Quinn, follows the eight siblings of the upper class Bridgerton family as they navigate the ups and downs of London's high society. In addition to the series' namesakes, the show tells the stories of the ostentatious Featheringtons, the respectable Lady Danbury, the roguish Duke of Hastings, the formidable Queen Charlotte and her royal court.

The first season focuses on the eldest daughter Daphne's debut season and her on-and-off romance with the Duke of Hastings. At the beginning of the season, a mysterious tabloid detailing the tawdry affairs of socialites' secrets is circulated under the nom de plume of Lady Whistledown—a Jane Austen-esque *Gossip Girl* if you will.

Within the first few minutes of viewing the series, the sugary candy color palette of the fashion will strike you. While the sweet, dulcet tones of the Bridgerton family's wardrobe will endear you, the gaudy, almost neon colors that the Featheringtons sport give viewers the sickness of a visual sugar rush, tipping you off as

to what the character of each family is. This masterful use of color theory to advance the story is just one of the ways clothing plays an integral role in *Bridgerton*.

The characters of *Bridgerton* wear Regency era clothing stylized with modern fabrics, colors, and silhouettes in a way reminiscent of *Marie Antoinette* (2006). Viewers with a penchant for fashion history will recognize Lady Featherington's adaptation of Dior's New Look. Little details in character styling enrich the world and its stories, such as Marina Thompson's lover's eye pendant.

The fashion of *Bridgerton* has started to influence modern fashion trends, with dresses with empire waistlines, puffy sleeves, and "corset" style tops becoming popular (Regency women did not often wear corsets, instead they sported cotton stays as undergarments).

In addition to melding modern and historical fashion, the series features six string quartet covers of pop songs. Some of the songs blend seamlessly with the wide, sweeping shots of opulent balls. The covers of "Wildest Dreams" and "thank u, next" fit perfectly into the scenes' stories, feelings, and themes. On the other hand, some pop song covers feel incongruous to the story and era, throwing you right out of the world. "Bad Guy" was one song that felt particularly jarring in both story and theme. Despite a few



Photo Courtesy of Netflix

Daphne and the Duke of Hastings converse at a ball.

moments that don't fit into the overall story, *Bridgerton* successfully blends the zeitgeist of the 21st century with the early 1800s.

One major update *Bridgerton* gives to the realm of mainstream period dramas is the much needed addition of people of color in lead roles. The Duke of Hastings, Lady Danbury, Queen Charlotte, and Marina Thompson are all played by black actors. Historically, period pieces have been dominated by white actors, with POC rarely being featured (typically only as servants or slaves). To see a period drama on a major streaming platform feature POC in prominent roles is a major step forward for representation in the entertainment industry.

Vernā Myers, Netflix's vice-president of inclusion strategy, stated "We help out all of our creative folks in content and marketing with what we call, an 'inclusion lens', when they're casting and when they're green lighting: see who's there, see who isn't."

The story of *Bridgerton* starts off strong, with palpable chemistry among castmates and the intrigue of Lady Whistledown's identity. However, the general excitement fizzles out halfway through the season once a particular couple gets together. Contributing to the lull of the second half of the season, the identity of Lady Whistledown is prematurely revealed in a lackluster and predictable manner. The reveal leaves us with

the question of how Lady Whistledown will continue to hold the audience's attention with the series' biggest mystery revealed.

Nonetheless, I found *Bridgerton* to be one of the more entertaining shows of the year, a diamond of the television season if you will. That's not to say that the show is flawless. If anything, its ability to improve excites me. The series has already been renewed for a second season, which will feature the eldest Bridgerton child Anthony. Hopefully, the next season will explore the stories of the many colorful side characters. I have no doubt that the next season of *Bridgerton* will prove to be just as entertaining if not more than the first season.



Photo Courtesy of Netflix

Queen Charlotte surrounded by her royal court.

College Athletic Commitments

By Rachel Johns

Managing Editor of News

In a year void of Senior Nights and crowds at college signing events, we at *The Spectator* wanted to highlight a few senior student athletes who are going to continue their athletic careers in college. After honing their intellect and athleticism over the last four years at LFA, Lizzie Frekko, Antonio Ferraiolo Galvao Costa, Hannah Liu and Mathieu Bourgault are taking their sport to the next level. To get their perspectives on the culmination of their scholastic and athletic prestige, they were each interviewed. Some of their responses have been edited for length and clarity. If you are a senior student athlete who is going on to play a DI, DII, or DIII sport in college, contact Rachel Johns to be featured in the next edition of *The Spectator*.

Antonio Ferraiolo Galvao Costa: DIII Soccer at Vassar College

How did you start playing soccer?

I always grew up with [soccer]. I grew up in a Brazilian household so it was always like a religion. I was watching soccer and eating barbecue every Sunday. It's stuck with me all these years.

What do you love about playing soccer?

They way that it brings people together. You don't need a lot of equipment. All you need is some sort of ball-shaped object. It doesn't even have to be a ball. You can play soccer with a bottle. It's a really low-maintenance sport, so anyone can really play it. It brings people together from all over the world.

What are you looking forward to most about playing in college?

Playing at the next level and meeting people from around the world.

Playing collegiately was always a dream of mine. To do it at such a highly academic institution will help me get the best of both worlds academically and athletically. It will definitely be amazing.

What drew you to your college's athletic program?

It's one of the premier Division III programs in the country. They are a part of a really good division on the East Coast. [Vassar] is also in New York. I'm majoring in Economics, and New York is a business capital. Getting close to Wall Street was the plan, and I was able to do that by going to Vassar.

How has LFA shaped your athletic experience?

LFA has helped me so much. From talking to schools and colleges to getting advice from Mr. Madeley



Photo courtesy of Antonio Ferraiolo Galvao Costa

Antonio '21 passes the ball during the '19-20 school year.

and Coach Mak, LFA has really helped me find the school that is perfect for me academically. When I found the academic fit for me, I went ahead and reached out to [Vassar's] coaches. Then everything worked out great.

Any final comments?

I'm very fortunate. Due to Covid, I know a lot of people are still trying to get recruited [for college athletics]. I was very fortunate to play games in front of the coaching staff I liked.

Hannah Liu: DI Swimming at the University of Pennsylvania

How did you start swimming?

I started swimming competitively when I was ten years old, but it was during the 2008 Beijing Olympics that sparked my interest in the sport. In China, I remember watching Michael Phelps's historical 100 Fly race on TV. Seeing him beating his opponent by 0.01 seconds made me think, "I want to do that!" Afterward, I went up to my aunt and asked if I could start swim lessons at a local pool. The rest is history.

What do you love about swimming?

Swimming has taught me perseverance, grit, and discipline. It has taught me patience and the importance of self-care. I owe the life lessons I've encountered to my

sport. Swimming has raised me up but also pounded me down. Even during the rough times, the fact that I'm still here today showed me that I'm stronger now than I was before. I am who I am today because of my sport.

What are you looking forward to most about swimming in college?

College swimming goes to a whole new level. The pressure's on, but the team environment is even stronger than before. You will naturally be surrounded by like-minded people that will motivate and encourage you towards success. You will be pushed to do more incredible things, and you will have the resources to help you. These are the aspects of college swimming that

I'm the most excited about.

What drew you to your college's athletic program?

UPenn embodies the idea of a student athlete's dream: high tier academics and competitive athletics. They are currently ranked 4th in the Ivy League, but judging from their performance last year in the Ivy League Championships, they will most likely place even higher in the next few years. I wanted to be a part of that successful movement, so I chose to commit to UPenn.

How has LFA shaped your athletic experience?

With its supportive community and emphasis on balancing academics and athletics. First off, I can't imagine where I would be now without

the support of my friends, teachers, teammates, and coaches here at LFA. Second, I owe it to LFA for teaching me how to manage a challenging curriculum while training competitively in a sport. My experiences here these past four years have taught me lessons that I will hold onto as I go off to college.

Any final comments?

I want to give a special "thank you" to everyone who has been there for me during this journey. I'm infinitely grateful for all of you. To those who are thinking about delving into the athlete recruiting process--do it! The process is challenging by no means, but the outcome is so rewarding. If you ever need help, feel free to reach out!



Photo courtesy of Hannah Liu

Hannah Liu '21 competes in an LFA swim meet during the '19-20 school year.

College Athletic Commitments

By Rachel Johns

Managing Editor of News

In a year void of Senior Nights and college signing events, we at The Spectator wanted to highlight a few senior student athletes who are going to continue their athletic career in college. After honing their intellect and athleticism over the last four years at LFA, Lizzie Frekko, Antonio Ferraiolo Galvao Costa, and Hannah Liu are taking their sport to the next level. To get their perspectives on the culmination of their scholastic and athletic prestige they were each interviewed. Some of their responses have been edited for length and clarity. If you are a senior student athlete who is going on to play a DI, DII, or DIII sport in college, contact Rachel Johns to be featured in the next edition of The Spectator.

Elizabeth Frekko: DIII Tennis at Bates College



Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Frekko

Elizabeth Frekko '21 competes in a tennis match over Alumni Weekend in 2019.

How did you start playing tennis?

I started playing tennis when I was five years old. I started doing a weekly group with my three best friends from preschool. I was the only one out of the four who ended up sticking with tennis, and as I got older I started to take more individual lessons and participate in more groups until I became a competitive tournament player.

What do you love about tennis?

I love playing tennis because you are the only one out there. You are responsible for everything that happens in a match which requires you to be mentally solid. In every match, you will make mistakes and have bad shots, but you have to stick with it if you want to win. The grit that tennis matches require makes winning even more rewarding.

What are you looking forward to most about playing in college?

I am beyond excited to play college tennis. I think it will be an amazing experience to meet new people from around the world, but also have that mutual bond of tennis.

What drew you to your college's athletic program?

I really liked the Bates Athletic program because being a Division 3 school, tennis is not the sole focus. The coaches really prioritize the academics, which to me is the most important thing because I know I will not be going pro. Also, I know a girl who is currently on the team and absolutely loves it which was a huge factor for me when I was choosing between very similar programs.

How has LFA shaped your athletic experience?

LFA has shaped my athletic experience because I have been able to play on a team, which I don't get to do traveling to tournaments on my own. The team atmosphere is amazing, and I love being able to cheer people on the same way they cheer me on. I also have had some amazing coaches that have helped me push through and ultimately win many tough matches.

Any final comments?

I am really grateful for the experience I have gotten at LFA that has created me into the student-athlete that I am today.

Mathieu Bourgault: DI Hockey at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

How did you start playing ice hockey?

When I was around three years old, I was seeing my big brother play, and I wanted to be just like him. Also, being from Québec, I was pretty much born with skates on.

What do you love about hockey?

I love the mix of speed, skills and physicality that the game brings. On top of that, I get to do the thing I love the most while being with some of my best friends.

What are you looking forward to most about playing hockey in college?

I am really looking forward to playing at the highest amateur level in the country and having the opportunity to get better everyday to help me fulfill my dream of becoming a pro hockey player.

What drew you to your college's athletic program?

The opportunity to attend such a prestigious school while having the

ability to play and develop myself in such a competitive environment is something that I couldn't pass on. In addition, the program's culture and values really match mine. Finally I have confidence that the coaching staff will challenge me to reach the next level.

How has LFA shaped your athletic experience?

Playing at LFA allowed me to compete against older guys on a daily basis. Also, having access to the ice at all times allowed me to improve my individual skills, but also have fun and "escape reality" with my friends. LFA's facilities are everything a student-athlete would ever dream of. In addition, we had the opportunity to visit NCAA campuses and play in their arenas which was great. Lastly, Coach Madeley is a great mentor for me and has helped me become a better person and hockey player.

Any final comments?



Photo courtesy of Mathieu Bourgault

Mathieu Bourgault '21 competes in an LFA Hockey game during the '19-20 season.

My time spent at LFA has challenged me academically and socially. I am convinced my experience

has prepared me for my college years and my future career.

Containing the March “madness”: College Basketball’s biggest event to be played inside of a bubble this year

By Rohan Miglani
Managing Editor of Sports

Last year, the NCAA Men’s and Women’s Basketball Tournaments (otherwise known as March Madness), two of the most anticipated sporting events of the year, were canceled due to COVID-19. These tournaments account for nearly 70% of College Basketball’s revenue, resulting in a major loss for the NCAA basketball organizations and programs. This revenue comes from the excitement among sports fans who tune into every game, constantly checking the status of their March Madness bracket predictions.

With COVID-19 as prevalent as ever, many feared that the NCAA would be forced to cancel the tournaments yet again this year, due to the constant travel that these tournaments typically call for, along with numerous games in the 2020-21 college basketball season already being postponed or canceled.

To attempt to combat the issues of travel, and to lessen the spread of COVID-19, the NCAA looked to follow many other sports leagues and create a bubble. The

NCAA announced that they would play this year’s tournament entirely in the state of Indiana, as their hope is playing in a centralized location will promote safety, and make it easier to manage the tournament. These tournament games will be played at Bankers Life Fieldhouse, Indiana Farmers Coliseum, Hinkle Fieldhouse, Purdue’s Mackey Arena, the University of Indiana’s Assembly Hall, and in the Indianapolis Colts’ Lucas Oil Stadium.

Currently, the NCAA plans on using Marriott properties in Indiana to house players, coaches, and staff, and each team will be separated by floors to promote social distancing. Teams will use practice areas such as the Indiana Convention Center to stay sharp before their games. While the tournament will have a different feel to it, the NCAA hopes that the excitement and drama that takes place every year in this tournament will stay the same.

One of the largest questions surrounding this tournament is whether or not fans will be allowed to attend the venues. Various other sports leagues such as the NFL and UFC have begun to allow fans, with the Kansas City Chiefs having 17,000 fans

at their stadium for the AFC conference championship and the UFC having 2,000 fans in an indoor venue for their Conor McGregor vs Dustin Poirier Pay-Per-View. Currently, the NCAA has stated that family members will be allowed to attend games; however, Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb has said that they will continue speaking to health officials to determine if broader fan

attendance will be allowed.

Many fans of college basketball are just happy that the NCAA tournament is happening, allowing them to fill out their brackets and watch the games. The NCAA making steps towards the tournament happening is another step to bringing back the normalcy that was taken from us due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



The Davidson University Men’s Basketball team celebrates after a win. The NCAA tournament provides the opportunity for smaller schools like Davidson to compete on a larger stage.

LFA Winter Sports return, but see major changes due to COVID-19 restrictions

By Kirstin Palasz
Photo Editor

With COVID-19 continuing to be a threat across the country, sports are one of the many things that have yet to go back to normal. The winter sports season normally starts in mid-November and continues into February; however, that is not the case this year. As LFA had e-learning from Thanksgiving break to late January, winter sports rare just getting started.

It was recently announced that winter sports will be able to continue; since we have reached Illinois Phase 4, there can be competitions within Covid regions. A majority of the winter sports including hockey, basketball, and squash are at the high-risk

level; there must be protocols made in order for them to continue. The Illinois High School Association has given a schedule as to when the winter sports are allowed to start as well the schedule for the rest of the sports in spring and summer. However, the past few months have been very tough for athletes and coaches.

At LFA, Athletic Director, Darrin Madeley, is determined to continue sports in one way or another no matter what protocols must be put in place. He stated “the students desperately need it, and the coaches as well.” In more ways than one, the delay of these seasons affected athletes. Angie Cotton ‘22, a member of the Girls Varsity Hockey team, mentioned in late January how the team felt “a bit disconnected since

we haven’t really had the chance to meet in person yet.” For many of the teams, this has impacted the flow of the season as team bonds can affect how athletes play.

One of the biggest issues that athletes faced over e-learning is that it was much harder to stay active. Madeley mentioned how “e-learning, while effective, is not healthy, and I am very worried about our students.” When students are staring at a computer for seven hours a day, it has a huge effect on the physical and mental health of all. In the past few months, many athletes have been at a loss of getting that extra physical activity. On top of that, on-campus students have to walk from class to class, which at least gives some physical activity each day; e-learning took that ability away. Hopefully with the season having started, athletes will be able to get back into a routine and continue their physical activity.

However, the girls’ hockey team did the most they can during the e-learning period. Cotton mentioned how the girls’ hockey team has had workouts via zoom after school, and, although optional, they had been a great way to start the connection between players.

Last year, during the e-learning period, there was a fitness requirement in order to keep students active throughout the year. However, this year, that system was not implemented. Madeley said, “This year, when we left after Thanksgiving, I felt that the students needed a break, so we kept it light. After New Years’, we wanted a week to allow the students to come back to class,

and then I sent the workout that Coach Eric designed.” As it was a shorter period of time, the fitness requirement was not mandatory, but it was still stressed that physical activity was very important.

Athletes had also been staying active at home as well to try to keep their physical health up to standards. Darius Duff ‘22, a member of the Varsity Boys’ Basketball team, said “whether that’s doing in-home strength workouts, going on daily runs, or going to the gym to put up jump shots so I don’t lose my mechanics.” This has kept his physical activity up, which is critical if sports were suddenly allowed to continue, which they were.

Even with sports that are more difficult to practice at home, there are still ways to stay active. Cotton mentioned how “[going] rollerblading and going ice skating” is a great substitute when trying to keep hockey skills up. Cotton herself has been doing stickhandling drills and some lifting to keep her physical activity up as well as to keep improving her game.

Many winter athletes are doing their best to stay active and are thrilled that their season can continue. Currently, there are many regulations in each sport that are expected to be followed at all times. Some of the protocols include masks needing to be worn at all times in Crown, including during practice and in the locker rooms, no food can be eaten inside Crown, and only ten people can be in the fitness gym at a time. If these protocols are followed, it is hopeful that the season will be able to continue.

Sport	IDPH Risk	Practices Start	Practice Dates Before Games	State Series	End Date
Boys/Girls Basketball	Higher	ASAP	7 dates	No State Series	March 13
Boys Swimming & Diving	Lower	ASAP	7 dates	No State Series	March 13
Dance	Lower	ASAP	7 dates	Virtual (2/27 & 3/6)	March 13
Cheerleading	Lower	ASAP	7 dates	Virtual (3/6 & 3/12)	March 13
Boys/Girls Bowling	Lower	ASAP	7 dates	No State Series	March 13
Girls Gymnastics	Lower	ASAP	7 dates	No State Series	March 13
Badminton	Lower	ASAP	7 dates	TBD	April 3
Boys Soccer	Moderate	March 1	7 dates	No State Series	April 17
Football	Higher	March 3	1st Game March 18	No State Series	April 24
Girls Volleyball	Moderate	March 8	7 dates	No State Series	April 24
Boys Gymnastics	Lower	March 15	7 dates	TBD	May 22
Boys/Girls Water Polo	Moderate	March 15	7 dates	TBD	May 29
Baseball	Lower	April 5	7 dates	TBD	June 19
Boys/Girls Lacrosse	Higher	April 5	7 dates	TBD	June 19
Girls Soccer	Moderate	April 5	7 dates	TBD	June 19
Softball	Lower	April 5	7 dates	TBD	June 19
Boys Tennis	Lower	April 5	7 dates	TBD	June 19
Boys/Girls Track & Field	Lower	April 5	7 dates	TBD	June 19
Boys Volleyball	Moderate	April 5	7 dates	TBD	June 19
Wrestling	Higher	April 19	7 dates	No State Series	June 12

Photo courtesy of the IHSA

A graph by the IHSA detailing the risk level, adjusted seasons, start and end dates, and other details for several different high school sports.

All I want for Christmas is representation

By Ramya Herman
Editor-in-Chief

Blackness is by no means a monolithic experience, a concept that has recently been emphasized in the media, and *Jingle Jangle* has managed to do so like never before. The movie, while telling a beautiful story all on its own, also provides a previously unwitnessed level of layered and multifaceted representation.

The actors who were cast display a number of different skin tones and hair types, a category that has lacked variety with many other movie attempts. The main character was of a darker complexion, as was the love interest, his wife. This is something that is unusual even in cinema today, a prime example being the new series *Bridgerton*, which, while displaying multiple complexions, repeatedly cast the married black women as lighter than their male counterparts.

The hairstyles for the show are unique, textured, and thoughtfully done. Netflix partnered with the black owned hair care product line Mielle in order to determine and create the styles shown in the movie, a clear indication of the effort put into accurate and encompassing representation.

The soundtrack and choreography implemented into this cinematic masterpiece also contribute to the surpassing of the black magic quota achieved by the film. It spans

several genres including afrobeats, rap, R&B, and even faint hints of neo-soul. Black artists like John Legend and Usher contributed to the musical component, being part of the writing process and also reproducing personally sung versions of the songs.

Such a diverse musical composition is only naturally accompanied by equally gratifying dance numbers. One prime ex-

tempt at incorporating black culture. They were intended to be a fusion of Victorian Era attire and African garments, the intent being well communicated in the brilliant patterns and colors adorned by the actors.

One of the most important aspects of this film, what makes it so infinitely powerful and captivating, is actually the lack of one key component present in far too

it is equally important to create media that communicates the fact that we as a people are complex, beautiful, and magical, not simply riddled with race-related trauma that seemingly drives our lives. Arguably, it is why movies such as this one or *Black Panther* are often watched repeatedly, while *When They See Us* is broken up into several viewings that must be mentally and emotionally prepared for.

Of course, there have been movies produced in the past with predominantly black casts, but many of them neglect to incorporate any whimsy or childlike holiday warmth into the work, making for admirable dramatic pieces, but certainly not *The Polar Express* or *Home Alone*, magical holiday films that others have the privilege of seeing themselves in so often.

Writer David E. Talbert created the piece in order to provide his son with a contemporary, representational Christmas movie, and the desired outcome of the production was clearly communicated and well received.

When my little sister looked on the screen and yelled “she has the same hair as me”, pointing to the intricately done 4C afro puff mohawk, I immediately knew that this film was much more positively impactful than many others that had come before it, and will hopefully set a precedent for those that follow.



Photo courtesy of Netflix

The whimsical film perfectly encapsulates the term “black girl magic”.

ample is a scene that features traditional Ghanaian dance moves, performed by an ensemble that includes two young Ghanaian actors: Diana Babincova and Princess K.

Even the costumes were a masterful at-

tempt at incorporating black culture. They were intended to be a fusion of Victorian Era attire and African garments, the intent being well communicated in the brilliant patterns and colors adorned by the actors. One of the most important aspects of this film, what makes it so infinitely powerful and captivating, is actually the lack of one key component present in far too

Got Soul? A look at Pixar's newest film

By Shylee Saladi
Managing Editor of Production

Have you ever thought to yourself, why do I like swimming or why am I interested in science? Have you ever wondered where your passions come from? Released in 2020, Pixar's *Soul* is an emotion-packed, heart-wrenching view of New York City that caught the eyes of many young adults and even an older audience as well. Through the eyes of a true jazz-playing New Yorker, Joe Gardner experiences it all. *Soul* tells the story of high school teacher turned jazz pianist, Joe Gardner, who has a near-death experience that gets him stuck in the after-life, leaving him in contemplation of the choices he has made and the things he took for granted.

The first black male lead in a Pixar movie, Joe Gardner, played by Jamie Foxx, learns later in life, even if someone turns out to be a high school music teacher, there is something more in life for that person, such as being a mentor. Gardner learns about what life truly is once he loses the ability to be in his own body, as if he died and went to the afterlife. His mentee, named 22, helps him realize how amazing life is and all of the firsts that occur while on Earth, like eating your first piece of food and meeting new people. The pur-

pose of the afterlife is to teach each unborn child how to find their spark that allows them to live on earth. Gardner learns about the importance of family, following his dreams, and life overall.

Soul is a cinematic adventure that no viewer thought possible. Pixar's exquisite CGI animation is absolutely flaw-

less and is what puts this movie on a different level than most of the newer Disney movies. Despite the beautifully animated afterlife and “beforelife”, the real prize is right on Earth in New York City. The level of creativity needed to come up with all the twists and turns of *Soul* is hard to come by, but this movie has it all. Despite the fact that the audience cannot actually see the actors and actresses in this film, their voices portray the characters

watch, the length is somewhat worrisome, especially for younger viewers. Many times it feels like the movie is at a good place to end, but it keeps going. The many storylines within the movie make it confusing at times, especially moving between the afterlife and Earth. Many scenes in the movie aren't quite as funny as the actors are supposed to make it seem. As many Disney movies are geared towards children, the concept of adding jazz to *Soul* entrances adults, but puts children to sleep. The thought to add jazz to a Disney movie is one for the books, but it is also something that doesn't necessarily pull children in. Overall, *Soul* is a very good movie with many layers to peel back every time it's watched.

Many people may think that Disney movies are only for children; movies like *Soul* encourage children and adults alike to watch them. This movie is tagged with being a family comedy, and it shows in many ways. *Soul* incorporates many hard themes to talk about, but all the while includes a beautifully written jazz score. This film has so many different layers to the story that no matter how many times you watch it, you will get something different out of it each time. Through all of the storylines, adventures, and comedy, *Soul* reaches out to so many people in order to be watched together.



Photo by Shylee Saladi

Students watch the newest Pixar movie on the Disney+ streaming platform.

less and is what puts this movie on a different level than most of the newer Disney movies. Despite the beautifully animated afterlife and “beforelife”,

well. Each character in this movie has their own unique backstory, and when all put together, connect seamlessly.

Though this movie is an incredible

Arts and Entertainment

Warner Bros. to release entirety of the studio's 2021 movies simultaneously on HBO Max and in theaters

By Nick Alutto
Editor-in-Chief

Since March 2020, many movie theaters have remained closed, and most major movie releases have pushed their release dates back, due to the ongoing pandemic.

Movie theaters received another hit to their future earnings when Warner Bros. announced its decision to release their entire 2021 movie lineup on HBO Max at the same time that the movies will be released in theaters. A total of 16 movies are a part of this new distribution plan including blockbusters like *Godzilla vs. Kong*, *The Matrix 4*, *The Suicide Squad*, *In the Heights*, *Dune*, and *Space Jam 2*.

This decision comes after Warner Bros. attempted to release Christopher Nolan's *Tenet* in September. *Tenet* only earned around \$58 million at the domestic box office, a disappointing return compared to his last movie, *Dunkirk*, which made \$190 million in the US.

WarnerMedia, the company that owns Warner Bros. and HBO Max, stands in a

very profitable position from this deal. On top of not having to delay their movies any longer, they also got a boost in subscribers on their new streaming service. HBO Max launched in May of 2020, and its previous biggest draws in terms of original content included an Elmo talk show, a Seth Rogen movie where he plays a man from the 1800s preserved in pickle juice, and a documentary about a dangerous theme park in the 1980s called Action Park. The addition of 16 movies that were originally supposed to be released in theaters allowed HBO Max to reach its goal of 40 million subscribers two years ahead of schedule.

On the other hand, movie theater chains are put in an even more perilous situation as a result of this decision. With many theaters being unable to open, and many people afraid of going to movie theaters, revenue at movie theaters plummeted in 2020. Movie theater chains that were hoping to have a boost in revenue due to the upcoming vaccine now have to face the reality that a large portion of their potential profits will be in jeopardy for the rest of 2021.

In a statement released to The Hollywood Reporter, AMC theaters responded to this news, stating, "As for AMC, we will do all in our power to ensure that Warner does not do so at our expense. We will aggressively pursue economic terms that preserve our business."

While Warner Bros. releasing its mov-

ies simultaneously on HBO Max may have been good news for the subscription service and for fans who were looking forward to being able to watch new releases once again, the effect that this will have on the already struggling movie theater companies remains to be seen.



Photo Courtesy of Warner Bros.

A promotional image for *Godzilla VS. Kong*, which will release on HBO Max on March 31, 2021.

Disney+ rapidly expanding original content

By Garrison Sloan
Editor-in-Chief

On November 12th, 2019, Disney entered into the streaming market by launching their new service, Disney+. At launch, the main draw of Disney+ compared to other streaming services was the strong IPs owned by Disney, which includes the entire catalogues of Disney, Pixar, Marvel, and Star Wars films. However, the platform lacked a major key to success: hit original shows and limited series. At launch and through 2020, Disney+ only had one such series, *The Mandalorian*, a high-budget space-western set in the Star Wars universe. However, at Disney's investor day back in early December, the company announced that that would soon be changing, as a massive slate of original series, mainly for the Marvel and Star Wars IPs, will be coming in 2021 and beyond.

Following the release of *Avengers: Endgame* in 2019, it looked like Marvel Studios was ready for a new beginning of sorts, as the film wrapped up the "Infinity Saga," a narrative that spanned nearly

11 years and over 20 films. It now seems that not only will Marvel be telling a new extended story, they're also going to be adding a new medium for it to be told in. Marvel launched their first streaming series, *WandaVision*, on January 15th, a deeply weird yet compelling mystery series starring Elizabeth Olsen and Paul Bettany. *WandaVision*, however, will not be the studio's only series launching this year. Anthony Mackie and Sebastian Stan are set to star in *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier*, which will release in March. Just two months later will come the release of *Loki*, with Tom Hiddleston reprising his role as the god of mischief from the Marvel films. Over the summer the studio will release *What If...?*, an animated series that will explore alternate outcomes to some of the Marvel films. Finally, two series, *Hawkeye* and *Ms. Marvel*, will be released at an unannounced point near the end of 2021. Additionally, Marvel has announced 6 other shows that will premiere after 2021: *Moon Knight*, *She-Hulk*, *Secret Invasion*, *Ironheart*, *Armor Wars*, and a kids series titled *I am Groot*.

Moving over to the world of Star Wars, there's another large slate of content being prepared. Following the massive success of the first two seasons of *The Mandalorian*, Lucasfilm announced that they will be producing several spinoff shows following characters introduced in that series, which will eventually culminate in a shared narrative (WARNING: This next section contains spoilers for Season 2 of *The Mandalorian*). The first of these will be *The Book of Boba Fett*, which will star Temuera Morrison and Ming-Na Wen, and will release in late December 2021. *The Book of Boba Fett* will be followed by the release of Season 3 of *The Mandalorian* sometime in early 2022. Capping off the entries into the Mando-verse will be *Ahsoka*, starring Rosario Dawson, and *Rangers of the New Republic*. Neither series has a specified release date. Multiple other series set in the Star Wars universe have also been announced, including *Obi-Wan Kenobi*, *Andor*, *Lando*, and *The Acolyte*, though none currently have a release date. Various other Lucasfilm projects, both related and unrelated to the Star Wars universe are also

in development.

All of this content will, unfortunately, not come without a cost to consumers. With the reveal of many of these new shows, Disney also announced that the Disney+ subscription cost will be going up from \$6.99 a month to \$7.99 a month. Their bundle package, which includes Hulu and ESPN+ alongside Disney+, will also see a price increase from \$13.99 to \$14.99. This change is set to take effect in March, and with the increased costs necessary to produce original shows for Disney+ alongside Disney's normal slate of movies, it would not be surprising to eventually see the cost increased further.

Disney, the world's second-largest entertainment company, is looking to maintain its dominance in the industry, with a massive schedule of new shows for its streaming service that stretches past 2022. While all this content will come at the cost of higher subscription fees, for fans of the Marvel and Star Wars franchises, that is likely a price they'll well be willing to pay.



Kathleen Kennedy, president of Lucasfilm, stands in front of some of the new content for Disney+ that was announced at Disney Investor Day 2020.

Photo Courtesy of Disney

BEASTARS Season 2: Welcome back to Cherryton

By: Aylin Tepe
Staff Writer

Season 1 spoilers ahead

After a massively successful first season, Paru Itagaki's award-winning manga series *Beastars* has officially released its second season on the popular content platform Netflix. The critically acclaimed series has garnered the support of thousands due to its elaborate storyline, fantastic soundtrack, and beautiful animation.

Often referred to as "R Rated Zootopia" due to the fact that both series contain anthropomorphic animals, the similarities between the two lie at surface value as the world of *Beastars* takes a much darker turn. Many often water down the complexity of this series to that of a kids show, but *Beastars* manages to compellingly incorporate the mundanities of high school life, to larger than life topics such as racism, social taboos and discriminatory prejudice. The first season of *Beastars* covers the murder of a student at Cherryton



Photo Courtesy of Orange: Anime Studio

Academy, which causes a major rift in this already tense, fictional society between herbivores and carnivores. The protagonist, a grey wolf called Legoshi, who is all too aware of his social standing as a "vicious" carnivore, has to deal with constant prejudice directed towards him, while simultaneously grappling with his own, deeper instincts. The series later takes on a slightly romantic turn as Legoshi falls for a herbivore, a dwarf rabbit named Haru. Well aware of society's view on this scandalous friendship-turned romance, the two struggle to maintain their daily lives while dealing with the complicated emotions of youth.

The initial 12 episodes ends with a cliffhanger that brought tears of frustration to my eyes, but so far, the second season has managed to unravel some of the show's multifaceted mysteries. A brand new opening with lyrics that tie directly into the plot, the introduction of captivating c-

haracters, and after credits that tug at the heartstrings, it is clear that *Beastars* is preparing to make audiences howl. Additionally, the second season tackles the taboo of consuming meat in a much more straightforward fashion than before, insinuating that the season would get even grittier. Even with only three episodes of the second season out, I can personally claim that no corners were cut, and the series is continuing to pave its way towards quite the wild legacy.

Plot twists, conflict, and drama galore, *Beastars* will leave you on the edge of your seat with every episode. This idiosyncratic series offers a refreshing perspective on nature vs. nurture, instinct vs rational thought, and control. If you wish to dive into this fictional world, be prepared for an untamed journey of push-and-pull conflict as you watch the characters sort out their past in order to move on with their future.

Big Mouth Season 2 review: A fresh take on preteen angst

By: Bela De Jesús
Managing Editor of Global Perspectives

Everyone's favorite animated middle schooler's are back! *Big Mouth* Season four came out on December 4th, 2020 after a couple months delay due to Covid-19 restrictions. The season was long awaited after the success of the first three seasons, which followed Nick, Andrew, and their



Photo courtesy of Netflix

friends as they navigate puberty in middle school. The show is known for its raunchy humor and comedic writing from some of the best comedians and writers in the game. Season four is no different in its hilarity, and insanity.

We follow Nick, Andrew, and Jessie as they go to sleep away camp, while the rest of the gang stays in Westchester. On top of keeping the same witty humor and bizarre relationships, *Big Mouth* addresses issues that needed to be addressed. The season introduces the Anxiety Mosquito, which follows the middle schoolers as they go through the summer. The manifestation of anxiety is something that many kids deal with, and it's included in a funny, yet thoughtful way. The show also made a change to their cast in replacing Jenny Slate, the voice actor for Missy, with writer Ayo Edebiri, who made her acting debut this season.

Their choice to evolve the cast with Missy is essential, as Missy comes to terms with being a mixed-race pre-teen, and struggles with her complex racial identity as a mixed black woman in this season. This shows that the show is evolving with its characters, which is something that should be applauded. While the season can get weird at times, it is definitely worth a watch, and if you haven't seen the whole show yet, you should; it's a great laugh full of absurd fun.

The Queen's Gambit engulfs you in the tale of a troubled child prodigy

By Sage Ye
Staff Writer

Recently, a new show called *Queen's Gambit* has taken over Netflix and captivated audiences worldwide. It came out in late October of 2020, and since then, it has only grown in attention and viewership. The story is taken not from history, but from a book called *Queen's Gambit* by author Walter Travis. Although it is not a true story, many characters seem to parallel real life chess legends during the 1960s, such as one Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky.

The show follows Beth Harmon, the female underdog chess player who charms audiences through a series of cunning moves in her chess games, as well as her resilience to the struggles that come her way. An important part of Harmon's life that the episodes follow is her usage and eventual addiction to drugs and alcohol. Harmon's chess success and her substance abuse work as two plot lines that drive the show, and thoroughly intertwine. The games themselves are nothing short of

riveting. Every match Harmon plays displays her sharp intuition as well comprehension of each piece and their moves.

The show itself does a very fine job of showcasing the epic highs and lows of simple chess games, authentically representing how real players feel when they sit in front of the board. One possible critique could be how it handles substance abuse in an unrealistic way, but that and any criticism falls short when you get through a story that's sewn together by the perfect mix of drama, beauty, emotion, and chess. The show was just what everyone needed at a time where everyone is staying home bingeing, and its popularity has been reflected by the sudden growth of the chess community, with seven million people joining Chess.com in the two months following the show's release. Even non-chess enthusiasts will find something to enjoy in it. It is most definitely a show to check out filled with characters to fall in love with.



Photo Courtesy of Netflix

Taylor Swift's Evermore album review

By Kirstin Palasz
Photo Editor

Taylor Swift has been an icon in the music industry since she released her first album in 2006. The 31 year old artist has since released nine albums, earning her two Album of the Year Awards, which only one other artist has done. She has won ten Grammys with 41 nominations for various categories, and has had 7 number one songs on the Billboard Hot 100 with 29 songs in the top ten.

Swift started as a country artist and has since evolved into different genres over her years in the industry; after country she transitioned into pop and then into alternative. Throughout her years in the spotlight, she has also evolved as an individual as well.

Evermore is Swift's most recent album



"Evermore" album cover by Kirstin Palasz

following her album *Folklore*. Fans speculate that *Evermore* is a continuation of *Folklore*. Since being released on December 11, 2020, the album has had over 50 million streams. The album consists of 17 songs, each one having a unique aspect either through the lyrics or the melody or the music. *Evermore* is very different from

her usual music. Each song is very distinctive, but overall they each have a softer tone. Many fans are disappointed with the gentle, alternative music and want her to go back to uplifting pop music. However, with her new music, even if softer, the lyrics are what truly shine in these songs.

The amount of emotion put into each song is very impressive since it was written in a mere five months. In her song "Tolerate It" one of the lyrics is, "I wait by the door like I'm just a kid, use my best colors, lay the table with fancy s***, and watch you tolerate it". This is just an example of the depth she is able to create with just a single lyric. She uses metaphors to create representations of her relationships. In "Gold Rush," one of the lyrics is "My mind turns your life into folklore, I can't dare to dream about you anymore."

This lyric connects back to *Folklore* as well as creates a deeper story. Each of the songs create their own storylines and even certain songs connect to each other. Although there is an alternate reality in her songs and the stories she creates, many seem to connect back to her own life.

Other than the actual lyrics, each song has similar feelings, yet each has a unique component. In "Closure," she has an outstanding instrumental aspect to the song that takes it above and beyond. In "No Body, No Crime," she brings in her country roots in the instrumental, which brings fans back to her original music. In "Ivy", she creates more of an upbeat tone with the acoustics. Overall, *Evermore* is made up of some amazing lyrics that show Swift's depth in the music she is able to create.

A country in disarray:

How people have reacted to President Biden's assumption of power

By Garrison Sloan
Editor-in-Chief

Despite months of discourse and vitriol surrounding the 2020 Presidential election, on January 20th, 2021, Joseph R. Biden Jr. was sworn in as the 46th President of the United States. Throughout the last two months, however, the American tradition of a peaceful transition of power from one president to the next has been anything but that. Despite Biden calling for unity, baseless claims of election fraud, intense political division, and even an armed insurrection at the Capitol building, have marked this historic period in American history.

Directly following the presidential race being called in favor of Joe Biden, incumbent Donald Trump launched several lawsuits and election challenges, mainly in key states such as Georgia, Pennsylvania, Arizona, and Wisconsin, spearheaded by his personal lawyer and former mayor of New York City, Rudy Giuliani. These lawsuits and challenges were quickly found by the states to not be supported by any evidence, and were quickly dismissed. In Georgia and Wisconsin, where Biden won by very slim margins, Trump requested recounts, but those still came back in Biden's favor.

With the Electoral College votes verified, they were sent to Congress for certification. Though congressional certification is mainly a ceremonial process that is unlikely

to change the results of an election, things went very wrong very quickly. On January 6th, the day election certification was set to take place, then-President Trump held a rally on the national mall in front of thousands of his supporters, continuing to pedal his baseless claims of election fraud. Incited by the rhetoric of Trump and the other speakers at the event, the rally quickly became a mob that began to march towards the Capitol building. From there, the nation watched as thousands of Trump supporters, many armed, swarmed and breached the

Capitol building, prompting evacuations of both the House and Senate. In the end, no members of Congress were harmed, but dozens of rioters and police officers ended up injured, and five people died, four rioters and one Capitol Police officer.

Nevertheless, the joint session of the Senate and House of Representatives reconvened later that evening and continued to work undeterred to certify the results of the election. Multiple Republican representatives and senators did still vote to object to the results of multiple states'

electoral votes. However, this opposition didn't amount to much, and the certification process was eventually completed.

Just two weeks after the building was swarmed by a violent mob, President Joe Biden was sworn in on the steps of the Capitol building. While the ceremony itself was full of memorable moments, the reality is that Biden still has a historical amount of work ahead of him. He's inheriting a still-raging pandemic, an economic crisis, heightened racial tensions, and a historic level of political division. On his first day, Biden signed a large stack of executive orders, mainly rolling back policies pushed through by the Trump administration during the lame-duck period (the last two months in his presidency following his election loss). Over the past few weeks, Biden has continued to roll back some of the more controversial policies of the Trump administration, including the national emergency funding for the southern border wall construction and the ban on transgender people serving in the military.

Overall, there is a lot of work ahead of the new administration as it heads into its first 100 days. Biden has some bold plans, including his efforts to vaccinate 150 million Americans for COVID-19 by April, but perhaps his most ambitious plan is uniting the country, which has become so incredibly divided over the last four years.



Pro-Trump rioters swarm the Capitol building, incited by the rhetoric of the former President.

A Christmas day catastrophe

By James Kuhns
Managing Editor of Podcasting

Every new month of 2020 seemed to bring a new catastrophe with it, and as the year crawled to a close, people across the United States hoped to enjoy a stress free holiday season. Unfortunately, this aspiration could not come true after a bomb carrying RV detonated in downtown Nashville, Tennessee, on December 25, 2020.

For the business owners and residents living on Nashville's famous 2nd street, Christmas day began like any other. At 5:30 AM, as the city began to wake, the morning silence was pierced by a countdown from a parked RV that urged citizens to leave the vicinity. The noise managed to wake up those closest to the RV. After hearing the warning, Betsy Williams called the police and reported what she heard.

After almost an hour, at 6:30 AM on Christmas Day, 2020, an explosion rocked downtown Nashville. Within 15 minutes, most of the major city streets had been locked down, and three people were transported to nearby hospitals after sustaining non-life threatening injuries from the blast. By mid-day, the police and federal agents dispatched to the scene had linked the bombing to the suspicious RV and deemed the explosion to be intentional.

The bombing did not only affect those in the blast's radius, as the explosion damaged the AT&T regional telecommunications hub, leaving millions of people without cell phone service in states as far away as Missouri and Illinois. News spread quickly, and many took to the internet to share their prayers with those hurt by the tragedy. With so much national response, two questions still remained: who was behind the bombing, and why did they do it?

After extensive DNA testing and tips from the suspect's ex-girlfriend, federal authorities identified Anthony Warner as the Nashville bomber. Having died in the explosion, Warner's motives have remained unclear, but as Nashville recovers, people across the US began to worry about the spontaneous nature of the attack.

LFA Senior Rohan Miglani, who heard the news only an hour after the explosion, was "shocked and unsure of what to think." The uncertainty surrounding Warner's motives left Miglani feeling "uneasy" and worried for the possibility of a similar attack in Chicago. As more information surfaces on this case, it is only a matter of time before we truly understand the reasons for this non-fatal yet traumatizing bombing on American soil.



After the devastating bombing, the city of Nashville moves to rebuild both mentally and physically.

Distribution plans for COVID-19 vaccine

By **Bela De Jesús**

Managing Editor of *Global Perspectives*

With the COVID-19 pandemic closing in on its twelfth month, the vaccines are glimmers of hope for its end. When the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was first administered on December 11, as was the Moderna vaccine on December 18, the world rejoiced at the idea that there was a chance for herd immunity. However, the logistics of distribution and lack of supply, especially in the United States, has slowed the process.

In the United States, the federal government has given individual counties authority of distribution in their respective regions. Problems do arise in the fact that the federal government does have guidelines, which sometimes conflict with local authorities. However, Lake County, the county in which LFA is located, is handling distribution very well. In dealing with a lack of supply and immense necessity, they have an organized distribution and made it look easy.

Lake County organized their distribution into phases like most of the country. The distribution process made sure that those who are at a higher risk received the vaccine first, and the least at risk will receive it last. People who are able to receive the vaccine have to register for an appointment online on the Lake County AllVax registry. The first phase, 1A, includes health-

care personnel and long-term care facility residents. The second phase includes teachers, which means the LFA faculty and staff are eligible to receive the vaccine currently. Thankfully, new resources will become available soon, and the LFA medical staff and administration will continue to support faculty and staff so they can be among the first to get the vaccine.

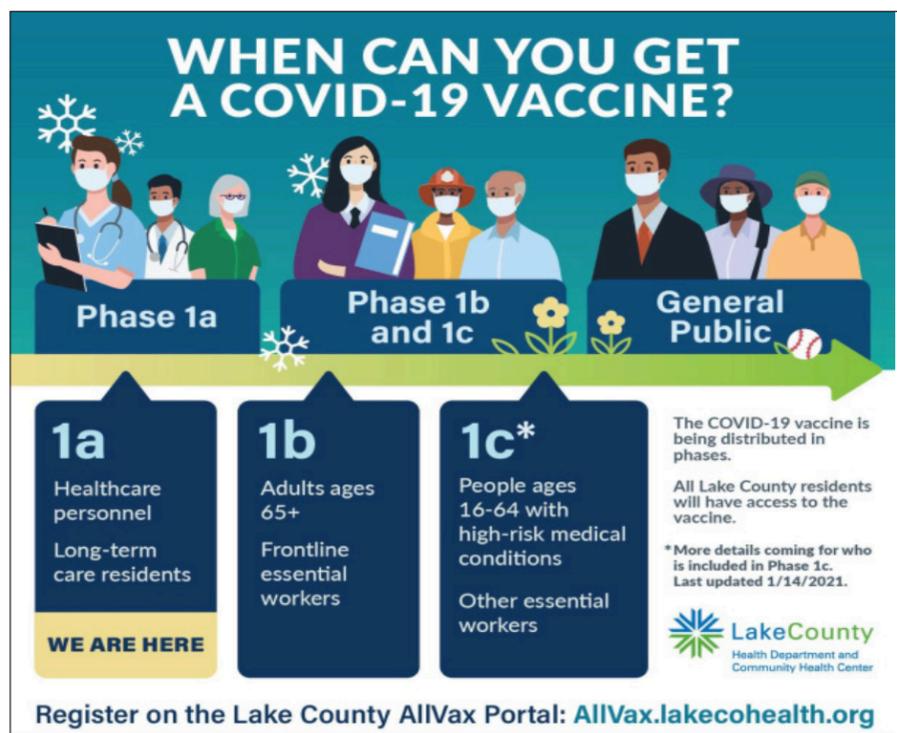
Anna Kliner, LFA's Director of Health Services, believes the vaccine being available for teachers is a step in the right direction. When asked how the vaccine could affect our community, Kliner stated, "The risk of our faculty and staff being at risk decreases...On the ground, it's not really going to change much." The vaccination helps ensure the safety of faculty, staff, and students, and allows for a step towards herd immunity at LFA. Though many faculty and staff will be receiving the vaccine, all of the COVID-19 related restrictions and rules will stay in place, as many of the students are still at risk. Kliner pointed out that the Pfizer vaccine is only available for people 16 and over, so a portion of our community is ineligible to get the vaccine at all. Kliner also emphasized that, "Even if you've been vaccinated, you can still spread and transmit COVID." It is essential that students and faculty still take precautions to keep oth-

ers safe, and that our faculty being vaccinated does not solve all of our problems.

Kliner recognized another issue within the distribution system, and that is the prejudice and marginalization within the health system. She stated that her fear is, "the people who have been under-served and marginalized in our health system will continue to be marginalized and not able to have access." There are many injustices when it comes to the United States

health system, and Kliner hopes all who want the vaccine will be able to access it.

While there are many opinions and issues about the distribution of vaccines, the process is still very new. It has only been slightly over two months that the vaccines have been available. It is too early to determine whether distribution has been a success or not, but it is safe to say that the country has a long way to go.



Courtesy of Lake County Illinois website

Infographic shows when various members of the population are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines.

America divided: Jacob Blake court decision is another point of division in an already divided nation

By **David Oluwale**

Senior Sports Editor

The year 2020 was a tumultuous journey of unrest and injustice. Whether speaking on the murder of George Floyd or Breonna Taylor, it is apparent that people of color in the United States are not treated equally. This belief has been further solidified through the sentencing of the officers involved in the shooting of Jacob Blake, or rather the lack thereof.

Jacob Blake is a 29-year-old male who

lives in Kenosha, Wisconsin. He was allegedly stopping a fight when he was confronted by the police. He was questioned by the officers, then resisted arrest leading the officers to tase him. The officers also said that Jacob Blake admitted to having a knife in his car. Ultimately, when walking back to his car, the officers proceeded to shoot him not once, but seven times in his back.

The officers involved in this incident claimed they were in fear for their lives, yet seven shots were fired with Blake's back turned away. Resisting any arrest is against the law, but this incident highlights the re-

occurring issue of police overusing their power. It is now common for people to fear for their lives around law enforcement, even if they haven't committed a crime.

The officers involved in the shooting were not charged. The Kenosha County district attorney, Michael Graveley, stated that the officers had a strong case for self-defense due to the fact that Blake was near a knife when he was shot. Graveley also said the officers' only option was to arrest Blake, due to children being in the back of the car. He also stated that once officers found out that Blake had an arrest warrant

out, arresting Blake became a priority. Regarding the seven shots fired by officers, Graveley stated that the defense attorney has a strong argument indicating that the actions were things he learned in training.

The decision regarding the officers was a sad moment in countless households across the country. Moments like these make people question how protected minorities are in this country. Many people within the community of Lake Forest Academy felt directly impacted by the lack of action. When asked, junior Akindede Aboyade stated his strong feelings towards the situation. "I feel appalled by how corrupt the system is; it's sad and demoralizing how people are afraid of the police when they are supposed to protect us."

Division among opinions in the United States has become a growing issue, with both sides struggling to find any kind of unity. If one side feels unheard and hopeless, the other fails to empathize and understand what is felt by people other than themselves.

The importance of listening to others' perspectives could help ease the divide in America. Even if the other perspective goes against your beliefs, the only way to find common ground is to listen. If people are able to understand the point of view of many African Americans and discuss issues such as police overusing their authority, it is possible that there could be more unity.



Photo courtesy of Creative Commons

Protesters flock the streets in US cities following Jacob Blake's court decision.