



**FEATURES**

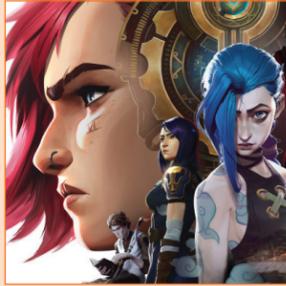
In addition to the new year, LFA built a new all gendered bathroom adjacent to the girls bathroom for both students and faculty to use.



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**SHOWCASE**

Dying to catch up on everything that happened in 2021, from music to TV shows, As well as the best of the best moments in sports?



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**A&E**

The death of Betty White shocked the world, and America's dad from *Full House*, Bob Saget, passed away only days after.



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# Spring Gala 2022: New Health Center

By Shylee Saladi  
*Editor-in-Chief*

A project put into motion by Head of School Jose De Jesús and his desire “to bring together both physical and physiologic health in one space” has brought about the Gala 2022 project: the new Health Center.

When the Board of Trustees approved the proposal for a Health Center on-campus, it was a no-brainer that it was going to be the next Gala project. The Health Center will be a 1.4 million dollar project with almost all of the funds coming from the Gala, held in April 2022, going towards the repurposing of the 4,500 square foot space in the lower level of New Hall. De Jesús is hopeful that the renovation will be completed during the beginning of the 2022-23 school year.

Anna Kliner, Director of Health Services, was hired during the

beginning of the pandemic in order to ensure the safety of the LFA community. As she used her expertise, she also increased the number of people on her team, which resulted in a need for more space than just the Health Services hallway in Upper Reid. This space will be “completely funded through philanthropy, through gifts from parents, alumni, alumni parents, members of the board of trustees” said Vice President of Advancement, Dr. Robert Buckla.

Even though this process has been in the works for a while, the pandemic really pushed the project forward as the urgency for more care and more services increased. The purpose of the new Health Center will be to expand the services offered at LFA, including dermatologists, gynecologists, psychiatrists, etc., as well as providing 24-hour nursing care to LFA students and faculty. This



Photo by Rachael Josephsen

A mix of alumni, parents, faculty and Board of Trustee members gather in lower Reid for the Gala dinner in 2019.

is such an improvement to LFA because there has never been the ability to receive extra services, especially for international boarding students. In this new space, LFA hopes to offer group therapy and a relaxing lounge area that is both de-stressing and calming. The hope for this new center is to be a more physically-accessible space as well as a larger space that is more inviting for students. One of the goals that LFA's administration had is to start de-

creasing the stigma surrounding mental health at school; this is a great way to show how the school is doing that. Many students on campus will benefit from having 24-hour nursing care as well as a more accessible space for therapy.

There are plans for at least four resting rooms for day and boarding students to use, which is a much-needed improvement from the two resting rooms that are currently available. There will also be a brand new lab space in order to do in-house testing instead of sending samples to outside labs. In addition to these new plans, there will be a wellness garden located outside of lower New Hall. The wellness garden will be very different from the formal gardens as it will just be a small peaceful space right outside the Health Center for students and faculty to destress.

The larger space will be incredibly useful because there

won't be any congestion at the entrance of the nurses' door or throughout the small hallway in upper Reid. Although the athletic trainers will stay in Crown, the larger space will allow for the trainers to come and help with corporal injuries. Kliner said, “The goal is to be able to expand our collaboration with them [athletic trainers], especially because during the school day, their hours are a little different, and for muscular, skeletal injuries, it makes a lot more sense for them to see students.”

Buckla also explicitly said that “none of the improvements of campus facilities is getting paid for by tuition,” but solely by donations to the school. Philanthropy is how LFA continues to change and improve with the times as more and more students come through the doors every year, and everyone who's part of the community will be able to fully utilize these much needed resources in a larger space.



Photo courtesy of LFA Advancement

A drawing of the floor plan shows the layout of the new Health Center.

# LFA's take on the recent Omicron variant

By Nghi Doan & Max Ma

*Managing Editor of News & Photo Editor*

With the rapid spread of the most recent COVID variant, Omicron, LFA faced a number of challenges upon returning to school in-person in January. Well aware of what Omicron is capable of in terms of its transmissibility, the school decided to require a Covid test upon coming back after Winter Break, which allowed the school to identify the variant early on. The first and second week of school both shared a positivity rate around 8.5%. During the second week of class, the school decided to pause in-person classes for three days and instead, switch to e-learning.

According to Chris Tennyson, Associ-

ate Head of School and Dean of Students, "The reason for the pause wasn't because of the number of cases we had. We took the pause because the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Board of Education decided to align themselves with the CDC guidelines, which said isolation doesn't need to be ten days, but five days." Although there are a number of schools that allow students to just return after five days, LFA decided that students need to take a rapid test after five days to make sure that they are not infectious. Tennyson further explained, "There were just so many moving parts surrounding the change in guidance with trying to get students isolated, and also welcoming people

back. We wanted to make sure that when we came back, we could provide the best classroom experiences. So we took the pause, and it worked out great." Taking advantage of the Mengel conference room and open bedrooms in the dorms to isolate students and transition students back, the school managed itself through the guidance by taking a pause. With the positivity rate being 8.5% for the first two weeks following the Winter Break, LFA has also taken some precautions in the dorms, to prevent further spreading of the Omicron.

There will be a short term policy preventing students from visiting each others' rooms, as according to Tennyson, "What we were seeing early on was that people

were going to other rooms and unmasking, and it was becoming a little bit concerning, so what we are trying to do is to limit that a little bit."

As Covid cases increased during the first two weeks, there were many questions surrounding whether LFA should have an all-school Covid test. When asked about these questions, Tennyson expressed, "We don't plan to do all school testing, and the reason for that is that the guidance says that if you are fully vaccinated, asymptomatic, and have not been identified as close contact, then you don't have to test regularly." With LFA policy including being fully masked, we are not required to do weekly testing, as in schools with a mask-optional policy, they are more subjected to weekly testing. Regarding the future influence of this new Covid variant on the LFA community, Tennyson expressed an optimistic view, "We are excited, and confident that our positivity rate is going to continue to come down. Just last night, the state of Illinois indicated that we are on the other side of the peak now. These are good indicators for us, certainly a gleam of hope."

Ideally, looking ahead into May and April, as the surge reaches its peak and subsides, the school has a high degree of confidence that it will return to a relative state of normalcy with more opportunities and great activities.



Photo by Nghi Doan & Max Ma

LFA student poses in front of the Student Center, happy to be back in-person despite Omicron.

## Boosters administered on campus

By Shylee Saladi

*Editor-in-Chief*

From the start of the pandemic, LFA as a community has persevered and gone through great lengths to keep its students in-person and healthy. Many people were amazed when the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines were FDA approved as it allowed for many students to return back to school all across the country—especially when it became available for younger children.

Just before this school year started, the Pfizer and Moderna boosters became available for people working on the front lines, and by now, the Pfizer booster has become widely available for everyone over the age of twelve who also got the two Pfizer or Moderna vaccines five months before getting the booster.

The boosters are currently offered at LFA for those eligible to receive it. Anna Kliner, Director of Health Services, has set up a partnership "with a local organization who administers the vaccines." This is being offered "as a service to our community, especially our minor boarding students [students below age of 18] who may find it logistically challenging to access boosters off campus," Kliner said. The overall vaccination rate throughout LFA has increased drastically over the past year, and hopefully with the administration of the booster, students will have even more protection

against the new variant. This will lead to fewer students attending school via Zoom, and a "boost" to the school environment.

Though LFA has not required boosters to participate in any of the weekend events or school trips, some outside companies and organizations may require the booster. Many school trips that usually take place in the spring do not currently have a certified yes or no from the school due to the high number of COVID-19 cases surrounding the destination of the trip, but no trips have

been canceled since the LFA students could not go to the Illinois High School Theater Festival and the usual Model UN trip was made virtual.

Having these dates to get boosted will allow students to get boosted for the trips that require it as well as provide a higher vaccination rate for the school in general. The main goal of the vaccines and boosters are to "provide increased protection against severe disease requiring hospitalization and death," as Kliner explained. Neither

the booster nor the vaccine are supposed to prevent getting COVID-19, but lessen the severity when or if you do get it.

The CDC encourages people to get their booster in order to prevent serious symptoms. Having less symptoms not only gives you a better time with your health during COVID, but gives you a chance to return earlier from quarantine. The booster gives you the opportunity to miss less of the classroom, your friends, and life in general.



A COVID booster shot being prepared to be administered.

Photo courtesy of Unsplash

FEBRUARY 4, 2022

# Teachers' Unions Push for Remote Learning

By Richard Zhang and TJ Minsky  
Managing Editor of Digital and Staff  
Writer

As COVID has once again made a surge in the United States, it has made its way into schools, causing a huge dilemma. More specifically, since returning from the lengthy holiday break, Chicago Public Schools have had trouble keeping both the teachers and students content. Countless teachers feel as if CPS is not doing enough to keep them safe from the new strand of COVID and believe remote learning would be better during the moment. On the other hand, most students prefer learning in-person.

Many of Chicago's public school teachers have been showing their opposition in protest towards the policies that the Chicago Board of Education sanctions force teachers to continue to teach in-person. The CEO of CPS, Pedro Martinez, stated that the CPS decision to sanction these policies on schools is "firm" and "protects our students mental and physical health while promoting their academic progress."

When asked what it was like working in public schools when the Teachers' Union and the local government were at odds, Journalism Program Coordinator Mandy

Krause said, "I was working as a public school teacher in Wisconsin when there was a lot of controversy around new state policies and teachers' unions losing their ability to collectively bargain, a major tenet of workers' rights in the U.S. It was a highly pressuring time to be a new teacher--wanting to do the right thing, but being pulled between schools hoping new teachers wouldn't join a union, and having colleagues and mentors feeling passionately about their causes and wanting you to come to meetings. I had witnessed literal sit-ins and protests while student-teaching, and while I was subbing, I'd read over lesson plans for the day, and see that teachers had gone to protest, which is why they were gone. When I got my first job, union members realized I had a background of living in DC and being really politically aware, so they tried to recruit me to get involved in the union ranks immediately. There was definitely a lot of tumult.

When asked how in-person learning compares to remote learning, Christoph '22 said, "In person learning has allowed me to excel in my learning because of the social interactions I can have with my teachers as well as the group learning style."

However, many teachers feel



Photo Courtesy of Creative Commons

Teachers in Chicago regularly exercise their right to protest.

differently about the reopening of schools after the surge in COVID cases after Winter Break. Back in mid-January, the Chicago Teachers Union voted to not report to school for at least one day until Mayor Lori Lightfoot signed an agreement with approvable conditions for return, or until the surge in COVID cases subsided. Lightfoot responded to this sentiment with a statement that the city had "spent over \$100 million to put mitigations in place" and assured that schools were safe to "learn and thrive in school," but teachers remained away due to the protest for days.

After Lightfoot and CPS further negotiated with the Chicago Teachers Union, the CTU decided to hold a vote to decide if they'd return or

not, facing pressure from the city and CPS on making a quick decision. In the end, the teacher's union barely decided to vote to stay in-person, with just around 55% of the vote. However, after the vote, hundreds of CPS students weren't happy about the return to school and held a walkout over COVID safety. A student told ABC7 news that "the environments that we are in are not clean. They are not sanitary."

CPS is in a tough situation as both the teachers and students have mixed feelings over in-person vs. remote learning. As of right now, most Chicago Public Schools are back to learning in-person while some teachers and students choose to work from home.

# The new all-gender bathroom

By Anushua Srivastava  
Asst. Managing Editor of Production

As we returned for the second semester of school in the new year of 2022, LFA opened the school with a new gender-inclusive improvement – the all gender bathroom. The news of the addition of the bathroom was introduced in a welcome back email sent on January 4th by Chris Tennyson, the Associate Head of School and Dean of Students & Academic Affairs.

The creation of an all-gender bathroom has been in the works for a long time. The development of the bathroom has been a request from students who express more comfort in using a non-gender specific bathroom. The initial plan to build the bathroom was proposed once the school switched the Upper Corbin girls bathroom to the boys and vice versa – a remodeling completed around three to four years ago.

These preliminary steps are just the beginning of the adjustments being made around the school. Jennifer Madeley – Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), School Counselor, Health, Wellness & Community Chair – said, "In Atlas, the school

has been trying to accommodate students and has installed stalls around the showers to serve the community as a whole better." She also said that, "We are planning to make this accommodation in all the dorms."

The new infrastructure, as Sarah Daly, leader of the GSA (Gay-

Straight Alliance) affinity group explained, "This is a really big win for the LGBT community, especially for the students in the transgender and non-binary community."

With the creation of this new bathroom, LFA has progressed towards becoming a more inclusive,

contemporary community. Madeley discussed the significance the bathroom played for various students, including how the new bathroom was a needed space for students.

Madeley expressed, "The all-gender bathroom provides a place where more people can feel comfortable; on top of that, there are so many people that need this space that haven't come out and said that they feel uncomfortable on having to decide which bathroom to go in – this bathroom essentially can open the door for those who are trying to figure out who they are."

Riko Kishitani '23 said, "The news about the all-gendered bathroom made me very happy." Students have discussed how this alleviates the feelings of discomfort that come from having limited options.

The installment of the all-gender bathroom has not only provided a more comfortable option for present students and faculty members, but also for potential students and adults. By opening this new gender inclusive bathroom, we, as a community, present a more welcoming environment that attracts and supports a more diverse community.



Photo by Anushua Srivastava

The new all-gender bathroom is located in Corbin.

# The furry and friendly dogs on campus: *Part II*

By Angie Cotton

Managing Editor of Production



Photo by Vaughn Family

## Rosie

**Owner:** Vaughn Family

**Breed:** Mutt (Labrador and Pitbull)

**Age:** 2 years old

**Special talents:** Destroying socks, stealing covers, and sleeping.



Photo by Madeley Family

## Sully

**Owner:** Ms. Dye

**Breed:** Australian shepard

**Age:** 1 year old

**Special Talents:** Herd by nature and retrieve a ball



Photo by Ms. Dye

## Laker and Rudie

**Owner:** Madeley family

**Breed:** Golden retrievers

**Age:** 7 and 3 years old

**Special talents:** They both know when the Madeley family is hurt or sad. When Mr. Darrin Madeley has had surgeries, they lay beside him to protect and comfort him.



Photo by Mr. Tyler Madeley

## Maple

**Owner:** Mr. Tyler Madeley

**Breed:** Golden retriever

**Age:** 1 year old

**Special talents:** Being TikTok famous



Photo by Ms. Wood

## Poe Dogeron

**Owner:** Fowler family

**Breed:** Golden retriever

**Age:** 1 year old

**Special talents:** Hand/paw shake and sleeping



Photo by Fowler Family

## Shadow

**Owner:** Ms. Wood

**Breed:** Purebred mutt

**Age:** 15 years old

**Special talents:** If you ask him for a nose kiss, he will touch his nose to yours. He can also give high fives.

# Tips for students on safe winter driving

By Avery Martin

Managing Editor of News

Driving—it's one of the scariest moments of a parent's life, and one of the most exciting for a teenager. Yet the dangers of winter driving are often overlooked by new drivers.

First, it's important to clarify that even if someone has been driving for over a year, they are still considered an inexperienced driver as it takes years to get used to driving safely. In Illinois, winter is host to a range of weather conditions—all of which present varying degrees of safety. Thus, it's important to keep in mind certain tips while driving in the winter.

According to a registered student driver list kept by Lake Forest Academy's Dean of Students Office Manager, Teresa Zaiff, the school has approximately 135 student drivers. This is about ¼ of the LFA student body. According to Illinois Top Driver, drivers should plan to leave earlier to give enough time to drive safely to school or other destinations. Drivers should also completely remove snow and ice from the vehicle to improve visibility. While in the car, all controls and gears should be operated gently, and a safe following distance should be kept. If you end up in a snowstorm, use



Photo by Ben Schumin

**A view of North Lake Shore Drive during winter in Chicago.**

your car's daytime running lights to improve visibility. Also, try to travel on highways or popular roads as authorities will salt these roads first.

One of the most dangerous parts about driving in the winter is black ice—an invisible yet possibly fatal surface. First, it's important that you drive slower than you usually would. Try to drive in areas that allow more traction, such as snow covered spots, sandy areas, and textured ice. It's crucial in these conditions that drivers don't slam the brakes, and give time to slowly and safely slow down and come to a stop. Vehicles with ABS will automatically pump your brakes for you if you begin to skid, but if your vehicle

doesn't have ABS or antilock, moderately applying pressure to your brakes can help maintain control.

Additionally, Zaiff described a tip that can help identify if there is black ice on the road. When the road appears wet, if the car ahead of you is spewing water off of its back tires, then the road is simply wet. However, if the road still appears wet, but if nothing is spewing off the back tires of the car in front of you, the road has black ice on it.

If you begin to skid on black ice or snow, it's possible the vehicle will begin to fishtail. This is when your vehicle's rear wheels lose traction, causing the back wheels to move in a fishtail pattern. If you begin

to fishtail, remain calm and drive slowly in the direction of your tires' skid. At the same time, remove your foot from the pedal to reduce speed. It's crucial to not try and steer your vehicle into the opposite direction, or you may lose control.

Knowing these tips while driving can save both your own and other lives, and can make you feel safer on the road. With experience, drivers will become more and more comfortable driving in these conditions. Remember that it's also always an option to get a ride with parents, or take the train to school if the conditions seem too difficult to drive in. Happy winter and safe driving!

# A reflection on the insurrection

By Mimi Osborne and Bia Leffingwell  
Director of Sports and Managing Editor  
of Op-Ed

On January 6, 2021, after the victory of presidential candidate Joe Biden over Former President Donald Trump, thousands of ardent Trump supporters attacked the United States Capitol Building. With an estimated 30 million dollars worth of damage and five counted deaths among hundreds of others wounded, the Capitol riot was one of the most horrific incidents of insurrection in US history.

The riot commenced early in the morning at the National Mall when Trump supporters gathered to protest the results from the November election; however, with urging from the former president himself, the mob quickly turned to the Capitol. Leading up to the storming, Trump stated the following phrases:

- January 1: “January 6th. See you in D.C.”
- January 4: “If the liberal Democrats take the Senate and the White House — and they’re not taking this White House — we’re going to fight like hell, I’ll tell you right now.”
- January 6: “We’re going to walk down to the Capitol [...] you’ll never take back our country with weakness.”

Just two hours before the attack on the Capitol, two bombs were found in the city—one near the Republican National Committee offices and the other by the Democratic National Committee offices.



Photo Courtesy of Creative Commons

Protesters storming the U.S. Capitol building on January 6th, 2021.

It is believed that these pipe bombs were used to distract police officers from the impending breach of the Capitol Building.

As the attack commenced, Capitol policemen were quickly overwhelmed and called in for reinforcements from the Metropolitan Police Department. Many of these officers were bashed with deadly weapons from the rioters including baseball bats, flagpoles, steel pipes, pepper spray, and more. If not physically attacked by an upriser, officers were crushed under the sheer force and chaos of the mob. Five people died amongst hundreds of others injured.

By 2:13pm, the Capitol was breached.

It is estimated by law enforcement that over 10,000 rioters stormed the grounds, and 1,200 breached the building. Several flags were waved, including the Confederate flag and Nazi emblem. For the first time in American history, these flags were displayed in the U.S. Capitol Building. The Senate adjourned, the House recessed, and all staff inside of the building were safely taken to an underground bunker until the chaos was controlled. By 6:15pm, the Capitol was back in safe hands.

Former President Donald Trump was impeached on January 13th for encouraging the uprising, and 630 Americans were

charged with federal offenses by the end of September 2021. Over seventy countries offered their condolences and concern following the attack, many of whom condemned Donald Trump for his participation in the tragic event. America was able to quickly pick itself back up again, but even though the actions on the Capitol were initially condemned, politically, there has been a lot of backtracking, and a divided America was left even moreso. Yet the event will go down in American history as one of the country’s most horrific days.

## Long COVID: A new public health crisis

By Ella Gartz  
Managing Editor of A&E

While many are hopeful that the Omicron variant will be the final act in this ongoing pandemic performance, developing investigations of Long COVID challenge how it will end. In 2021, the UC Davis Health Newsroom published an article entitled, “Studies show long-haul COVID-19 afflicts 1 in 4 COVID-19 patients, regardless of severity.” Other sources have set their statistics in this general scope, but no definitive conclusion regarding the condition has been in reach.

The CDC states that Long COVID “can happen to anyone who has had COVID-19” and those suffering typically show symptoms “four or more weeks after first being infected.”

To describe Long COVID, a local doctor in the Advocate-Aurora healthcare system said in an interview with *The Spectator*, “Patients can be free of the actual virus and infection but have residual non-infection related symptoms.” He recommends that those ‘self-diagnosed’ with Long COVID “should seek medical help as soon as they can (with their primary medical doctor) and see if they need any addi-

tional testing or referrals to specialists for their ongoing Long COVID symptoms.”

Anna Kliner, Director of Health Services at Lake Forest Academy, said that Long COVID is “an unexpected consequence of the pandemic, but it makes sense given what severe COVID does to our bodies: it creates a ton of inflammation and this is how the body deals with that inflamma-

tion, and that process can be long term.”

As there is no current cure for Long COVID, the Advocate-Aurora doctor said, “Typically, we can only treat specific symptoms” and such symptoms vary in type and severity. Many big medical centers are now developing COVID-19 long-hauler syndrome clinics to give multidisciplinary support for the patients.”



Photo Courtesy of Creative Commons

Wearing a mask and COVID-19 testing continue to be the best safety protocol as the pandemic prevails.

According to a publication by Mayo Clinic, Long COVID can go as far as to “damage the lungs, heart, and brain” and cause long-term health problems.

Kliner said that Long COVID’s “neurological symptoms, like ongoing brain fog, do not tend to happen with other upper-respiratory viruses.” This introduces the field of medicine to a new public health crisis.

Kliner wanted to remind the LFA community that this is “another good reason to continue to take the pandemic seriously.” Those potentially suffering from Long COVID should note that “for most chronic conditions, the sooner you can intervene, the better.” Kliner said, “If nothing else, help contribute to the body of medical understanding.”

Recognizing that the pandemic may have consequences beyond what has been suffered thus far is unsettling, but persistence in our course of action is the best that we can do now. The Advocate-Aurora doctor said, “As we learn more, there is going to be continued research for the possible treatment and hopefully the prevention of it.” He said that “as of now, the best way to prevent Long COVID symptoms is to prevent getting the virus with vaccination, masking, social distancing, etc.”

# Snowboarding vs skiing: History, types, and rivalry

By: **Nicholas Bisulca**

*Managing Editor of Photography*

There's nothing like the feeling of wind on your face as you barrel down to the base of a mountain on a pair of skis—3,000 feet above sea level. The origin of skiing dates back to almost 4,000 years ago, with rock carvings of skiers and ski fragments being found in Norway, Finland, and Sweden. Though, the history of skiing is not confined to Nordic countries, as written references of skiing from the Han dynasty have been found in China and some of the oldest skis—dating back to 8000 and 7000 BCE—were discovered in Russia.

Historically, skiing has been used for hunting and rural travel in mountainous areas. Its first military appearance was in the Battle of Oslo in 1200, and was also used in both WWI and WWII. Eventually, riflery and skiing were combined into Biathlons—athletic contests that consist of cross-country skiing and rifle sharpshooting.

There are three different types of skiing: nordic, alpine, and freestyle. Nordic skiing often consists of a 15km cross-country race and a ski-jumping contest. Alpine skiing, the most common of the three, grew with the invention of chairlifts in the 1930s. It commonly consists

of a downhill and a slalom race. Lastly, freestyle skiing is about acrobatics and tricks. Freestyle skiers perform 90-second routines and execute different series of jumps, flips, and spins to score points.

Snowboarding, on the other hand, can be broken down into a different three categories: freestyle, freeriding, and alpine. Freestyle snowboarding uses features such as handrails, halfpipes, boxes, and a series of other obstacles, to allow snowboarders to perform jumps and tricks. Freeriding can take place almost anywhere, and the goal is to be able to handle all terrain and snow types. Lastly, alpine snowboarders—similarly to alpine skiers—race in events such as slalom and compete for the best time.

Modern-day snowboarding appeared in 1965 with the invention of the snurfer, a single board created from 2 skis binded together designed by engineer Sherman Poppen. His wife gave the invention its name after combining the two words to fit the board's purpose: surfing and snow. Poppen originally built the board for his daughters, but with time, the product spread beyond the depths of his backyard. The first snurfer competitions debuted in the 1960s and 1970s, but its largest turning point was in 1975, when Dimitrije Milovich's snowboard attracted

the attention of Newsweek Magazine.

At American ski resorts, approximately 70% of visitors ski, and 30% snowboard. To supplement this, there has always been some tension between skiers and snowboarders. While some skiers see snowboarders as young delinquents with no respect for the rules of the mountains, some snowboarders see skiers as entitled and privileged boomers looking to blow

their money at the resorts. All stereotypical rivalries aside, both snowboarding and skiing are deeply adored by their respective communities. Some of the best ski sites to visit in the United States today are Vail, Aspen, and Park City. So now that you know everything you need to know about skiing and snowboarding, there's no excuse not to find a mountain for your next winter weekend getaway.



Photo by Nicholas Bisulca  
Mazin Awada '23, Jordan Sebolt '23, and Nicholas Bisulca '23, sit at the top of Alpine Valley before snowboarding down.

# The truth about Senioritis

By: **Kirstin Palasz and Mimi Osborne**

*Editor in Chief and Sports Director*

As two second semester seniors ready for college, Kirstin Palasz and Mimi Osborne are perfect candidates to fall susceptible to the condition that widely plagues seniors. That's right, the one that is more contagious than the Black Plague and Scarlet Fever combined—senioritis. Defined by Merriam-Webster dictionary as an “ebbing of motivation and effort by school seniors,” it is every teacher's worst nightmare to have infected students fall victim to this sharp decline in work ethic.

It is hard to fathom the idea of earning an A on a tedious project as not utterly galvanizing—earning stellar grades is an addiction, each time the feeling of euphoria rushing to the head. However, for seniors who have spent the better part of their four years meticulously studying to earn a 4.0, the feeling can warrant more vexation than jubilation.

We believed that senioritis was simply a fallacy—a word lazy students tossed at their teachers to try and excuse their careless work. However, it is difficult to understand the arduous battle against senioritis until you are on the front lines at 1:30am, yielding only a pencil, and fighting against three weeks worth of assignments.

Compared to a rapidly evolving society with electric cars and facial recognition, the reality of high school burnout is dumb-



Photo by David Atas  
Lake Forest Academy's Yearbook Club captures a photo of the graduating class of 2022 in the formal gardens.

foundingly simple—constantly having to adapt to situations with little to no time to rest has surged a decrease in effort. But why senior year? Why doesn't this strange phenomenon impact other grades? The truth is that it does. Though we may not notice it often, burnout in high schoolers has begun to dissipate into younger years; the contagious disease claims even more victims. But why do seniors get pegged with the largest casualty pool? The whole phenomenon is already named after them. In all honesty, it is because seniors can. Because no underclassmen are

going to discredit a senior's lack of effort when they had to endure the same stress.

Looking back on individual grades, freshman year is the fresh start. The chance to develop your image with a new group of peers. Sophomore year is the true adjustment phase, college isn't on your radar yet and you have most likely found a good group of friends. Junior year is when you can start to take individualized classes and indulge in your own interests. Senior year is when you have to worry about colleges. And grades. And sports. And maintaining friendships. And every stresser from pre-

vious years with the little cherry on top of “what's next?” “Where can I go from here?”

It is hard to process questions like these when there is simply no time to rest or wrap your head around the constantly changing world. When the reminder of those 3 weeks of missing assignments puts you on the verge of tears and the sheer thought of picking up that trusty pencil makes you nauseous. When the dread of practice after school makes your heart heavy and lungs tight. When the senioritis just hits.

## Editorial: The "No List"

With the unexpected chaos that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the student body, the dress code was not spared. We started off the 2020-2021 school year with a relaxed dress code due to masks and other discomforts such as inconsistencies in rules and social distancing. Recently, a new dress code was written. The dress code had been in question throughout 2019, but ended up getting changed this year. Chris Tennyson, the Dean of Students, sent out an improved dress code, named the "No List", as well as examples of how to talk to students about their clothing, in a schoolwide email. This list is a dress code telling us exactly what not to wear on campus rather than what we should wear.

"The list better reflects our academy in the sense that it doesn't sexualize the students," said a senior student. The list is more directed to the clothing rather than the students. For example, in past dress codes, there have been phrases referring to showing shoulders and other parts of the body, whereas this list specifically makes reference to parts that "should be covered." Additionally, the "No List" was writ-

ten by the prefects. The senior also added, "I don't think it is fair for it to be written by students - especially when they themselves might not always follow the dress code." Along with being more straightforward, the "No List" is different from other codes because it was written by students, specifically prefects. A prefect stated, "As students, why are we making the thing that students don't like? At first we were just asked for our input, but when we were asked to review the dress code, it was verbatim what we discussed".

One of the big changes in this dress code is that it is gender neutral. A prefect said, "I made it a point to degender the dress code; I also made it a point to make sure that it was not so much about body, more the clothes." The "No List" also includes comments teach-

ers should refrain from saying. Additionally, they were given a specific script which started with "Dear Student", making these violations much less personal.

In an interview with Kerry McCaffery, Senior English teacher and a member of the Faculty Advisor Committee, she stated, "I think it is so important that teachers know what to say when dress coding a student. It should not be a morality accusation." Making dress code violations a morality judgment makes students feel highly uncomfortable.

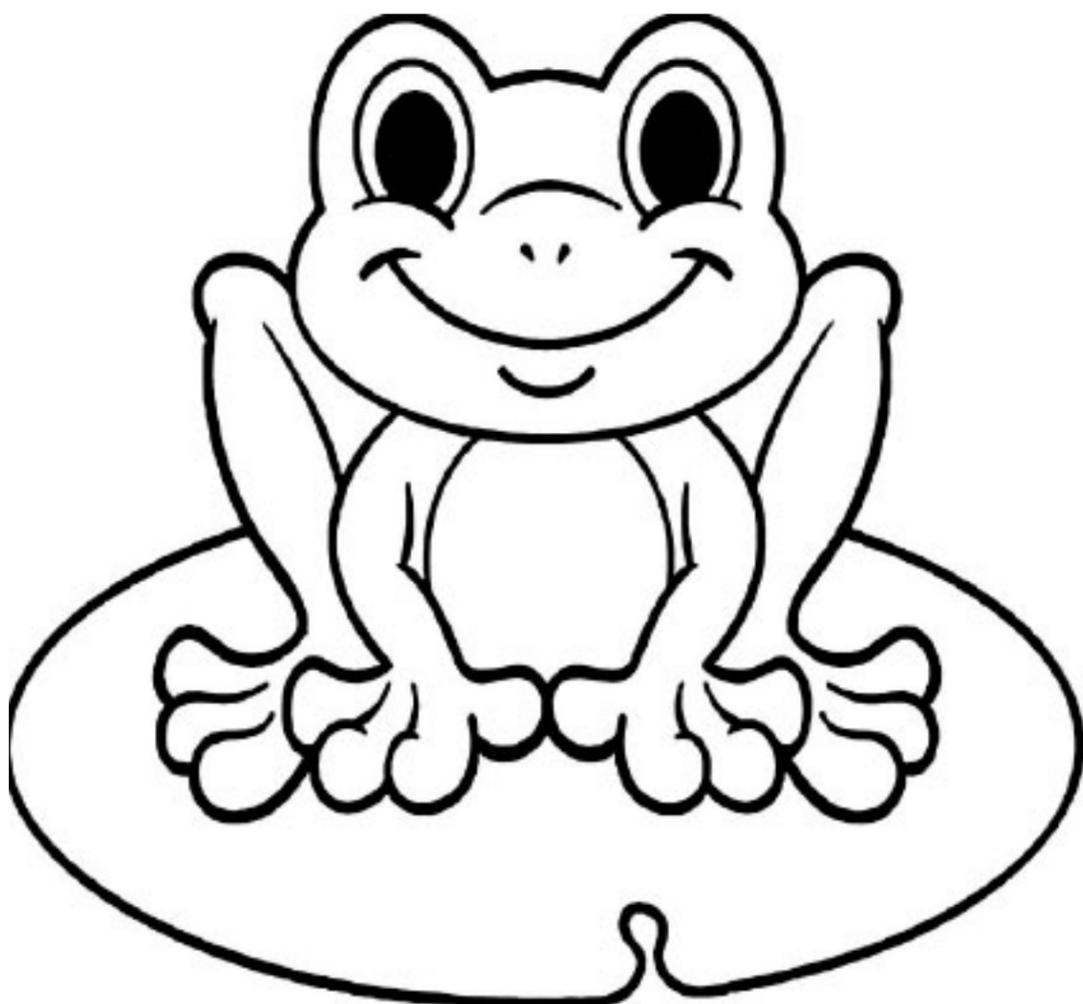
Before this list, teachers would embarrass students by asking them to stand up or making inappropriate comments regarding their attire. While controversial, this list does make rules straightforward for teachers and students, and hopefully, will create a safer environment.

### Dress Code "No" List

The following is a list that **should NOT** be worn as part of the Dress Code:

- Sweatshirts/hoodies with non-LFA words or patterns
- T-shirts
- Tops that would be too short to be tucked in
- Tops that are transparent, sheer, contain cut outs, holes, or tops without straps/backs/sleeves
- Bottoms that do not fully cover body parts that otherwise should be covered
- Sweatpants, leggings, joggers, pajama pants, and athletic warm-ups/clothes
- Blue jeans and/or any ripped bottoms
- Flip-flops, slippers, and crocs (dress sandals are allowed)
- Baseball caps (these should not be worn indoors, but winter hats are okay)

LFA's "No List" sent out in an email from Dean of Students, Chris Tennyson about the new school dress code.



The Lake Forest

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## PUBLICATION

The Spectator is published eight times per year by the students of Lake Forest Academy and is a forum for student expression. The views and reporting herein are the sole product of The Spectator's student reporters and in no way reflect the official views of Lake Forest Academy faculty, staff, administration or Board of Trustees.

## 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](mailto:akrause@lfanet.org)

## EDITORIALS

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

## 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.

## Caxy Coloring House Cup Challenge:

To get house points, decorate the caxy as best as you can and email it to your house captains!

### HOUSE CAPTAIN EMAILS:

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# Lake Forest Academy: Caxy Choice Awards

## Best Moments Overall

By Maya Mitckess

### Bernie Sanders at the Presidential Inauguration:

Dawned with a pair of mittens, a puffy coat, and a crossed legged pose, Bernie Sanders waiting for the much-anticipated 2021 Presidential Inauguration was the picture perfect representation of how many people felt after the year 2020 brought. One of the greatest memes to start off the year.



Courtesy of Instagram

### Kim Kardashian Divorcing Kanye West

The breakup of the year was between the two billionaires Kanye West and Kim Kardashian. West is known to be controversial on Twitter and has recently caused an uproar with his campaign to run for President of the United States. Kardashian had enough of West's humiliation and called it quits on almost seven years of marriage. Since Kardashian had been with West for so long, it was a cultural reset.



Courtesy of the @oprah Instagram

### U.S. Olympic Team Wins Women's 4-x-400 Meter

Sydney McLaughlin, Allyson Felix, Dalilah Muhammad, and Athing Mu composed the American dream team for the 2021 Tokyo Olympics in the 4-x-400 meter race. Finishing nearly four seconds ahead of the silver medal Polish team, the race not only brought Team USA a win but it also honored Felix with her 11th Olympic medal, making her the most decorated female track athlete in Olympic medals.



Courtesy of the @teamusa Instagram

### Andy Cohen+Anderson Cooper on New Year's Eve

Rapping up the new year in style, Andy Cohen and Anderson Cooper hosted CNN's "New Year's Eve Live" for the fifth year in a row. Not only was style in attendance of the celebration alcohol was too. Clearly intoxicated, Andy Cohen took shots at former mayor of New York City Bill de Blasio and Ryan Seacrest while Anderson Cooper was along for the ride. Counting down to midnight, Cohen said "Sayonara, sucker" to de Blasio which really summed up 2021 quite nicely.



Courtesy of the @bravoandy Instagram



Courtesy of Tampa Bay Times

### Tom Brady Leads the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to Super Bowl Victory

Just a year after leaving the Patriots, Tom Brady led the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to victory over the defending champion, the Kansas City Chiefs, in the Super Bowl. Brady secured his seventh title to add to his record of having the most Super Bowls won by a player in American history. He also helped the "Bucs" become the first team to play and win a Super Bowl in their home stadium.



Courtesy of Creative Commons

### Oprah, Harry, Meghan Interview

After what seemed like a tension filled, but ultimately amicable split from the Royal Family, Harry and Meghan dropped many bombshells that counter the relationship they have with the respected institution that people have seen on the news. Race, suicide, and other topics were discussed with Oprah which have never really been large themes surrounding the Royal Family before. On a brighter note, everyone got another memorable meme of 2021 with footage of Oprah's reactions in the interview as well as a better understanding of the "Royal Life".



Courtesy of Creative Commons

### Britney Spears Freed:

Instagram, Twitter, and the plethora of social media platforms were filled with "#freebritney" as the fight in court to free Britney Spears from her conservatorship, instigated by her father, took place. The fans united in support of Spears and after almost fourteen years, the "Princess of Pop" was freed in November.

## Best Games of 2021

### Deathloop

By Sage Ye

Even as a first person shooter that borrows different components from other FPS games, Deathloop stands out. Players are given a day to kill these targets, and failure to do so will result in the day resetting, hence, a death loop. This is inevitable for the player, and eventually, they will know how to kill each target before the day is reset. Each reset there is also a new component introduced. At the end of the day, Arkane studio's death loop is a refreshing concept, and playing through it is a blast.



Courtesy of Steam

### Guardians of the Galaxy

By Sage Ye

With over 14 different story chapters each having around an hour of immersive gameplay, Guardians of the Galaxy provides some of the most energetic adventures of 2021. Made with high quality graphics, the game allows the player to explore some very unique sci-fi environments, from snowy mountain planets to underground black markets to colonies of brain matter. The game draws heavy inspiration from the 2014 Marvel film Guardians of the Galaxy, but rewrites their story in a refreshing way. Fans of the films and comics alike can find themselves enjoying this game and anticipating where the story takes them.

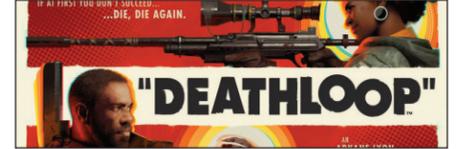


Courtesy of Bandai Namco

### Genshin Impact

By Aylin Tepe

Genshin Impact was a newcomer to the 2020-2021 gaming scene, but quickly topped the charts as the best-earning mobile game of the year. As a free-to-download game with beautiful graphics, attractive character designs, as well as an outstanding soundtrack, it is no surprise that Genshin amassed such a large following in such a short time. Grossing over 2.5 billion dollars over the course of a year via in-game purchases, Genshin's impact was no small feat. Adventurers and explorers alike should try out Genshin Impact, and unveil the multifaceted mysteries of Teyvat.



Courtesy of Playstation Store

### Halo Infinite

By Sage Ye

After waiting for over 6 years since the last major installment, the long wait for fans of the Halo franchise is finally over with the eagerly released Halo: Infinite. Halo: Infinite is still the fast paced first person shooter game that fans know and love, but also manages to feel like its own game with new features that move the Halo formula forward. It's map is by far the biggest and arguably the best in the franchise and it offers side objectives such as collecting skulls that will keep the player coming back. With 7 main missions, each lasting about 1 and a half hours, fans will have their hands full for a while.



Courtesy of Playstation Store

### Guilty Gear Strive

By Aylin Tepe

At first glance Guilty Gear Strive may appear to be your run-of-the-mill 2D fighting game, but after playing for a little bit, players find that the game's lore is as dense as it comes. As the seventh mainline installment of the Guilty Gear series, Strive was the apparent climax of the series since 1998. While the game's plot requires a significant amount of knowledge on the production, the gameplay is actually quite beginner-friendly. Newcomers should watch a review video or two to grasp the lore, but that should not be a cause for intimidation, as the smooth gameplay triumphs over minor gripes.



Courtesy of Mihoyo

### Resident Evil Village

By Aylin Tepe

Viral vampires, plenty of bugs, and plot to boot, to say Resident Evil Village made a massive splash in the gaming industry is an understatement. The survival-horror game is a sequel to Resident Evil 7: Biohazard, and allows for a first person experience with the character Ethan Winters, who is a desperate father searching for his daughter. With a chilling soundtrack as well as countless plot twists, the game takes the player on a terrifying journey with little-to-no hope for a happy ending. Resident Evil Village comes to life with its dynamic characters and exciting gameplay.



Courtesy of Steam

# Lake Forest Academy: Caxy Choice Awards

## Best TV shows of 2021

### Arcane

#### By Sage Ye

Based on the popular multiplayer game League of Legends, *Arcane* is a show with a unique style, brilliant characters, and one of the best soundtracks an animated show can have. The show gives commentary on issues like mental health and class division, as its steampunk setting of Piltover and the undercity creates the perfect contrast between upper and lower class lifestyle. Overall, *Arcane* has become one of Netflix's hottest releases, and with its success, fans can expect a second season to come.



Courtesy of Steam

### WandaVision

#### By Bela De Jesús

*WandaVision* is the first-ever Marvel series on Disney+ that follows Wanda and Vision as they travel through the decades in sitcom form. There are nine episodes each modeling their format on famous shows from each decade. Every detail of the plot, costuming, set design, and writing is done with purpose and grace. The show gave hope for the potential of Marvel TV series, and started a new era in the MCU.



Courtesy of Hulu

### Tokyo Revengers

#### By Sage Ye

Studio Lindenfilms' *Tokyo Revengers*, based on the manga by Ken Wakui, is arguably one of the best anime to air this year. In the show, a man travels in time to his teenage years to alter past events in order to save his former girlfriend from her death in the present. With ever-present themes of determination and failure, the anime is a roller coaster of emotions. While the pacing is a little slow, the plot is the main reason to stay for the show and will certainly leave viewers craving what happens next.



Courtesy of MyAnimeList.com

### Invincible

#### By Sage Ye

Disguised as a children's superhero cartoon at first sight, *Invincible* quickly distinguishes itself as one of the most action packed, suspenseful, and outright gory animations. Inspired by the comics, it focuses on a teen superhero whose father, Omnipan, has a dark secret. Omnipan is a hero who turned evil, while those around him suffer the consequences. Overall, this show manages to keep viewers on the edge of their seats and certainly stands out as a top show this year.



Courtesy of IMDB

### Squid Game

#### By Sage Ye

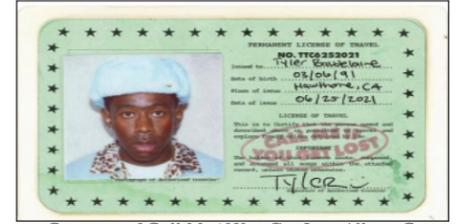
*Squid Game* became an instant international hit, with the Korean title trending in the media for months after its release. *Squid Game* a thriller series on Netflix centered around people playing games to win a grand cash prize. These games are all based on Korean children's games, with a twist: if you lose, you die. The show is a spectacle of social commentary on economic inequality. Great casting, acting, direction, and plot, this Netflix series truly offers everything for viewers.

## Best Albums of 2021

### *Call Me if You Get Lost*, Tyler the creator

#### By Bela De Jesús

Tyler the Creator's sixth album *Call Me if You Get Lost*, released on June 25th, is a beautiful celebration of hip hop and rap. It takes the next generation back to the era when mixtapes reigned supreme, with DJ Drama "hosting" the album to add a playful narrative. Features like Lil Wayne and Lil Uzi Vert accompany the album perfectly. Songs like "MASSA" and "LUMBERJACK" are worth the listen.



Courtesy of Call Me if You Get Lost Album Cover

### *An Evening with Silk Sonic*, Bruno Mars and Anderson Paak

#### By Bela De Jesús

Bruno Mars and Anderson Paak are two of the best in the industry, and they came together under the stage name Silk Sonic. Their first album, *An Evening with Silk Sonic* has a strong 70s aesthetic and the two have a charm and dynamism in their performance. If you want something to dance (and sing your heart out) to, this is the album for you. Check out songs like "Skate" and "Fly as Me" for a good time.



Courtesy of Bruno Mars and Anderson Paak Album Cover of Silk Sonic

### *Red (Taylor's Version)*, Taylor Swift

#### By Bela De Jesús

After Taylor Swift's release of *Fearless (Taylor's Version)*, fans wondered which album would be re-recorded next. The answer came on November 12th with the release of *Red (Taylor's Version)*. Swift shows off her remarkable songwriting once again, including a ten minute version of her song "All Too Well", along with a short film directed by herself. *Red (Taylor's Version)* is a true testament to Swift's versatility and talent. Listen to "Nothing New" and "I Bet You Think About Me" to hear that versatility for yourself.



Courtesy of Taylor Swift's Red Album Cover

### *Whole Lotta Red*, Playboi Carti

#### By Sage Ye

*Whole Lotta Red* is nothing short of a hip hop treasure. Controversial upon release as Playboi Carti's usual work is, *WLR* is a reinvention of the mumble rap's sound. Carti's new drop masterfully uses different high pitch sounds and adlibs that would otherwise be harsh sounding, and implements them to create a bit of distortion in his songs. The entire album shifts from the arrogance of fame to an introspective on drug abuse, label issues, and failed relationships. This effectively makes *WLR* a concept album, hiding behind the beats and adlibs is a story about fame ruining a man's personal life.

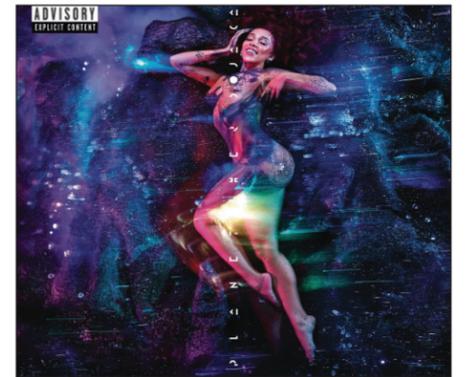


Courtesy of Playboi Carti's WLR Album Cover

### *Planet Her*, Doja Cat

#### By Bela De Jesús

*Planet Her* by Doja Cat took over the world after its June 25th release. This album is pop perfection, with a seamless balance between rap and vocals. The artist seems to be taking a more mature approach to her music, with songs like "Woman", and yet maintains her ironic and fun writing. With features like Ariana Grande and SZA, the album is a celebration of women in the pop industry and just a fun time. Listen to "Woman" and "Need to Know" to feel powerful.



Courtesy of Doja Cat's Planet Her Album Cover

### *Sour*, Olivia Rodrigo

#### By Bela De Jesús

Olivia Rodrigo's "Driver's License" took the world by storm this past year, leading many to look forward to her debut album. The release of *Sour* on May 21st cemented Rodrigo's status as a pop princess through her beautiful portrayal of teen angst and painful heartbreak. Her writing is raw and honest, and the album has a shocking array of genres. At only 18 years old, Rodrigo has shown exceptional talent, and a bright future in the music industry.



Courtesy of Olivia Rodrigo's Sour Album Cover

## Native American boarding schools: A not so historic legacy

By Maya Mitckess  
Editor of Blogging

The term “boarding school” is vastly different to the Native American community than to other groups of people around the world. A cushy dorm, a nice dining hall, and a good education were not provided at Native American boarding schools that were established in the 1860s. Instead, Native American youth were forcefully taken from their homes, sent to these schools to assimilate to “American culture,” were neglected, malnourished, and stripped of their cultural identities. In British Columbia, Canada, a mass grave was found of 215 children on the grounds of an old Native American boarding school, the first mass grave to be uncovered, but not the only in 2021. These deaths join the thousands in Canada and the United States also caused by the horrendous practice.

These “residential schools” that children were sent to in Canada were mainly operated by churches, and the school responsible for the mass grave was specifically operated by the Catholic Church. Kamloops was the name of the school and it was the largest Native American boarding school in Canada at its peak of 500 attendants with ages going as young as three. Children would not return home from Kamloops and their families would receive news that their child ran away to cover up the truth of their death, usually caused by the neglect, malnourishment, and poor hygiene there. It was a common story heard by more than just

the families of children from Kamloops.

Before the mass grave was found and slow progress was made on finding out what happened to missing Native American children that were sent to boarding schools, Canada created a National Truth and Reconciliation Commission as an apology and settlement for the many lawsuits that were filed. This commission’s purpose was true to its name, to find the truth of what happened to these Native American children and reconcile with their living relatives. In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission labeled the “residential school system” in Canada to be cultural genocide.

Though action has been taken to resolve the legacy of Native American boarding schools in Canada since the 2010s, 2021 was the true start of this practice established in both Canada and the U.S. getting public recognition. Another mass grave of 102 students of a Native American boarding school in Nebraska was found and reported on in November of 2021 after the discovery at Kamloops in May. Unmarked graves of victims, besides the two known mass graves, of Native American boarding schools have been searched for and researched since the 2010s in both Canada and the U.S., but yet again have only been reported on by multiple major news outlets in 2021.

The year 2021 was a huge year for research, resolve, and progress toward figuring out what happened to indigenous children of boarding schools and getting

justice for thousands of deaths, but it has been decades since these “schools” were closed. The process is slow with awareness even slower. Major news sources report on these mass graves, but the culmination of individual graves give a higher death count from indigenous boarding schools and yet were only reported on when these “bigger” events happened this past year. The entirety of this horrid situation needs to be reported on more so people can support the solution instead of ignoring it due to ignorance.

Sadly the historic establishments of Native American boarding schools are not so far in the past. The last boarding school

to close in Canada was in 1996 and some boarding schools in the U.S. still exist even though the horrifying practices of Native American boarding schools have been laid to rest. Between some of the establishments still being open in the U.S., families still waiting to hear what happened to their relatives, bodies of Native American children still being discovered, the Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission currently being defunct, and the continued systemic discrimination, the legacy of Native American boarding schools are very much alive, devastating, and haunting to indigenous communities today.



A Native American family from early 1900s.

Photo Courtesy of Creative Commons

## Ghislaine Maxwell court case: Human trafficking

By Max Ma  
Photo Editor

On December 29th, 2021, the former British Socialite Ghislaine Maxwell was convicted of conspiring with American financier Jeffrey Epstein to lure, groom, and sexually abuse underage girls. The verdict, reached by a federal jury in Manhattan, capped the trial featuring five accounts of the sexual exploitation of girls as young as 14. However, Maxwell’s lawyer has attempted to overturn the verdict because one of the jury members might have failed to disclose that they were sexually abused as a child and might not be able to serve as an impartial juror. According to Aviral Pathak, History & Social Science Teacher, “if this is true, and the court and the judge sees it that way, she might have a retrial, but this doesn’t mean that the outcome will be different, it just means that it delays sentence time. It’s very likely that Ghislaine Maxwell will spend a very long time in jail.”

This case revealed the dark reality of the world of the rich and the socialites. Wealthy people find ways to subvert the rule of law, and the way they usually do it is to finance human trafficking. The case ultimately proved that powerful and wealthy social elites were somehow

linked to these dark activities, believing they could get away with whatever they wanted with their resources, money, and power; only this time, things didn’t work out quite so well for them.

The case also uncovered the tragic prevalence of human trafficking in today’s society. Sam Wold, History and Social Science Teacher, shared his initial reaction towards the case, saying, “I was not surprised. I think people don’t understand how prevalent traf-

ficking is. On a local level, US trafficking is happening all the time, with under-aged girls being forced to prostitution and all these horrible things.”

Compared to the rest of the world, even though the US has a stricter law, which prevents many people from participating in these activities, the number of human trafficking cases is still very underreported. Wold shared, “When I lived in Brazil, they caught people forcing 15 and 16-year-old girls into

making jeans for Zara. They are pretty much trafficked to be workers. But most people don’t hear those stories. They don’t pay attention to that kind of stuff.”

In terms of the practice of human trafficking, Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell are just one tiny drop in the ocean. When asked about the prospect of human trafficking, Wold said, “I don’t think it’s gonna change much. In the US, it might slightly change things because of the recognition and attention it receives due to the people that are involved. But I still think it’s gonna be hidden and beneath mainstream society.”

Pathak also expressed a similarly pessimistic view, believing that elites will continue doing criminal activities but finding more “creative” ways, and on the front of human trafficking, Epstein is just a small piece of this world, and the practice will continue.

Nevertheless, the case will still bring some glimmers of hope to the murky world of human trafficking. Hopefully, it will encourage more people who are being exploited and abused to speak out and others who are seeing the news to seek out more information and question situations in real life more proactively.



Ghislaine Maxwell sits down for a TV interview.

Photo courtesy of Creative Commons

# The Great Resignation: America's dwindling workforce

By Gemma Fink

Mentorship Coordinator

Breaking news—the pandemic has claimed another victim. This time, it's the American workforce.

They call it “The Great Resignation”—millions of Americans are quitting their jobs, and many have no intention of seeking future employment.

Working conditions in the United States have continued to worsen throughout the pandemic, prompting many Americans to simply call it quits. They express that they feel unsafe, unmotivated, and unsupported. The movement has been detrimental to both America's working culture and economy.

At a first glance, the statistics could fool any untrained eye. According to the U.S. Department of Labour, the nationwide unemployment rate sits at a staggeringly low 3.9% as of December 2021. However, this number is far from accurate.

In defining the term “unemployment rate,” Lake Forest Academy's economics teacher, Matt Vaughn, said, “The only ones who are counted are the ones who are looking for jobs.” This fact is crucial to consider when citing the statistic.

Instead, Vaughn urges students to consider another, more representative statistic—the labour force participation rate. This tracks the number of people who are either employed or looking for employment within a population.

The U.S. Department of Labour has stated that the labour force participation rate in America is 61.9% as of December 2021. Pre-pandemic (as of 2019), the rate was 63.6%. This statistic highlights a slight—but not insignificant—decline in labour

force participation across the country.

The numbers—though noteworthy—do not express the true extent to which this situation has impacted the country.

Wages have increased—many of those who are seeking employment standby for offers of higher pay. As Vaughn describes it, “[People] keep thinking that they can get higher and higher wages at lower skilled jobs.” Yet, this puts businesses in a difficult position, as they need employees, but cannot afford to pay the rates that are necessary to keep them. Vaughn's advice for those awaiting such wages is to “Take that 17, 22 dollars, 28 dollars an hour and run.”

Another issue lies in the concept of structural unemployment—a result of the present disconnect between the structure and the economy in the United States. As the demand for labour in America shifts, so do the jobs. Many people who are entering the workforce are not prepared for the occupations that the economy has begun to value. Some might be overqualified, and others underqualified. To know what jobs are actually needed in the economy right now, the dust needs to settle.

Vaughn painted a picture of what this looks like on a micro level—“Some people are saying ‘you know what, I have a college education. I'm not going to go work as a dishwasher and make \$22 an hour.’”

Beyond the detriment to the economy lies the radical change in America's working culture.

The significant increase in early retirement has prematurely accelerated many career paths, and sacrificed mentorship from those in senior positions. In the past, these people would've slowly tran-

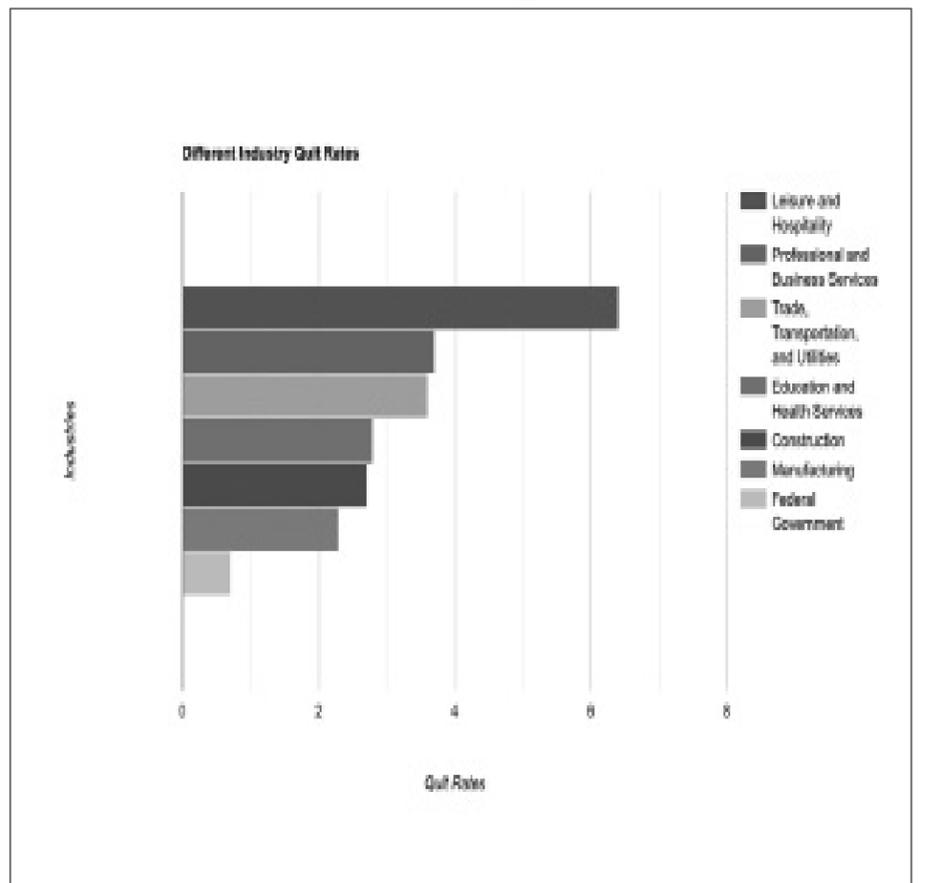


Photo by Maya Mitkess

This chart details quit-rates in percentages for different industries.

sitioned out of work, putting in fewer hours in exchange for a little time on the golf course. Now, many are taking a more abrupt route of resignation. As a result, the remainder of the workforce lacks a critical aspect to their careers—experience.

American working culture has also faced a detrimental blow to the fundamental definition of a valid occupation. As the country's workforce begins to take on new blood, companies and individuals alike are forced to face the consequences that come with online schooling. These issues are only expected to become more prevalent as youth in the United States continue to transition to adulthood, and the gaps

in their education prove to have robbed them of crucial foundational knowledge.

Today, this lack of proper education in American youth is evident across the country, and the situation does not bode well for the future of the workforce, the economy, and the potential for upward mobility.

So, what does the future look like? Our world, as it currently exists, is anything but predictable. Currently, anyone who wants a job can get a job, and therein lies the irony. The idea of what qualifies as a valid job has completely deteriorated. Working culture in the United States has faced a complete upheaval. As Vaughn said, “It's not just a black and white issue.”



A person signs a letter of resignation.

Photo courtesy of Creative Commons

# Antonio Brown: Handling mental and physical health in sports

By Djasahn English  
Managing Editor of Social Justice

On January 23rd, the second seed Tampa Bay Buccaneers were met with a lower fourth seed Los Angeles Rams led by Matt Stafford in the second round of the playoffs; after a heated game with an upset against famed NFL quarterback Tom Brady, the Buccaneers were sent home with a last second field goal. The game itself lacked the presence of a certain controversial player who only last month was one of the most useful weapons on the Bucs offense: Antonio Brown.

Brown has had problems staying out of the media's attention throughout his career; however, the reason for his absence on the Bucs roster is up for debate. According to the Bucs coaching staff, Brown refused to return to the game and turned to cursing out coaches when he was told he had to. He then stormed off the field smiling and dancing in front of the crowd.

However, this story differs from Brown's account in which his lawyers expressed that he was suffering through an ankle injury and was being forced to play.

Sean Burtyn, Brown's attorney, explained on twitter, "His Injury clearly can be seen on the MRI taken Mon-

day morning. (the day after the game) Among other things, you can plainly see a piece of loose bone from the outside that is pressing into his ankle joint and a ligament snapped clean off the bone."

Despite text message conversations with the head coach, he was put on intense pain medication and forced onto the field. Having enough he removed himself from the game, and subsequently was waived from the team. While the exact details of this controversy are subject to a he said-she said, the events beg the question, what responsibilities do coaches have in regards to the physical and mental state of their players?

Girls Head Basketball Coach, Tanika Golota, explained, "I've seen it where you can tell they're (players) in pain, and they're trying to prove to the coaches, prove to the players that they're okay and they can keep going, and in those moments I try to pull those players aside and tell them I can tell that you're in pain... and try to make sure they are seeing the right people"

The right people to turn to at Lake Forest Academy are the training staff in Crown. Jennifer Gorry, Assistant Athletic Trainer, shared issues players can have mentally and physically, saying, "There are many times that the athlete feels ready to com-



Courtesy of Creative Commons

Antonio Brown of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers lined up waiting for a snap

pete mentally, but physically they are not Smith closed out his interview by saying, "Put the trust in all of your playing, or so on. It goes the opposite as well."

Athletes face mental challenges as well their teammates will follow. If the coach that can hinder their ability to compete, doesn't trust a teammate or a certain person on the team, how does he expect that players own teammates to trust them?" The challenges that the coaching staff faced in regards to Brown's antics could have been resolved through following these methods. Paying attention to players' health, both physically and mentally, is one of the many challenges tasked to coaches. "I feel like they just gotta find a way to treat all their players the same way, to want equally for their players to develop, that's really the best coach. Like when you want all your players to succeed and to develop and to get better then you'll eventually have a great team, have a great season."

## LFA sports in the "New Normal"

By Kirstin Palasz  
Editor in Chief

It has almost been two years since the world shutdown from COVID-19, yet the disease is still rampant across the world with the new Omicron variant. It has affected all aspects of the lives of the LFA community members from academics to athletics.

There was a dramatic shift for the winter sports from before and after winter break with the development of many new COVID cases. As students and faculty returned to campus, winter sports seemed to be running smoothly; however, with a rapid increase of cases spreading quickly, adjustments had to be made.

Members of teams have been in and out of practices for many different reasons, but the most common of which have been the ones revolving around either getting COVID or being a close contact. This negatively affects the teams, as many of these sports rely on bonds within teammates, which is significantly more difficult when hindered with the pandemic. Tanika Golota, Athletic Coordinator and Head Coach of the Varsity Girls' Basketball team, said, "It's hard to keep the excitement up when it is so unpredictable." With the incon-

sistencies, it's been hard to keep the momentum going. Golota stressed that when teams are "outside of being in the gym, you have to try to find ways to still connect."

It also has effects on coaching and putting together lineups. Golota mentioned how "it has made where those players who may not get as much time, or may not rely on as much, we have had to rely on our entire team." She exclaimed that all players need to be ready at all times.

With the development of many cases, a vast number of games have been rescheduled or canceled across all sports. An average of 6-8 games have been canceled for the basketball program. This has caused many issues throughout the teams, from lack of team bonding to the inconsistency with players going in and out of practices.

First off, with many of the games being rescheduled, many of the teams should have a longer season than expected, but due to spring starting, the season will not be pushed longer. Dates and times have become very open ended to the athletes. "The season still ends at the same time, but it's trying to fit in those games in that short amount of time," said Golota. This can have macro effects on athletes who



Lake Forest Academy Girls' Varsity Basketball team

Photo courtesy of LFA Communications

are doing both winter and spring sports. As the winter season practices continue, there will be even greater effects on the start of spring season because there will be little to no gap in between the seasons.

The cancellation of games has left many athletes feeling as though their season is incomplete. It is unfortunate to see how many athletes are disappointed when their seasons come to an end, but

it is ultimately understood that the cancellations were for their own safety.

Although the frustration of games being canceled is high, it is more important to keep all the athletes safe. Looking into the future, the question arises as to what will happen with spring sports. It is impossible to predict what will happen with the COVID cases, but staying patient during turbulent times is very important.

FEBRUARY 4 2022

# A movie review on 2021's *Don't Look Up*

By Ella Gartz, Avery Martin, and Ava Trandel

Managing Editor of A&E, Managing Editor of News, and Managing Editor of Features

*Don't Look Up*, directed by Adam McKay, is a satirical comedy enriched with social commentary on American news, politics, customs, and media. It strikes right at the heart of America's lowest and sometimes most shameful tendencies, like valuing money over safety, or pop culture's control over politics, but often it does this so brazenly, that the humanity of its characters isn't thought out enough to seem realistic.

Real-life environmentalist Leonardo DiCaprio is casted perfectly as Dr. Randall Mindy, an astronomy professor at Michigan State University. He works with Jennifer Lawrence as Kate Dibiasky, a Ph.D. candidate. Dibiasky discovers a comet that is predicted to hit Earth in six months and kill all of its inhabitants.

The duo notifies President Orlean, played by Meryl Streep. The screenwriters of this movie intended to mirror her character to former President Trump, as she makes claims without peer-review or sufficient scientific backing. Her character reveals how a political agenda comes before the urgency of an issue or event by commenting on the astrocitious 'timing' of the comet near midterms.

Cate Blanchett and Tyler Perry play ce-

lebrity-news anchors, more concerned with ratings and their own social media presence than the news of impending doom. These characters represent modern media downplaying serious issues for entertainment, but it's a shame that such talented and lauded actors were limited to portraying one-dimensional characters. This is because Blanchett and Perry are unphased by the comet itself, rather they run the show, play out the banter, and move on with their lives. In reality, news anchors would take the time to digest the gravity of current events off camera — they are not complete robots! Lawrence's disbelief at the inaction of political and media figures in a moment of political and media figures in a moment or crisis is believable, as was how audiences made her out to be crazy. DiCaprio's sudden shift from a disillusioned scientist to a media player himself comes out of nowhere, unfounded in any real reasoning and depicts a stereotypical "star is born" trope.

Another key player in the film is Mark Rylance's portrayal of an eccentric big-tech CEO and Elon Musk-esk character, who gets away with intervening in the fate of the world. This exposes a frighteningly realistic commentary on how wealthy Americans influence politics and society, not just economics.

Some criticize the film's blunt social commentary, and McKay's almost condescending tone towards audiences of oppos-

ing political views, being more right-leaning (although President Orlean is pictured with Bill Clinton). Others appreciated the straightforward critique.

*Don't Look Up* is not a traditional comedy; rather it serves as a dark satire and drama that almost feels like a warning from another decade. However, most of the themes integrated into the film hit a

little too close to home (like the comet) for some audiences. The nature of denialism and insecurity, driving demand for distraction, is exposed. The polarization in the film transforms supposedly bipartisan issues, being the comet (or COVID-19 and Climate Change) into overpowering political debate. We will lead to our own demise.



The "Don't Look Up" 2021 cover depicts its top characters and credits of the film.

Photo Courtesy of @dontlookupfilm on Instagram

## The recycling of fashion trends throughout the decades

By Ava Trandel

Managing Editor of Features

The fashion world is evolving, now, faster than it ever has before, with influencers, TikTok, and society's obsession with celebrities helping to perpetuate a culture of cycling microtrends that have the power to bring a style to the forefront of fashion, then deem it unacceptable, all in the span of mere weeks. The past few years have seen trends with inspiration taken from nearly every decade since the Victorian era (hello corset tops!) - all with varying levels of success. Past fashion eras are being drawn from to create new styles and help to diversify and broaden what is en vogue at any time. While this constant state of rotation and integration has left some confident self-expressionists feeling free to take their style in any direction, it has also left the average trend follower perplexed and feeling unable to keep up with the ever changing trends.

The first few years of any decade are exciting and important for fashion evolution. Old trends that had an iron grip on the previous decade are being let go of, and the current decade is forging a new broader theme of what the next ten years will look like. The 2020's, however, are clearly very different from other years, one of the ways being the pandemic that rocked every aspect of our lives, but also threw the fashion trajectory off course. Athleisure

(emphasis on leisure) was brought to new heights when sweatpants and juicy couture tracksuit culture had its moment, but once people began having eyes and tastes for less comfortable clothes again, they went all-out rebuilding their person brands after having months at home to reflect, change, and grow as individuals.

In the short time since first lockdown, the world has seen alternative, whimsical, 60's and 70's inspired fashion, with 90's Jenni-

fer Aniston haircuts and the matching chic streetwear becoming a staple, along with a Y2K revival that is sure to make Paris Hilton feel like a proud mother. The main takeaway from the current chaos is that fashion is going to be avant garde and flamboyant, as it often is after a period of depression. A constant in the cycling trends seems to be a stress on individuality and uniqueness, and can be most likely attributed to Gen-Z, since they are the young generation that is

stepping up to drive trends and invent new subcultures. It could even be said that the trend right now is that there isn't any one definite trend, nor are there lines that people feel they need to dress within.

Specific trends that are sticking are mostly reminiscent of the 90's and 2000's with low rise, animal print, chic basics, and bright colors seen across the board in streetwear and by 2022 ready to wear runways. Brands and designers from those eras such as Vivienne Westwood, Von Dutch, Juicy Couture, True Religion, and Ed Hardy have regained popularity, which is in part due to how popular thrifting has become. Second-hand shopping is expected to remain popular for the foreseeable future, its popularity fueled by the before-mentioned stress that Gen-Z has put on individuality, and also because of the generation's shared environmental concern, one of several political issues influencing fashion.

The 2022 trend predictions are fluid and dependent on current events, as fashion continues to be a tool used to convey social and cultural messages in a time when communication is vital and people are demanding to be heard. Fashion and politics have always been intertwined, so seeing how they will continue to influence and change each other will shape the 20's and set a precedent for the next decades to come.



Models show-off '60s high fashion couture in 1997.

Photo Courtesy of Creative Commons

# Spider Man No Way Home: A Marvel moment

By **Bela De Jesús**  
Editor in Chief

After Sony bought the rights to Spiderman, the Marvel fandom was crushed. Would we ever get a Spiderman film again? Hopes and prayers were answered after the announcement of the third film in Tom Holland's Spiderman trilogy: *Spiderman: No Way Home*. Anticipation grew until the release on December 17th, and expectations were met and exceeded. The release made *No Way Home* the eighth highest grossing film of all time, making an incredible 1.5 billion dollars. Yet the success is not only in the money, but also in the film itself.

Director Jon Watts and Producer Kevin Feige maintain perfect balance between humor, action, and emotion that keeps the viewer entrenched in the world. Tom Holland nails his portrayal of Spiderman once again, keeping his playful charm from the previous movies while adding depth to his acting. His co-stars Jacob Batalon and Zendaya's performances are also remarkable. The chemistry between the trio brings an authenticity and beauty to the film that was missing in the previous two movies.

Their characters also have a chance to develop more. (WARNING: spoilers ahead)

The plot of the film on paper may seem strange, every person from different universes who knows Spiderman coming into one universe? But in reality, it does work. With the addition of Doctor Strange, the audience gets an explanation of the multiverse, and alludes to the Doctor Strange movie coming soon. Most importantly is the way the film brought back villains and heroes from the original Spiderman movies. Getting to see Doc Ock's arms in current CGI, hearing the iconic Wilhem DeFoe's Green Goblin laugh again, and feeling the power of the Sandman through groundbreaking audio. Seeing the villains we grew up watching get to have their time on screen again, especially all together, was truly magical.

Not only did the villains have their revival, so did Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield. Every person has their own attachment to their favorite Spider-Man, and seeing them all have their on screen moment again was incredible. Being able to see Andrew Garfield get a revival after



A perfect action photo captures *Spider Man No Way Home*.

Courtesy of IMDB

he did not get a trilogy was the redemption arc we all needed. The brotherhood portrayed by the three is palpable. Their banter is so well written, but mostly improvised according to the actors. Their scenes together just feel natural. The moment in which Holland thanks his two predecessors towards the end of the film was such a genuine moment of legacy and gratitude.

As Kyle Koncz, Assistant Dean of Admissions and full time Marvel fan, said perfectly, "[The film] gives me confidence that Marvel can continue to tell unique, exciting, and meaningful stories while still honoring the past". *No Way Home* is a beacon of hope for the future of the Marvel franchise, a film for the fans that shows exactly what the universe can do.

## Hollywood loses two important icons

By **Gemma Fink**  
Mentorship Coordinator

In the past month, Hollywood has lost not one, but two longtime staples—Betty White and Bob Saget. For decades, both White and Saget graced screens across the country with their trademark wit and captivating humor.

On Friday, December 31st, Betty White passed peacefully in her sleep. She was a mere seventeen days away from her 100th birthday—an event that had fans and publications alike gearing up for a big, Betty-White style celebration. As the actress herself declared in a recent Instagram cap-

tion, "I'm going BIG for my birthday."

Prior to her death, White had been preparing for her centennial celebration alongside *People Magazine*. The publication, as a longtime fan of the actress, had dedicated the cover of their most recent issue to her upcoming milestone with an article entitled, "Betty White Turns 100!"

The issue hit newsstands just two days before her death, and arrived in subscribers' mailboxes only a few hours after her passing on the 31st—just in time for the icon to pull off one last laugh.

Though some are skeptical of this coincidental timing, countless fans have expressed that they wouldn't have ex-

pected anything less from the actress, whose devilish sense of humor was a hallmark of her remarkably long career.

For seven decades, fans watched as White took the screen by storm. Her bubbly charisma won fans over easily, and became a critical feature in many of the television shows that she was part of. Two of the most notable—*Golden Girls* and *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*. Lake Forest Academy history teacher Sam Wold grew up during the icon's prime years. While discussing White, he said, "I literally don't know anybody who dislikes Betty White. Every single person who knows of Betty White, loves Betty White."

As a pioneer in the television industry, White is remembered for her love and advocacy for animals, incredible sense of humor, kind soul, and unapologetic jubilation. Her legacy will continue to paint Hollywood in glimmering metaphorical gold and unwavering optimism.

Just shy of ten days after White had passed, the comedy community was rocked once again by a heartbreaking loss.

On January 9th, Bob Saget was found unresponsive in his Orlando hotel room while on a stand-up comedy tour. The comedian was 65. No cause of death was announced.

Saget was made famous by his role on the popular sitcom, *Full House*, in which he played a widowed father living with his three daughters, brother-in-law, and best friend. Through the show, the actor garnered his status as a father-figure in Hollywood.

After the long-running sitcom saw its final episode, Saget pivoted his career to comedy, and surprised many of his fans with his dirty sense of humor—quite the departure from his family-friendly roots. During his comedy career, the entertainer was also the host of a widely popular show called *America's Funniest Home Videos*.

Both White and Saget stood for more than just the entertainment industry, and it is evident in the reactions of their family and friends, and also—on a larger scale—in stars' fanbases. As Wold describes it, "They were dealing with situations on those shows that people deal with in real life, so I think that [the losses] really hit home for a lot of people."



Betty White pictured above.

Courtesy of Creative Commons

FEBURARY 4, 2022

# 2022 Olympics in Beijing: Controversies and boycotts

By Ambika Gupta and Nghi Doan  
Managing Editor of Global & Managing Editor of News

Recently, sports and politics have become increasingly interconnected. Many debate whether this is right, but as Dr. Arrival Pathak, History & Social Science Teacher stated “We’re past that question; it’s happening because people are willing to put their reputation on the line for it.” In American sports, debate is routinely sparked about this connection, such as Colin Kaepernick taking a knee during the National Anthem.

In recent years, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has made numerous promises concerning prioritizing human rights and the environment. In 2017, the IOC’s “operational requirements” required that countries be without major human rights violations as well as be a protector of human rights. On the Olympic’s website, the IOC states that “the objective [of the Fundamental Principles of the Olympic Charter and the IOC Code of Ethics] is to ensure that people’s rights are put at the core of our operations.” Yet, the IOC’s decision to select Beijing as the host country of the 2022 Winter Games has been highly criticized because of accusations of human right violations and environmental concerns.



Photo Courtesy of Creative Commons

A picture of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games

The 2008 Summer Olympics in China faced similar criticisms. Sam Wold, History and Social Science teacher, recalled stories about “human rights activists and workers going in the middle of the road to stop traffic” in order to protest against Beijing being a host country. He also commented on the environmental impact of Beijing as a host country as “factories were pushed out of the city” for the event in order to reduce pollution, then “moved back” after the Olympics were finished.

Some have accused China of ‘sportswashing,’ which is when countries host sports events in order to improve their reputation. However, the term ‘sportswashing’ has been applied to numerous instances, including Russia’s



Photo Courtesy of Creative Commons

A picture of the Chinese Olympics mascot

treatment of LGBTQ+ rights, despite the production of the Sochi Olympics. Yue Chen, Modern & Classical Languages Teacher, expressed concern on the man-made snow that China is creating in order to host the events as it “wastes lots of water and energy” and overall is “not environmentally friendly.”

A large concern for many has been the safety of Peng Shuai, a professional tennis player who accused a former vice premier Zhang Gaoli of sexual assault. Chen was “surprised she could speak up” and wondered about “where her family is now.” After Shuai accused him, she disappeared from the public eye for about three weeks. Wold commented on the interviews she has given since as seeming “very controlled” and “very sketchy.” Later, Shuai retracted her accusations; however, some suspect under duress. Chen also noted that in China, this story is “covered differently.” China claims that Shuai is perfectly safe and that they cannot satisfy the western media, regardless of reality.

A paramount issue surrounds the accusations that China has detained more than one million Uyghurs, a Muslim minority group, in ‘re-education camps.’ The Uyghurs are believed to be subjected to forced labor, torture, religious restriction, and sterilization. The US officially deemed these actions a geno-



Photo Courtesy of Creative Commons

A picture of the Bird Nest Stadium where the Olympics will be held

cide in January 2021 as White House press secretary Jen Psaki explained the situation by saying that “the PRC’s [People’s Republic of China] ongoing genocide and crimes against humanity in Xinjiang and other human rights abuses.” The United States Holocaust

Memorial Museum’s Simon-Skjoldt Center for the Prevention of Genocide believes that China ‘may’ be committing a genocide towards this minority group. Overall, though some members of the United Nations have expressed concern, the UN has not formally recognized these events as a genocide. China has also received criticism about its treatment of Hong Kong since its return from Britain in 1997, On June 30th, 2020, a security law was imposed which has begun to limit protests for democracy based government. According to US News and World Report, required teachings about loyalty to the Chinese Communist Party have altered curriculum, and police-hotlines have emerged for peo-



Photo Courtesy of Creative Commons

A picture of the United Nation Building

ple to report on ‘unloyal neighbors.’

With the recent controversy regarding the Uyghurs and other human rights violations, the United States, Japan, the UK, Canada, and Australia, and other countries have employed a diplomatic boycott against the Beijing Olympics. Even though their athletes are still participating, diplomats will not be attending the games. Some worry that athletes from boycotting countries will not be treated fairly in the games. Pathak stated that “Olympics are normally a sense of goodwill, and they send diplomats to show global goodwill.” Nevertheless, boycotts are not unusual during the Olympics, as many countries boycotted the 1980 Summer Olympics held in Moscow to protest the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. In addition, this year, the NBC network, which has exclusive broadcasting rights to the Olympics in the U.S., will not have any live correspondence on-site during the Olympics. Furthermore, China is no longer selling tickets to the Olympics and only a select group of spectators will be allowed. China claims this is due to concern over COVID-19, but some suspect this is to reinstate autonomy. As China is in control of who spectates, the missing diplomats from boycotting countries will appear less odd.

Many report that China has implicitly stated that they will not al-

low any protests against these speculated human rights violations during the games. Some fear that any backlash upon the Chinese government will result in dangerous consequences for those bold enough to try.

Many speculate about the motives of Western media’s focus upon Chinese human rights violations. Amid China’s rising power, which some believe will begin or has begun to rival America’s global leadership, some suppose that American criticism of Chinese actions are to help prevent further growth.

Throughout history, China has had a questionable background with human rights, and thus people question ‘why now’ America is taking action. However, China returns this criticism of human rights violations as they have drawn attention to the American prison system as America has the highest incarceration rate of any country in the world. In addition, some in China have voiced concern over possible human right violations, such as sexual and physical abuse by federal officers, occurring in the Southern border of America. China is not the only country that is facing human rights speculations. The Horn of Africa is facing a devastating effect of a drought. More than 13.3 million people are suffering due to the lack of food resources, and financial support. Despite numerous human rights violations in the Horn of Africa, the American media rarely reports on this and instead highlights alleged Chinese crimes.

This argument against Beijing as a host country is further complicated as the Olympics have been accused of being a pro-western event. The IOC’s decision to select Beijing acts as a defense in the face of these claims.

If stringent guidelines were applied regarding human rights or the environment, only a few countries would be able to host the Olympics, causing a lack of diversity within host nations. Pathak finished off with the reminder that “no country has a moral high ground” concerning human rights.



Photo Courtesy of Creative Commons

A picture of the Olympics Headquarters in China

# A year in Joe Biden's presidency

By **Beverly Fishman**  
Senior Copy Editor

In a time where the world is primarily focused on COVID-19, the nation's political and economic climates have been overlooked. On January 20th, 2021, Joe Biden was inaugurated as the 46th American president; it has now been a year since that date. How has Biden done?

Biden's dropping approval ratings are tied in part to surging inflation. Consumer prices were up 7% in December from a year earlier, the largest 12-month gain in nearly 40 years. To blame are snarled supply chains, capacity constraints and tremendous American demand for goods. Following massive job losses when the pandemic began in 2020, the U.S. added a record 6.4 million jobs in 2021, and the unemployment rate fell sharply to 3.9%, well below forecasts. This has been a massive plus to the Biden presidency. However, there are still drawbacks. With the pandemic drawing back slowly, people are driving again, meaning there is a higher demand for gas. Nationally, gas has risen

to around 3.4 dollars a gallon. The issue is gas prices are largely immune to presidential action due to the free market economy of the United States. Yet, gas prices affect many Americans and those very Americans do need relief in some way.

Biden inherited the pandemic, and within his first months had accelerated the U.S. vaccination campaign while spending political capital to win \$1.9 trillion in relief for virus-stricken Americans. Yet, he's getting slim support and appreciation from voters for staving off a recession, as they contend with flying energy and food bills while the omicron variant of the coronavirus continues to skyrocket across the country. When Biden was elected, the nation was just learning to adapt to COVID-19. From December, 2020 to February, 2021, the Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines were approved by the FDA and began to be released to the public (starting with the elderly and working its way down). For a time, Covid cases were slowly decreasing and vaccine rates were going up. However, months into Biden's presidency, COVID-19 began to



Photo Courtesy of Creative Commons

Joe Biden speaking at a community event at Sun City MacDonald Ranch in Henderson, Nevada.

evolve into new variants. In September, 2021, Biden began with two executive orders. The first order required the Safer Federal Workforce Task Force to issue guidance mandating certain COVID-19 safety protocols for federal contractors and subcontractors. The second was an Executive Order requiring vaccination for federal employees. However, America was not ready to face the Omicron variant which began to appear in early December, 2021. This is the virus' fastest spreading variant and it hits

nations hard. The omicron variant of coronavirus has set new U.S. records for daily cases and hospitalizations while pushing the American death toll over 850,000. The White House was stuck as the administration wasn't prepared for a spike in demand for testing; however, due to mass vaccination, the death numbers, in comparison with the traditional disease, are rather low. The vaccination process should be remembered as a staple of Biden's presidency.

## The State of Qatar hosts 2022 World Cup: *How internal issues are playing a role in the games*

By **Jake Powers**  
Staff Writer

The 2022 Qatar World Cup, scheduled to take place from November 21st to December 18th in Bayt stadium, Al Khor, Qatar, is going to be an event that should be marked on everyone's calendar. The cup is one of the most prominent sporting events in the world, only taking place every four years. Since this year the planning committee will have to forego the now well-known implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, Qatar is going to be a big discussion topic.

The last world cup to take place was in Russia, 2018. Russian citizen, Kamal Nigmatullin, explained that, "Winning a World Cup, as a player or as a team, is one of the most major accomplishments a football player could achieve." Since the cup is covered worldwide and far from an annual occasion, it is even more significant and attention-grabbing for a player to win than that of their professional leagues. Each player is chosen to play for their country congruent with their nationality and not their place of birth, which is an inclusive way to celebrate all nationalities and ethnicities.

With an event as massive as the cup, loved by so many, it is impossible to be held without controversy. For Qatar, its controversies revolve around poverty. Qatar is a country that, by the original defini-

tion of the matter, is a third-world country. Additionally, Qatar has been under fire for exceptionally poor living and working conditions. These same working conditions are relevant to its involvement in hosting and assembling the infrastructure necessary to hold the 2022 World Cup. These conditions and low level of pay for Qatar's workers are the controversy at hand here. These are complex issues, and issues that need to be dealt with in more depth, both by world leaders and by FIFA itself (the World Cup organization).

As for a student at Lake Forest Academy, what should be your takeaway? Despite whether or not you are a longtime fan of soccer, FIFA, and/or the World Cup, the takeaway here is attention: attention to both the significance of the event as well as the politics and ethics that surround it. For these sorts of worldwide sporting events, it's important to be diligent about what goes into planning regarding human rights, while still also enjoying it. Events such as the World Cup are meant to bring people together through a love for soccer, not bring nations apart on their differences. Worldwide sporting events can truly be a thing of passion if done correctly. With that being said, whether new to soccer or a long time fan, make sure to tune in and enjoy this beautiful display of culture and what we as a species can together accomplish.



Photo Courtesy of Creative Commons

A player prepares for a match during the World Cup.