



General News

Filled with joyous celebration and festive spirit, Hispanic Heritage Month was recently celebrated at LFA.

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OP-ED

After seven years, homecoming returns back to LFA. Did they do justice to this popular fall tradition?

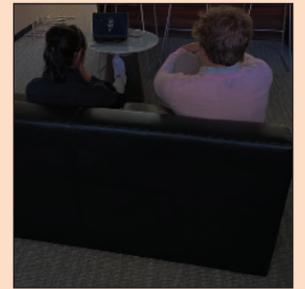
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A&E

From classic horror to whimsical tales, check out these movie recs perfect for spooky season.

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The aftermath of Hurricane Ian: A time of recovery

By Ava Trandel & Esti Rosenblatt
Managing Editor of Features & Photo Editor

Hurricane Ian, the deadliest hurricane to hit Florida since 1935, finally dissipated on October 2nd and left millions of lives in shambles. Most of the southeastern US was affected by this disaster, but the states hit hardest were Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina.

On September 24th, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis declared all of Florida to be in a state of emergency. Thousands of families evacuated their homes and flocked to schools and other public buildings that were being used as shelters, and many others left the affected regions altogether. These preparations could not have begun to prepare anyone for the severity of the hurricane's damage. As its eye hit the southwest coast of Florida, winds rose up to 150 miles per hour, and Ian was declared a category 4 hurricane. Most destruction in the US was due to flooding, and the total cost of damages are estimated to be over \$67 billion - making it the fourth costliest hurricane in American history.

Kasey Albright is a realtor born and raised on Sanibel who now lives just off island in Fort Myers. She works in both Southwest Florida communities and witnessed the events of hurricane Ian first-hand. With-

in the first hour the storm made landfall in Florida and ever since, she has been a critical line of information and support for residents and homeowners in Fort Myers and Sanibel. Initially, she posted live updates on the state of the hurricane, and she currently provides crucial help by checking in on and evaluating homes whose owners are hundreds if not thousands of miles away. Albright said she wants to "be here for them when they can't be here" because she understands how confusing and stressful these times can be.

Albright, like so many other community members, has fully immersed herself in the recovery and rebuilding efforts of both towns. "Things are moving so much faster than anyone could have imagined," Albright said as she described the surprising speed in which Sanibel specifically is being restored. While the rebuilding of the Sanibel causeway was originally expected to take a year, Governor Ron Desantis called for the construction of temporary segments so that emergency vehicles, construction workers, and eventually residents could have easier access to the island. Residents were allowed on island via the causeway on October 21st, and electricity was fully restored on October 31st. The logistics of getting people back on the island, such as sending out



Courtesy of the Harrell, Top, Albright Realty Team facebook page

A destroyed road in Sanibel remains blocked off.

hurricane passes as well as reopening businesses and restaurants is one of the more challenging parts of the process. Albright said it's almost too hard to keep up with how quickly everything is going, but that ultimately, "It's a good problem to have." The local government is predicting that Sanibel will be fully recovered and open to tourism in a couple years, and Fort Myers even sooner. Though the island will lose this season of tourism, which runs from October to May, by summer 2023 it should be back up to speed with resorts and restaurants ready to accommodate guests. There's no need to worry about how local businesses will fare until summer; as Albright explained, the island will see an influx of people moving to Florida for construction, contracting, and landscaping jobs who will need places to stay and eat. Aside from the initial cost of damage and repairs, the economy isn't expected to take any more of a hit from Ian.

Hurricanes have and will continue to worsen with the deterioration of our climate, and Ian, a direct product of that climate change, is a prime example of how the nature of tropical storms is shifting. As the world warms, increased amounts of water vapor are released into the air, and since hurricanes typically form in warm, humid areas, the more climatically extreme these areas become, the stronger and more damaging the storms will be. Since 1980, storms in the North Atlantic Ocean, the birthplace of Ian, have generally been intensifying more rapidly than they did before. Aside

from hurricanes, the consequential warming seas and rising water levels of climate change are predicted to cause extreme flooding and heavier rainfall during hurricane season in the regions most at risk.

Although LFA is geographically removed from hurricane Ian's damage, it's important that community members make an effort to help others recover as those in the affected areas in the US rebuild their lives and economies. While housing, power, food and other necessities are in short supply, make sure those in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina are safe and able to manage the damage. Reaching out to friends and family that have been directly affected, if only to offer moral support, can make all the difference. Rebuilding entire towns across a vast range of land is a slow process, especially after a storm like Ian, so any and all support is encouraged and welcome.

Donations to services such as the American Red Cross and Direct Relief go towards medical care and disaster relief in struggling communities. As of mid October, over 50 million bottles of water have been distributed to people in need, and nearly all power in Florida has been restored. Albright said that the morale and sentiment of those living in Florida along with those reaching out to help is "helpful, hopeful, and community oriented. What [she has] seen are people going out of their way to help others." The overarching sense of hope is almost tangible to those affected by Ian, and it continues to grow more powerful everyday.



Courtesy of the Harrell, Tolp, Albright Realty Team facebook page

Sanibel Causeway is being repaired after Hurricane Ian.

Celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month

By **Tanya Ganesh**
Sports Director

Lively merengue, warm crispy churros, flavorful salteñas, bright flowy skirts enriched with vivid hues, festive music accentuating every swing of bachata and flare of salsa...this is Hispanic Heritage Month—a time to appreciate and celebrate the rich culture, history, and contributions of the Latinx and Hispanic community, including Mexico, Spain, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

Hispanic Heritage Month first began as a commemorative week in 1968, when California Congressman George E. Brown made the push to recognize the contributions of the Latinx community. This gained

momentum through the 1960s, when the civil rights movement was at its peak, as there was a growing awareness of multicultural identities of the United States.

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan expanded the week to a 30-day period, spanning from September 15th to October 15th. The timing of the month coincides with the Independence Day celebrations of multiple Latin American nations: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Chile, and Nicaragua.

The lively spirit of Hispanic Heritage month was brought to LFA with the events UNIDOS, the Latinx affinity group, hosted on campus. The Lotería and Karaoke night in the Student Union attracted many students, com-

ing together to honor the month with joy. This traditional game of chance, lotería—the Spanish word for lottery—often referred to as Mexican bingo, where illustrated cards depicting Mexican aesthetics replace bingo balls. Latinx and Hispanic communities have been playing this game for hundreds of years, but in the past decade, it has become increasingly present in the United States. Afterwards, students soulfully sang songs ranging from Corazon Sin Cara to Como la Fleur.

The Student Union incorporated dishes such as the Bolivian chicken dish, Picante de Pollo, in honor of the month, which Marianella Gonzalez, the Modern & Classical Languages Chair and advisor of UNIDOS said, “made me feel like I was at

home.” Gonzalez explained that “At home, every month is Hispanic Heritage Month... the only difference bringing it to school is that it gives us the opportunity to share it [hispanic culture] with other groups.”

Students immersed themselves in a variety of dances that Hispanic culture is known for, including Chacha, Bachata and Rodeo del Payaso, at UNIDOS’ All School Meeting, where ELL teacher Michele Vaca taught steps with her husband Carlos, as they’re competitive salsa dancers. The affinity group also hosted a Piñata-breaking house cup competition, as well as a Churro sale to fund the Nuestro Center. Lower Corbin displays a mural containing a collage of flags that represent Latinx countries, showing a sea of student handprints to symbolize the unity and support of the LFA community.

Part of the beauty of this month is the unity it creates in celebration of the rich culture of the Latinx community. Yaelle Ortiz ‘23, a leader of UNIDOS, explained that the events and spirit of the month “make me comfortable to be myself: loud and wild, having fun.” Xitlali Ayala 23’, another leader of UNIDOS, added that it allows her to embrace all parts of her culture and share it. “I can wear my clothes, present my music, enjoy my food... and feel represented and appreciated.”



Students gather at an UNIDOS organized churro sale during Hispanic Heritage Month.

Courtesy of @lfaacademy on instagram

Keily Pacheco: LFA’s new college counselor

By **Max Ma & Richard Zhang**
Senior Editor of Social Justice & Managing Editor of Digial

The College Counseling Office is one of LFA’s greatest student resources on campus. This school year, the office welcomed a new member to the team, Keily Pacheco.

Pacheco was born and raised in Waukegan, just 15 minutes away from LFA. She did not leave the area until she went to Franklin Marshall College in Pennsylvania to earn her bachelors’ degree in sociology. After graduating, Pacheco joined the College Advising Corps, a national program that recruits undergraduate students and places them in nearby high schools to serve as college advisors. Pacheco is trilingual, speaking English, Spanish, and Italian, which she picked up in college. This enables her to interact with a diverse range of students with different linguistic backgrounds.

The primary factor that drove the college counseling office to seek out more members for the team was the increasing size of the senior classes. Mia Rogers, the Associate Dean of College Counseling, said that the current “senior class size increased from 90 to around 120 students, but the number of counselors hasn’t grown. More counselors allow us to split out students in a way that is more equitable. Students won’t be fighting to meet with us during free periods and breaks.” In the past, there have been four full-time college counselors at LFA, when Carolyn Gorowski was still working in the

office. When Gorowski became the Dean of Admissions, she still had a small number of college counseling caseloads; however, with the increasing number of class sizes, it made more sense to alleviate her workload and hire another full time counselor. One prioritized requirement when hiring a new counselor is previous college admission experience. “If you never sat in a college admission committee and never had those conversations, it is more difficult to have a conversation with students about what the college counseling process is like,” said Rogers.

“When I came for my in-person interview, I just fell in love with the community and the college counseling team,” Pacheco said. “There is a lot of collaborative work, which is very rare to see out in the real world. I used to work very individually and territorially in our space. But that is not the case here. I love that. I love the teamwork.”

Beyond the admission office, Pacheco was drawn to LFA’s interconnected community. “This is a tight community where you always have something to fall back on and support. That’s what really motivated me,”

she shared. Pacheco believes it is crucial to build relationships with students before working with them, so that the college counselors can better help them navigate through the application process and find the right fit.

Currently, Pacheco is still learning about the role she will play. She does not have a senior caseload right now but is assisting the current college counselors with editing student essays and greeting college representatives. Next semester, she will be assigned a caseload of 17 Juniors counselees and is excited to start meeting with them in January.



The new LFA college counselor Keily Pacheco smiles at the camera.

Photo by Max Ma

Affinity groups' role at LFA

By Richard Zhang
Managing Editor of Digital

Affinity groups are a staple of the LFA community. Being safe spaces for people who identify within them and feel like they belong within them, affinity groups also provide a setting for the sharing of cultures, traditions, foods, and ideas. Allies of those groups are allowed to join and be a part of affinity groups, but at times, affinity groups might decide to meet only with the people who are identified or belong in that affin-

ity group, since they are still safe spaces for those who do identify. Discussion and collaboration between these affinity groups is commonly done within the MOSAIC.

Formerly named the Cultural Diversity Club, MOSAIC is a united effort led by the Multicultural Prefects; this year Saanvi Malkani and Sajan Shah, that includes representatives from each affinity group in a cycle meeting to discuss how to support each other, events coming up, and any large issues that any of the affinity groups want to talk about with together. Specifically, it

is a way to increase understanding between affinity groups, have the leaders of their respective affinity group communicate other groups' events to their own groups, and allow larger affinity groups to help out smaller groups with planning or even running their events at times. In addition to this, the MOSAIC also holds a quarterly meeting with the Head of School Office and the Dean of Multiculturalism to discuss anything coming up, any issues about equity and inclusion on campus, and how faculty members could help support affinity groups.

The Dean of Multiculturalism is Lusanda Mayikana, and she has held this role now for a number of years, as well as being a faculty member for 20+ years. Mayikana serves the role of supporting affinity groups, the MOSAIC, and any efforts for diversity and inclusion on campus. She works closely with the students, Deans Council, and Head of School office to make sure that equity and diversity is met within the school community, and also reaches out to alumni to understand their experiences in the LFA community.

This year's presidents and vice-presidents/leaders are: Ariana Rashid, Mazin Awada, Alan Nigmatullin (Muslim Student Union), Advika Rangan, Anushua Srivastava, Yaelle Ortiz (South Asian Student Union), Franco Sovero, Xitlali Ocote-Arellano, Xitlali Ayala, Yaelle Ortiz (UNIDOS), Dayak Rosen, Juliette Hulsizer, Camryn Farbman (Girl Up), Beverly Fishman, Simon Weisserman, Sofya Vinokurova (Jewish Student Union), Richard Zhang, Cheryl Dao, Myke Chen, Bradley Ma, Heewoong Kim, Ruby Yan, Emma Ye, Andrew Wong, Jin Kwon, Daisy Zhang (Asian Culture Union), Sarah Daly, Evelyn King (Gay Student Alliance) Joie Smith, Tracey Liu (Harlow Society), Mark Rios, Yaseen Primus (Black Student Union), Anna Nikishina, Dasha Kuklina, and Sofya Vinokurova (Eastern European Union).



MOSAIC gathers together for a meeting.

Courtesy of LFA smugmug

\$7 Meal budget for athletics

By Nicholas Bisulca
Editor in Chief

A study from *Business Insider* shows that the typical customer spends about \$8 per trip to McDonald's, one of the least expensive stops LFA athletes take on the way back from games. LFA's \$7 meal budget is slowly decreasing in value as inflation continues to rise, making our meals more expensive. The result—students who don't spend extra money cannot get a healthy meal after games. Mazin Awada '23, one of LFA's athletes, said, "Most of the time we go out to eat, I need to either pay extra for food or settle for less."

According to *SFGATE*, Male athletes need about 1,000 calories per meal, and female athletes need about 800. In Illinois, a Big Mac costs \$4.55 and has about 550 calories. Add a side of small fries for \$1.39 (230 cal), a drink for \$1.00 (150 cal), and tax, and you're already over your budget. Keep in mind this is the least expensive chain LFA athletes stop at. Prices rise significantly when the Caxy van visits Portillos, Jimmy Johns, or Panda Express.

In 2018, the meal money rose from \$5 per person to its current \$7 per person. Is it time for it to rise again? A \$1 raise per student would mean \$7000 redis-

tributed from other budgets to the meal budget. Athletic Director Darrin Madeley said that raising the meal money opens the "possibility of losing things like new backpacks, uniforms, and team gear." In his research on other schools' meal budgets, he found that LFA is the only school in the ISL that gives money to students for away games. Other schools, because they're made up of only day students, give neither money nor snacks to students.

On the topic, LFA's Chief Financial Officer Mike Reidy said, "The least we can do is feed you, so we want to do what's fair. If \$7 isn't cutting it anymore—and that's what we're looking at right now—we have to raise it." He humorously added, "We're not going to not do something that's the right thing to do for \$7000 bucks," highlighting that there are budgetary limits for the school that may need to be addressed. Unfortunately, while the consensus seems to be that everyone would love a higher meal budget, no one can make money appear out of thin air.

Most worry surrounding the meal budget has been focused on boarders since day students can go home after games to eat. Many boarders rely on the \$7 for meals, and if not be spent in a restaurant, they are forced to use

Uber eats later in the evening. In some cases, Uber Eats is the only option because some teams will go straight to LFA after a game so students can study.

While all students greatly appreciate the \$7, it's viewed as lacking its intended

purpose, and with rising costs generally, it's coming more prominently to light. It won't be surprising if more attention is brought to this budgetary need as students continue to look at their \$7 and consider whether to eat less or spend more.



Courtesy of Creative Commons

McDonalds is one of the least expensive fast food chain stops LFA students make after a game.

Balancing religion and school: A struggle

By Esti Rosenblatt
Photo Editor

At LFA, it's unusually hard to find a stable balance between school and religion. It is bound to happen that some religious holidays will fall on a school day. Students who practice that religion must make a choice--go to school or stay home and observe the holiday. Already a difficult decision to make, LFA further contributes to the dilemma. Students that miss class could fall behind, and occasionally, teachers are not as understanding about an absence as students would like them to be.

Holidays Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur were in early September this year. Local high schools New Trier (Winnetka) and

Highland Park annually have classes off for both of these holidays. So...why doesn't LFA take the days off as well? Given that Lake Forest Academy has a significant religiously-diverse student population, it is not easy for the school to cancel class for every holiday. While a fair reason, LFA can do more to accommodate religious students without canceling school. The Dean of Pluralism and Multicultural Affairs, Lusanda Mayikana, sends an email months before holidays telling teachers that some students might miss school. Many teachers still schedule tests, quizzes, and important labs on days they know students will be missing. When teachers ignore these emails, students regard it as a lack of understanding

and feel they aren't being set up for success.

As one of the few faculty with a Jewish background, (but having had a mixed upbringing), journalism and English teacher Mandy Krause struggles with watching students deal with the emotional strain of feeling exhausted by the process necessary to take off for a holiday, especially since she felt put out by that same feeling in high school and thus avoided taking off. Krause agreed, "It is unnecessary for us [teachers] to knowingly schedule tests on those days, especially when we are sent emails way in advance that have the dates of holidays, and it's in the LFA planner. I understand that it's difficult to schedule around every holiday, but I find it frustrating that so many distribute major assessments on days they know students will be physically gone. It forces students to feel like they're a problem just following what may be their families' expectation and perhaps part of their identity."

There are many students who choose to attend school on a religious holiday because making up a day's worth of school work ends up being less convenient than attending school in the first place. Camryn Farbman '24 is a Jewish student who this year, attended school over the holidays. On dealing with judgments from teachers and families, Farbman said, "When going to dinner with family after the school day, they were very judgmental that I went to school instead of going to temple." This struggle is present in many families, often creating a divide between student and parents or even among siblings who might make different choices.

As an adult, Krause said that she "un-

derstands the complexities around families, holidays, and that how people practice is not always the same." She recalled, "Once I took off for the holiday and was reprimanded at school since I 'hadn't gone to temple.' I didn't actually get in trouble, but the experience made me really uncomfortable, so I understand the student discomfort." Similarly to students, teachers also find it difficult to make the right decision: to go to work, or celebrate out of school. There is a sense of guilt attached to such decisions; either decision will lead you to miss something important.

Farbman addressed the troubles she faced during school and the following day. After missing school, students are sometimes expected to be ready for a test or have projects due the very next day. Like many others, Farbman thinks that most teachers won't understand the importance of a holiday to her family. She "feels bad using it (religion) as an excuse" and decided to disrupt the evening of her celebration to finish work. This is a typical theme; in fact almost every student worries that their teachers won't understand why they're missing school, and are forfeiting more of their holiday to keep up with work.

Making the choice to go or stay home for a holiday is difficult. Given that students feel a general sense of disregard after missing only one day, LFA has an ability and responsibility to reduce the problem. Teachers can better accommodate students' expecting absences by adjusting the scheduling of major class assessments. At the end of the day, there is no wrong choice to make, but there should be no academic pressures influencing students' personal choices.



Photo by Esti Rosenblatt

Apples and honey is set out for the celebration of Rosh Hashanah.

Homecoming: A promising first attempt

By Theresa Fu and Claire Ireland
Senior Editors

After a seven year hiatus, homecoming has finally returned to LFA. Unveiled with a passionately performed fake hoco-proposal at morning meeting, the setup confirmed weeks of homecoming rumors, drawing gasps and laughs in anticipation. This energy easily translated into a successful spirit week of daily-themed dress days (varying from decade throwbacks, Ferry Hall appreciation, and twinning) to fan vans bringing the spirit to a busy week of sporting events.

The finale was the Friday night Prep Hockey game, LFA's alternative to the traditional experience of a homecoming football game. Though unconventional, it brought an unprecedented number of students to the rink. Sporting orange and black face paint and even equipped with a speaker, they screamed cheers and climbed shoulders; the hype for homecoming seemed never-ending. But for many, this would be where the momentum stopped.

Perhaps the startling change in atmosphere can be attributed to the overly-romanticized version of homecoming depicted in the media. In TV shows and classic

movies like *The Kissing Booth* and the *Perks of Being a Wallflower*, homecoming is portrayed as the event of fall; there are rooms filled with bouncing crowds, pep rallies, and friendly competition for titles of homecoming royalty. But realistically, is this something that LFA can achieve?

LFA has a student population of around 450, a stark contrast to most public schools' number in the thousands. Paired alongside the fact that not every student partakes in dances, LFA's homecoming turnout cannot be expected to live up to the packed-house media ideal.

Additionally, prom at LFA, unlike at public schools, is open to all grade levels and is made out to be the event of the year, (subsequently replacing the typical public school homecoming). Those that saw homecoming as the successor to prom, even unknowingly, are going to feel and see disappointment. Comparing an event held off-campus (at reserved yachts or museums) that serves as a luxury school-end celebration to one held during the stress-filled fall season in the school gym isn't really fair.

This is not to say that the hard work of the Prefects, Kim Graham, Emily Kalis and Caxy Athletic Team in Crown wasn't

apparent; from designated photo locations, to a hired DJ and an exclusive Coax performance, the makings of a good school dance were present. Yes, the lights weren't completely dimmed (which emphasized the oddness of the ceiling projections) and the music could've been turned up at least a few notches-- with a better pre-made playlist. But ultimately, homecoming is more than just its decorations; it feeds on student determination to make the dance fun.

Walking around the dance saying "this is so sad" is a self-fulfilling prophecy. If you just stand there, of course the dance isn't going to be fun. It's a dance. You're supposed to dance.

In the end, homecoming is what you make of it. So for next year, if more people can set aside their preconceived notions of what homecoming "should" be, and if minor adjustments to music and lights are made, there's a lot of potential to what this event can be.



Coax performs at LFA's Homecoming Dance.

Courtesy of @lfacademy on instagram

Hate and its prevalence in words

By Jessie Ji
Photo Editor

Do we have the right to hate? The boundary between hate speech and free speech has been a blurred line since the passage of the First Amendment. The Supreme Court case *Brandenburg vs. Ohio* in 1969 set a landmark decision by interpreting the First Amendment. The court established protection of inflammatory speech unless such speech directly incites imminent criminal activity. Due to the absence of law enforcements defining an antagonistic environment filled with hate, hostility is constantly experienced by marginalized groups. Anyone may be the target of verbal siege at any minute at the information vortex known as the Internet. The Internet, an interactive platform, creates an intrusive atmosphere—people can say things anonymously without repercussions—incentivizing the growth of hate. Under such an atmosphere, language can be weaponized in online spaces where hate speech is argued as a personal preference. Oftentimes, people raise questions as to why it would be illegal to hate, while intentionally or unintentionally, those who commit hate speech erase the political motives behind their words. When someone dislikes Coca-Cola compared to Sprite is

very different from someone disliking a specific group of people. When one publicly expresses a highly controversial statement regarding a particular affinity group, their hatred develops into an argument that their words are simply preferences. The personal is political, a rallying slogan of the second-wave feminism movement from the late 1960s, articulates that not merely personal feelings drive hate speech, rather could represent a universal circumstance. Hate hidden online feeds off of each other. Its occurrence, even when claimed as apolitical, lacks an understanding of how much harm it would bring to the targeted individuals or groups. You cannot claim that hate against a minority group is ever apolitical. Every discriminatory word could be the brick and mortar that contributes to the hateful attitudes against a certain group of people. Hence, the hierarchy of society is built, word by word, when language is utilized as a way of segregation and exclusion.

Hate speech is not just an expression; the ideas correlating with hate frequently become ingrained in people's mindset, and can be translated into real physical violence. The crisis of hate speech will only be prevented if intercepted at its source. The protection of free speech should not be the justification of hate speech, as the Antifa activist Daryle Lamont Jen-



Photo courtesy of Creative Commons

Speech protesters holding a sign: "U said 'We can do better'."

kins in the documentary *Alt-right: Age of Rage* states, "hate speech is protected by the first amendment, but that doesn't mean that it is protected by ethics." Language, when not being weaponized, can channel inclusion and fairness along with love and hope. Public forums are a unique place that allows the entrance of

all types of voice, where the media typically displays a hegemony of opinions. However, no one should be abusing the system which allows an end to the unjust silencing of marginalized groups and converting it into an attack of others. To speak is to make a difference, so why not make use it for the better?

Why humans shouldn't drink breast milk from a cow

By Ambika Gupta
Editor and Chief

Do you still consume breast milk? Breast milk from a different species than your own? Why are you drinking breast milk from a cow? Humans are the only animals that drink breast milk from an animal outside their own species. Dairy farmers repeatedly artificially inseminate cows, who are trapped in an endless cycle of pregnancy, in order to ensure

milk production. After the birth of a calf, the mother cow and calf are immediately separated. Cows evolved to produce one gallon of milk per day, though through the use of artificial hormones cows now produce seven and a half gallons. Though the actual milking process does not cause physical pain, these cows are separated into cramped individual cells and are unable to roam, forced to stand in their own feces. Cow's milk is suited for the needs of a calf, an animal with four stomachs

that typically weighs 1,000 pounds by 2 years old. Milk has high levels of artery-clogging saturated fat and cholesterol, and this combination can lead to heart disease, the #1 killer in America. For many, milk is seen as a vital source of protein. Part of this is due to the infamous 'Got Milk?' long-standing government campaign. Dairy industries have been influential donors in politics, having made \$5.1 million in federal contributions during the 2020 election cycle. These do-

nations have stimulated the government's support of the dairy industry. Regardless, many underestimate the amount of protein within plant based alternatives. Silk's Organic Unsweetened Soymilk contains 7 grams of protein per cup, while 1% fat milk contains 8 grams of protein per cup. This is just a 1 gram difference in protein. Soymilk is the healthier alternative for humans, cows, and mother earth. Dairy production also has a colossal effect on the environment: according to the University of Arkansas, a gallon of milk produced in the U.S. has a carbon footprint of 17.6 pounds of carbon dioxide. Not only that, these dairy farm systems pollute air and water while also contributing heavily to soil degradation and deforestation. Countries are recognizing the dairy industry's harm, as of the 195 countries in the Paris Climate Agreement, 92 identified their own livestock industries as an area for climate action to be focused on in order to meet reduction goals.

Many people, including those in the LFA community, are transitioning away from only consuming cow's milk, integrating plant-based alternatives into their diets. This change is vital, and the best way to start is by viewing plant-based milk as an addition to your life. As PETA, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, puts it, "if she's not your mom, it's not your milk."



Multiple examples of cow and non dairy milk.

Photos by Anusha Srivastava, Mazin Awada, Nicholas Bisulca

Editorial: The College Fair dilemma

As we arrive at one of the most stressful times of the year for highschool seniors, it is important to reflect on the opportunities Lake Forest Academy students are given. Among many other traditions, the college fair held at LFA is a great way for students, especially seniors, to ask questions and explore schools before their application cycle. The 2022 college fair was held for the first time since 2019 due to COVID-19, and therefore, many students wanted to take advantage of this opportunity. Not only were there LFA students and family from all four grades, but also parents, faculty, and students from other schools. While having this exposure to colleges is extremely beneficial, many upperclassmen were not able to talk to the college representatives they wanted to due to incredibly long lines. Since there were so many people eager to talk to the more prestigious schools like North-

western University, the University of Chicago, and University of Southern California, the lines at those tables stacked up. To put it in perspective, the line for Northwestern ranged from the start of the library to the middle of the Garden Room. As a result, many seniors did not get to speak to the representatives they wanted to because of the numerous amounts of underclassmen in line. Seniors are in their application cycle and should be prioritized over underclassmen when having an opportunity to explore colleges. During the college fair, there were many instances where a senior would wait in line for a lengthy time and still not be able to ask the questions they needed because freshman and sophomores were taking up the line. While it is still encouraged that freshmen and sophomores attend for exposure, it is important they be courteous of upperclassmen. Additionally,

underclassmen have another two to three years to consider applications and colleges, but for seniors, this was their last chance to interact with representatives before submitting their applications. In the future, a designated time for seniors to speak to representatives, maybe an hour before the doors open to others, would allow for them to get the College Fair experience they need within their application cycle. All in all, while underclassmen are encouraged to attend both the Q & A sessions and the College Fair, in the future, it is important for them to be respectful and cognizant of the upperclassmen, specifically seniors, waiting to ask questions and get what could potentially be their last contact with their admissions representatives before submitting their applications. In the future, possibly implementing time solely for upperclassmen could help solve this problem.



Students examine a college table at the college fair.

Photo courtesy of www.lfanet.org



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PUBLICATION

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EDITORIALS

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

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

AWARDS

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

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"If life was predictable it would cease to be life, and be without flavor." - Eleanor Roosevelt

Banned books crisis around the U.S

By **Jessie Ji & Ela Jain**
Photo Editor & Staff Writer

In schools across America, a huge wave of banned books has crashed onto the shore, leaving in its wake over 1600 books banned in over 5000 schools. Most of these books include themes about LGBTQ+ or race, or are informational books about sex or puberty. This had been predominately led by a few conservative groups, who claim to be protecting their children from “harmful” material, and have stated they do not want their children exposed to pornography.

Books about LGBTQ+ youth are on the top of the banned list, making up over 40% of banned book lists. The most banned book in America, *Genderqueer*, has been banned by over 138 school districts for explicit sexual images. Books teaching about race, dubbed as “critical race theory,” come in close second, and members of conservative groups explain they do not want their child exposed to ideas that one race is explicitly bad, and another is explicitly good.

The Supreme Court in 1982 addressed the pandemic of banning books in *Island Trees Union Free School District vs. Pico*, ruling that “local school boards may not remove books from school libraries simply because they dislike the ideas contained in those books.” How-

ever, this has not stopped conservative groups from continuing to ban books.

Banning books in schools has not stopped most youth. With the rise of the internet, and the easy accessibility to online books, banning books has become an increasingly outdated way of limiting reading material for children and teenagers across America. English instructor Dr. Glinda Hall, with her 24-year experience of teaching and raising teenagers, claimed that “telling a teenager not to read something, or limiting their access, will backfire,” because “teens are well aware of having access to information through technology.”

The Brooklyn Library has begun championing online access to books, and has started the Books Unbanned movement to help young people find books they are interested in, regardless of ban. PEN America, an organization dedicated to unbanning books across schools, has been advocating for this cause for years. On their website they state, “This movement to ban books is deeply undemocratic.”

Another impact of banning books that represent voices of marginalized groups on children growing up in such an environment is that they “probably are going to have a less sense of their own identity being validated”, said LFA librarian and archivist, Rita MacAyeal, especially



Courtesy of Creative Commons

A cart, labeled caution, is full of banned books.

when they are part of an underrepresented community. Indeed, it requires bountiful thoughts being devoted in book selection for a high school, where kids are largely influenced by what they are exposed to. At LFA, the diversity of textual thought as well as the collections offered through library and media services create an inclusive environment, allowing free access to books containing various themes, encouraging students to read literature works from all over the world. As Rita MacAyeal said, “It is really important to have books to reflect a diverse set of voices so that ev-

eryone does find themselves in the stories.”

However, “banning books and restricting access because of age and/or maturity level are two different things,” said Glinda Hall.

Protecting the innocence of children should never justify banning particular categories of books; rather, this trend would create a stifling atmosphere where some voices are dominant whereas some are censored. It reflects a society’s prejudice, obstructing everyone’s ability to see themselves in literary works with the portrayal of a diverse set of voices.

Congress passes new firearm legislation

By **Finn Harrison**
Managing Editor of Politics

In the wake of the July 4th Highland Park shooting, many, especially those in the affected communities, are looking to the government for change. The question now is: will change actually happen? For many, the shooting is just another in a line of tragedies that have rocked the country but, ultimately, led to little regulatory change. However, there are signs that the

Biden administration is striving to make some improvements, even if gradual.

On June 25th, 2022, President Biden signed into law the first major gun legislation passed by Congress in over 30 years. The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, passed by a 234 to 193 vote in the House, included incentives for states to pass so-called “red flag” laws, which allow people to petition the courts to remove guns from people considered a threat to themselves or others. The bill also bans those convicted of



Courtesy of Creative Commons

An AR15, which would be included in an assault rifle ban.

domestic abuse (not only between current or former spouses, but also between dating partners) from owning firearms. In addition, it will expand background checks for those over the age of 18 and under 21. On the subject, democratic Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut said that “It doesn’t do everything I want, but what we are doing will save thousands of lives without violating anyone’s Second Amendment rights.” The NRA has officially announced that they will oppose the bill saying that the legislation “can be abused to restrict lawful gun purchases, infringe upon the rights of law-abiding Americans, and use federal dollars to fund gun control measures being adopted by state and lo-

cal politicians.” So while many desire further federal gun legislation, progress is being made. In addition to this, several states have passed gun legislation over the summer and early Fall, including New Jersey, New York, Colorado, California, Delaware, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

On the subject of whether or not progress will be made, history teacher Akim Mpofo said, “I think there will be progress within the states, but federally, there are too many lobbying gun groups to avoid stagnation.” So in the meantime, it seems while some progress has been made, future progress seems to be confined to a state level, with federal legislation being halted by private interests.



It's time to pass the
assault weapons ban.

Courtesy of @JoeBiden on Twitter

President Biden makes a speech urging Congress to pass gun legislation.

Why is parental leave still gendered?

By Ambika Gupta
Chief Editor

According to the United Nations [UN], for every dollar a man earns, a woman earns 77 cents. Gender inequality within the workplace has many causes, some of which are societal norms such as women's longer maternity leave.

Currently at LFA, new mothers on faculty get roughly three months of maternity leave, while new fathers have a five-day informal leave of absence. This discrepancy is on par with most of American society. According to the US Department of Labor, the average length of maternity leave for women is 34 days, and the average length of paternity leave for men 21 days.

While on leave, fewer women than men will receive full pay (32% of women versus 55% of men), and a greater percentage receive no pay (41% of women versus 25% of men). These differences are not exclusively due to women's longer leaves.

The perception of a woman in the workplace by their employers or fellow coworkers can often be altered after taking this maternity leave. Coworkers or bosses sometimes view these women as less committed to their jobs. According to Harvard Business Review, after taking maternity leave, women are less likely to be promoted, move into management, or receive a pay raise. These women are also at a greater risk of being fired or demoted.

Some employers actively avoid hiring pregnant women, or women whom they

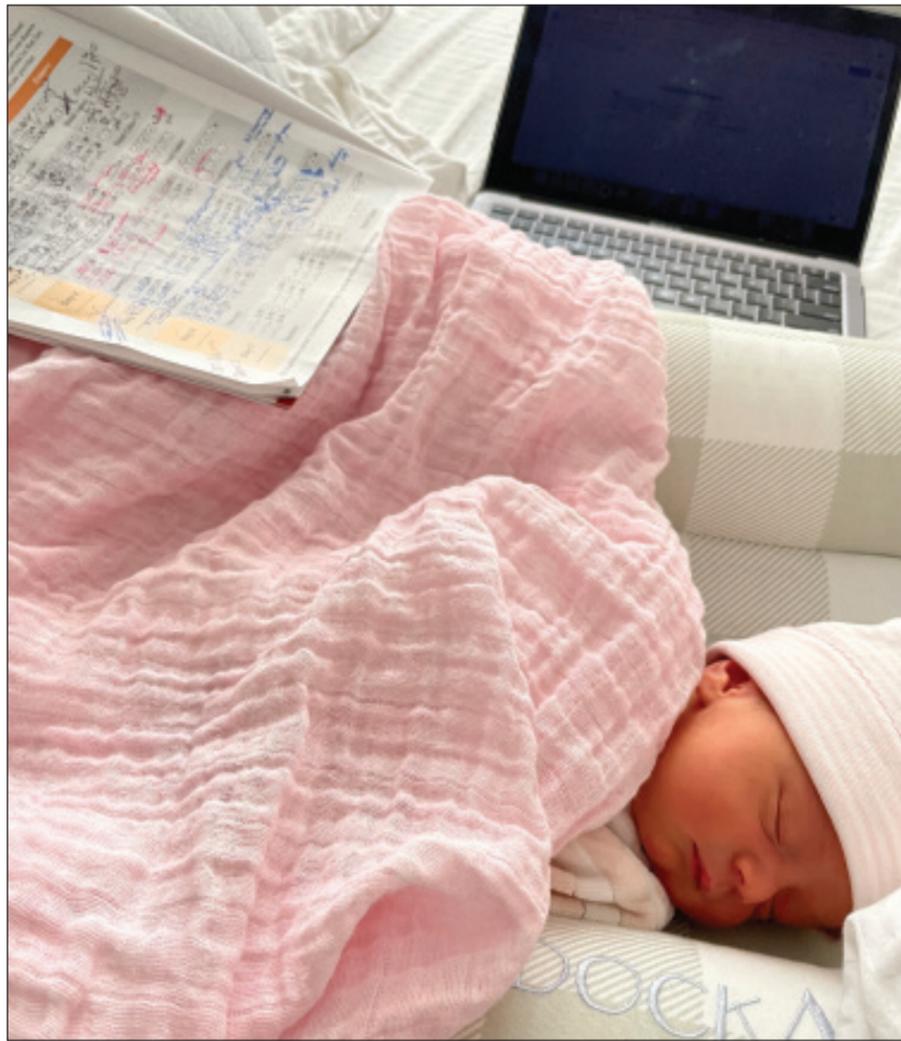


Photo by Amanda Krause

Journalism and English teacher Mandy Krause balances wrapping up her students' grades while keeping up with the feeding schedule of her three-day-old infant in February of 2022. LFA offers maternity leave, but she's not ready to sign-off until she's made sure her students have closure.

believe will be, to avoid paying for maternity leave. According to the Equality and Human Rights Commission, 41% of employers believe that pregnancy in the workplace places "an unnecessary cost burden" on the workplace, and 40% of em-

ployers believe that new mothers are "generally less interested in career progression."

Women and men face vastly different societal expectations regarding child care as women are generally expected to forefront raising a child. These unequal ex-

pectations can result in praise for men for completing simple childcare tasks that women are expected to do. For example, Yue Chen, Global Department Chair and mother of a 17 month-old boy, typically has dinner and feeds her son at the Student Union. One day, Chen's husband Isaias Cairampoma, a Spanish teacher at LFA, was feeding their son instead. Later on, a colleague reached out to Chen describing the 'golden heart' they witnessed within Cairampoma. Chen states that she typically feeds her son at dinner; yet, she's never received comparable feedback.

The current system in most American institutions is highly gendered with the expectation that a child is cared for by a heterosexual couple. Same-sex male couples receive less paid parental leave when compared to different-sex couples.

Some advocate for an equal paid parental leave for parents to help address some of these issues. In Finland, Prime Minister Sanna Marin recently eliminated previously gendered-based leave by announcing a new parental policy reform that will grant nearly 7 months of paid leave to each parent, only 69 days can be transferred to the other parent.

Parental leave's negative effects can foster an environment that can alienate new mothers, and the current unequal parental leave encourages the notion that women are more in charge of child care. Addressing this specific issue can lead to greater equality in the workplace and society at large by encouraging men's active participation in child rearing.

Respect for marriage act makes its way to the Senate

By Avery Martin
Managing editor of A&E

After the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*, which stated that the right to privacy of the Fourteenth Amendment does not protect the right to an abortion, the Supreme Court is now reviewing other cases that were decided on the basis of *Roe v. Wade's* precedent such as *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) - which legalized gay marriage - and *Loving v. Virginia* (1967) - which legalized interracial marriage. In response, many politicians are rushing to pass laws that would write the protection of LGBTQ+ rights and interracial marriage rights into law. As of now, with the rights being justified with court cases, they face the possibility of being left up to the interpretation of a conservative supreme court. The bill's sponsor, Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), and his cosponsors drafted the Respect for Marriage Act. On July 19, the act was passed in the House, and is set to be debated in the Senate following November midterm elections. The act has drawn a lot of media attention, but what happens if it passes?

The bill would also repeal and replace

current provisions that don't require states to recognize same-sex marriages from other states or provisions in states that identify marriage as between a man and a woman.

As of recently, the bill has been passed in the House with a majority vote, supported by 220 Democrats unanimously and 47 Republicans. There were 157 Republican votes against it. Criticism of the bill calls it unnecessary and trying to fix an issue that's already been settled. In the US, 71% of the population supports same-sex marriages being recognized by the law and receiving the same rights as traditional marriages. The Senate is pretty evenly representative of the two main parties, so the vote will likely be a similar ratio to how the bill was voted on in the house.

For LGBTQ+ individuals and interracial couples at LFA and all over the country, it is a nerve-wracking time and a supportive community is critical. Years ago, support from students and faculty for *Obergefell* was big leading up to the decision. As faculty advisor to GSA, Val. Sorenson recalled, "a sizable group of LFA students, faculty and staff traveled to Springfield in the fall of 2013 to attend a march in support of marriage



Courtesy of Creative Commons

Senate Majority leader Chuck Schumer leads a march in support of the Respect for Marriage Act.

equality in IL." That same close compassionate community is needed again now.

When asked what LFA community members can do to support the LGBTQ+ population at the school, head of GSA Evelyn King said, "Be aware of the history behind derogatory words and what you're saying in the hallways." She continued, "Staying

educated on what's going on is especially important on something like the bill that has the potential to be reversed which would be detrimental to a lot of people here." In terms of marriage rights for all individuals, our country has made substantial progress, and it's critical we preserve and protect this progress.

Affirmative Action Document Plan

By Djasahn English

Managing Editor of Social Justice

As the 1960's civil rights movement gained momentum and began its historical reconfiguration of America's social structure, President Lyndon B. Johnson enacted the Executive Order 11246, the first of many pieces of legislation that now act as Affirmative Action. Affirmative Action aims to increase the opportunities in workplaces and educational environments for marginalized people and those who have unequal access to resources. As LFA's senior class begins the dreaded annual college application process, it is important to have a general understanding behind the meaning and roles of Affirmative Action in college admissions.

Ben Wetherbee, Associate Dean of College Counseling, said that Affirmative Action in education is "designed to improve access and to improve the equal and equitable representation of people from underrepresented groups, a nod to the fact that there have been systems in place in this country that are institutionalized, that have oppressed people from progressing. It's basically a way to combat that."

Students and alumni at LFA have been aided by the existence of Affirmative Action, and many believe it to be a tool to level the playing field, reshaping the inequitable pursuit of higher education.

Ariana Rashid '23, the President of the Muslim Student Union, stated that "I hope they take into consideration that there are other students who may have had opportunities and resources from an unfair or unequal environment. I don't want to be accepted just because of the

fact that I am a woman of color, but I want them to holistically view how much harder I had to work for my achievements than others who had more advantages."

While her perspective is common among most applying students, Alumni Keyra English '18, a former President of the Black Student Union, said, "The thing is you never know how it affected you and the decisions around your application. You can speculate and make assumptions but at the end of the day all you can do is apply yourself, and if you get accepted be confident it was your own ability that got you in, and you're not just there for a diversity statistic."

While Affirmative Action attempts to mitigate the difference within opportunities and resources provided to some and not others, there are equally tangible tools aside from Affirmative Action for those who is already taking advantage in the admission process.

Wetherbee explained, "When you think about legacy admission, when you think about niche athletic sports that tend to be more overly representative of certain groups of people, those in it of themselves are versions of Affirmative Action, they're more covert in the way they are able to advantage themselves. Think about the majority of students and the demographic of students that play lacrosse, or field hockey, or ice hockey, these sports that are majority white male or white female, are a version of covert Affirmative Action."

Affirmative Action has repeatedly fallen under threat of being terminated in the educational field. For almost a decade after its introduction, the general approach of college admissions offices was to have a quota (set number of reserved seats) for students of specific races, religions, and

genders. This process of admission was struck down in the Supreme Court case *University of California v. Bakke* (1978).

Bakke was a white male who had been rejected twice from the University of California at Davis. Believing this was due to the 16 of 100 seats being reserved for racial minorities, Bakke sued the institution. In his victory, the quota system for the enforced diversity was prohibited. One of these solutions was the creation of a point system in which applicants need to meet a set threshold of points for admission, and applicants of certain diverse backgrounds would receive additional points in an effort to even the playing field and account for unequal access to resources. During the 1990's, the University of Michigan had a system in which African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans were allotted 20 automatic points towards the 100 point admissions mark. For context, a perfect SAT score allotted 12 points.

The Supreme Court case of *Gratz vs. Bollinger* (2003) put a stop to that system. Jennifer Gratz, an in-state applicant, was denied admission and subsequently sued the University of Michigan through the Center for Individual Rights. Her argument was, ironically, based on the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause. The Supreme Court ruled in her favor, removing another practice intended to actively pursue diversity on campuses.

The current defense of diversity within the curation of classes argues that diversity is beneficial to all in an educational environment by introducing different ways of thinking, prominent in different cultures, and creates a friendly environment which encourages of

problem solving and critical thinking.

This defense was productive for the supreme court case, *Student for fair admissions v. Harvard* (2020). This case revealed that Asian-Americans were being discriminated against in order to uphold a diverse class, as many Asian students meet the admission requirements more than other students, yet they were still denied.

Even in Affirmative Action's successful defense in 2020, Wetherbee explained how its future is still at risk, stating, "...now with a more conservative leaning panel of justices I think it's really in danger of being overturned next year and that will have huge implications for what colleges can legally do as it relates to what they can consider."

Under the threat of removal at the college level, LFA still continues its mission to harbor a diverse body of students across cultures, countries, religions, races and more. Admissions officer Kyle Koncz discussed how the admissions office actively promotes LFA in areas where students otherwise wouldn't have considered it.

Koncz stated, "A huge piece of what we do to make sure that we are doing our best to be out there in communities, visiting different places, talking to different organizations, attending different fairs, meeting different students of all sorts of backgrounds, whether that's cultural, whether that's race, whether that's socio-economic status, and being creative about bringing those students on campus."

Regardless of the future of Affirmative Action based the admission at the collegiate level, it is clear that college admissions will continue to find solutions that diversify student bodies— a goal that LFA is also committed to.



LFA twitter showcases the shadowing event during Trustee Weekend. Anusha Srivastava '23 showed Gloria Harper, a trustee, around LFA.

Courtesy of @LFAcademy on Twitter

Jackson water crisis: Negligence and discrimination

By Junming Xing

Managing Editor of *Global Perspective*

Having access to water is a basic human right, yet over the past months, families in Jackson, Mississippi lacked sustainable access to drinking water. Since 2016, Jackson has relayed over 750 notices for its residents to boil their water, out of which 40% of such notices came in the last two years.

Starting in late August of 2022, school systems shut down throughout Jackson. Businesses ceased operations for several weeks, and healthcare systems - the primary providers of standard and emergency care - struggled to carry out necessary protocols and procedures without direct access to clean water.

Following Tuesday, September 7th, federal lawsuit filed by the NAACP accused Mississippi State officials of transgressing civil rights law over the diversion of federal funds meant to improve water facilities from the state's predominantly Black Capital, Jackson, to majority White communities. For decades, almost all residents of Jackson witnessed brackish, contaminated waters run from their taps as repeated aid requests were met with ignorance and ridicule.

Jackson, a city consisting of 80% Black citizens and a quarter living in poverty, depends heavily on federal funding. As a result of a shrinking tax base, Jackson's aging water infrastructure fell from state supervision as water-related crises such as lead contamination perpetuated throughout communities of color in Flint, Michigan, and Newark, New Jersey.

"The infrastructure to get water to people [...] was done in the 1920's and 30's with lead pipes, so the water's tainted and the pipes are failing," said Dr. Mike Hall, a mathematics teacher native to Central Mississippi. "But instead of the state being part of the solution, the state has pulled money out of the city [Jackson]." "They disenfranchise people on purpose. They create inequitable schools, inequitable roads, food deserts, and [remove] opportunities for business," Hall stated.

Mississippi, like many Southern states, contributes far greater to the federal repositories than they take. Yet states that receive the most federal subsidy often engage in greater opposition against the federal government. In Jackson's case, the consciousness of its mayor - a Muslim Black man - falls at the hands of Mississippi's state leaders despite him reflecting the interests

of a historically marginalized community.

"The state [Mississippi] has been conservative for 40 years," said Hall. "Landlords threaten tenants with eviction or higher rent if an election goes a certain way [against conservative measures]. This suppresses people from voting [as] the conservatives blame the democratic mayors of Jackson [while] state infrastructure ignores Jackson for many years," Hall explains.

"You're conscious to hold people accountable for this criminality, but you can't pass out water to those people that have to be in the line for eight hours anymore," said Jamal English, English teacher. The city of Jackson can be predominantly

African American, yet it is tethered to the Mississippi state government - who disregards Jackson's constituency and dictates the application of resources - provided by the federal government that is subject to the hatred from Mississippi state officials.

In turn, resource allocations upheld by systematic racism creates greater difficulties for communities of color to build generational wealth as prospective, infrastructural developments are deferred. Negligence captures a form of environmental redlining, using claims of infiltration to amplify physical obstacles while perpetuating microaggressions that individuals of color navigate in the lines of the water and voting booth.



Courtesy of Creative Commons

Military personnel distributes bottled water to Jackson citizens.

Mahsa Amini's death and the ongoing fight in Iran

By Claire Ireland & Theresa Fu

Senior Editors

Imprisoned by the morality police on the basis of violating Iranian dress code, Mahsa Amini, a 22 year old visiting the Iranian capital Tehran, died on September 16th. She was allegedly sent off to a re-education camp days after revealing some of her hair and wearing skinny jeans before falling into a coma and dying. However, according to Amini's family and several eyewitnesses, the police severely beat Amini, inducing her collapse at a detention center and transference to a hospital; officials claim that this was due to an unrelated heart attack.

This event has triggered a blazing trail of protests surpassing Iranian borders and reaching the world stage. Spearheaded by young women, the response was immediate and symbolic of Iranina unity; this outrage, which took shape starting through protests in Amini's hometown of Saqez, Kurdistan, has gathered strength across the media and Iran, echoing key themes of "woman, life, and freedom." As Niussha Mahmoodi, who is involved with protest efforts in San Francisco, said, "The fact that women are in the forefront of the protests is so empowering. After 40 years of oppression, women are out on the streets, burning their head scarves and demanding bodily autonomy and equality."

Iranians are fighting to dismantle the rigid patriarchy that has roots dating back to 1979, when Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomei-

ni came to power. He viewed the notion of gender equality as discordant with the Islamic society he aimed to instate. Consequently, violence against women in Iran has exponentially grown after he overturned the 1967 Family Protection Law (which edicted fairer inheritance, marriage, child care, and divorce for woman) and mandated veiling for women since 1983.

The current outpour of contempt towards the Iranian Regime on the topic of women's rights is not the first of its kind either. During the 1990's, the Pink Revolution saw women in Iran protesting through wearing makeup, colorful Hijabs and long coats instead of Chadors. The years, 2006 and 2009 respectively saw resistance via the Change for Equality movement which sought signatures to repeal oppressive legislation.

Violence too, was employed by Khomeini's republic as a weapon against those who disobeyed. The 2009's movement was brutally quelled by the Iranian government,

leading to the public murder of a young woman, Neda Agha Soltan. Simultaneously, a woman's refusal to veil or one's display of suspicious behavior landed them in jail, where they'd be subject to sexual assault or torture without due process. Their charge was for exhibiting "prostitutional" behavior and dismissing their faith. As with the case with Amini, Iranian authorities have shown a history of abusing and re-interpreting Islamic ideologies to fit their will.

Thus, people shouldn't misconstrue the Iranian Republic's actions as religious truth; for instance, as Ariana Rashid, a leader of LFA's Muslim Student Union (MSU), asserted "It's a women's choice for when [they] want to wear a hijab, otherwise it's just a piece of cloth, and it's not a hijab without the intention... In Islam, it's the journey that matters regardless of if you wear it."

Just as in the past, the Iranian government endeavors to suppress the ongoing protests.

Mahmoodi stated with regard to these efforts: "They attacked Sharif University students...and imprisoned many intellectuals... Evin prison, which is a notorious place for keeping intellectuals and activists who are against the regime, was set on fire."

Similarly, LFA's Human Rights teacher and Amnesty International Club advisor Sam Wold reaffirmed, "They don't allow outside news agencies in Iran... they [outside news agencies] have to search very hard to find video of where these protests are happening."

This issue is further exacerbated with the internet in Iran being deliberately shut down or slowed. A lack of connection leads it to be "rather impossible to get first-hand footage of the violence happening during the protests" Mahmoodi continued.

Despite LFA's physical distance from the situation, individuals can support the ongoing Iranian fight by "sharing information, staying educated, and being willing to speak on behalf of people that don't have the opportunity to speak," Wold recommended. Remaining engaged on the subject is essential for LFA's allyship to the ongoing movement and underscoring its gravity.

As Mahoodi emphasized, "Bringing international attention to current events can prevent the islamic regime from slaughtering more innocent young people." Further steps our community can take consist of reading Amnesty's upcoming issue coverage on Iran and partaking in potential MSU discussions.



Photo by Niussha Mahmoodi

Niussha Mahmoodi and her husband gather in solidarity with the people of Iran.

Roger Federer retires: The end of an era

By Marvin Ma
Staff Writer

On September 15, 2022, Roger Federer, the Swiss professional tennis player, announced his plans to retire from the sport he has given life to. “Tennis has treated me more generously than I ever would have dreamed, and now I must recognize when it is time to end my competitive career,” Federer said.

Indeed a competitive career it was. He left the game with a legacy of 103 tour singles titles, 20 Grand Slam singles titles, 310 weeks ranked at No. 1, and a record of 6 victories in season-ending tour finals. Federer revealed that he would be teaming up with his friendly rival Rafael Nadal to play his final match at the Laver Cup 2022, at the O2 Stadium in London, England. Following a close defeat of “Fedal” on September 23, Frances Tiafoe and Jack Sock shared an intense and emotional farewell to Federer, his family, his rivals, everyone present at the O2 stadium, and the world.

The poignance was felt most strongly by Federer fans worldwide. “I just feel like we didn’t really get to say goodbye. It didn’t feel like there was adequate closure,” said Sarah Taylor, a former American professional tennis player. “I have a lot of feelings about [Federer] retiring just because he’s meant so much to the



Courtesy of @rogerfederer on Instagram

Federer waves farewell to the Laver Cup crowd after the final match of his professional career.

game,” Taylor said. “There’s like an end of an era that he is the symbol of.”

Throughout his 24-year career, Federer has inspired generations of tennis players, including Boning (Simon) Wei ’24. Remarking on the impact Federer had on him as a tennis player, Wei said that “when people think of tennis [they] think about [Federer]. [Federer] is the reason many pros play tennis. He’s the reason the new generation is motivated.”

Federer is often regarded by many tennis fans as “the G.O.A.T.” (Greatest of

All Time) in the world of tennis. “Statistically speaking, [Federer] is the first man to ever achieve 20 Grand Slams,” said Ziang (David) Wang ’24. “His graceful way of playing tennis made him stand out from all his competitors.”

Commenting on Federer’s achievements and his career, Wei said, “[Federer’s] image [in tennis] is like Jordan in [basketball]. He is the player with no technical flaws. He has the best forehand, volley, footwork, skills, and one of the best serves.” On the same

topic, Taylor also stated that “Federer is incredibly talented, [both] athletically and in all the ways you can be.”

Undoubtedly the moment of Federer holding hands with Nadal and bursting into tears was a moment shared by tennis fans around the world, as was his waving goodbye. As Nadal posted on his social media, the day of Federer’s retirement is “a sad day for me personally and for sports people around the world.” The Maestro will be dearly missed and his legacy will forever be cherished and never forgotten.

Gerber Cup: An LFA golf tradition

By Quinn Knight & T.J. Minsky
Senior Editor & Staff Writer

Among LFA’s wide variety of athletics teams, people tend to overlook LFA’s golf team. This year the Boys’ Varsity

Golf Team finished with a record of 7-3 which included a win over a public school powerhouse—Warren. Although the accomplishments and victories are great, the golf team has a more important and meaningful tradition: The Gerber Cup.



Photo by Ben Wetherbee

Team Blue of the LFA boys’ golf team wins the Gerber Cup.

The Gerber Cup, established back in 2004, is named after Adam Gerber, a former golf coach. The event is based on the famous golf event, the Ryder Cup. The three days of intense golf are formatted with team golf competitions including alternate shot, best ball, and singles. These formats mimic the Ryder Cup.

Gerber Cup founder and LFA golf coach, Matt Vaughn, stated, “We had a Friday practice at Deerpath [and] I wanted to do a fun practice because it was nearing the end of the year. The Ryder Cup was going on that weekend [so] I came up with an intrasquad competition.” Vaughn did not believe that this competition would stick. However a former LFA head golf coach Jon Freeman took over and kept the tradition going. He made a prize that the winners each receive Arnold Palmers and the illustrious trophy. Vaughn also says that in recent years, “We tried to promote the Gerber Cup in morning meeting announcements and made it a big deal three years ago and had a lot of fun with it. We do teasers in early September in morning meetings to play it up.” For the golf team, this is what the season plays for, while also being a good way to top off an

exciting year with your teammates.

This year’s head coach Ben Wetherbee said “I think that golf is a fairly individual sport a lot of the time, you are often playing for an individual score. I think it just brings the team component of the sport out more than other formats.”

Because there were only two seniors on the team this year, subsequently they led the respective teams: team red was led by T.J. Minsky and team blue was led by Thomas Tobin. Coming into the three day tournament, Thomas’ team was considered the underdogs as team red had three of the top players on the team. Despite the adversity they were facing, Team Blue led the first two days and only needed two wins for the single matches.

Tobin ’23 said, “The competitive nature of the cup is by far the most important aspect and why I drafted my team to be the way that it was.” Team red wanted to make the biggest comeback in Gerber Cup history, they started off hot, but were too late, as team blue absolutely dominated and hoisted the Gerber Cup. In future years, The Gerber Cup will continue to be the biggest event for the golf team and will hopefully be on the radar for more LFA students.

How to be the best fan!!!

By Ella Gartz
Editor in Chief

Over the last few years, Lake Forest Academy faculty and students have really been trying to rev up school spirit. A great way to contribute to this collective effort is by going out to sporting events and supporting friends and classmates. To be the best fan, there is some etiquette, jargon, and slang you should take a few minutes to learn. The Spectator staff reached out to a few major sports fans and coaches on campus

to help you sound like you really know what you are talking about at the game.

Paul Makovec, Boys' Varsity Soccer coach, recommended fans shout "knock the ball around," "look for the easy pass," and "get the ball wide and play as a team." These three phrases all translate to "don't just kick it forward." If you want to get specific, you should yell, "give the ball to Bogi," "Jorge, pass the ball," and "JJ, quit talking about fantasy football during the game!" Otherwise, cheering when your team wins a corner kick, possesses the

ball, and scores a goal works just fine.

Jennifer Madeley has seen a lot of hockey games. She recommends that you cheer when your team scores a goal, your goalie makes a save, there is a fight, or you are on the jumbotron. If your husband gets scored on, she warns that you do not cheer and instead say, "that was a lucky goal." She also advises that you call the other team's players "benders." Her favorite hockey terms include, "this is my favorite barn to watch the game in" and "light the lamp!"

Kyle Koncz is LFA's resident basketball

connoisseur and coach. He offered some advice that applies to the NBA (and maybe LFA's team?) When someone takes a terrible three-point shot, he believes the appropriate response to be, "Man, Steph Curry really ruined basketball." When a player dribbles like crazy with the ball, say, "Whoa, player X was in his bag!" and when they take too many steps, say, "See, that is what I mean, no one knows what a travel even is anymore." When an unknown or role player has a great game, you should yell, "That player is going to get paid!" Okay, you might have to adjust that one for our LFA players.

Glinda Hall is a beloved LFA tennis coach and baseball mom. Her favorite things to tell tennis players are: "stop double-faulting" and "sometimes just over the net and in the box is good enough." Shouting "great shot," "great rally," and "on your toes!" are great terms of endearment for between points, but stay quiet while the ball is in play. As for baseball, cool terms to use include: "run it out" and "good eye!" When the ball flies where it should not, you can ask "where was that one?" and when you are impressed, tell them "nice catch!"

If this was too confusing, watch our swimmers and runners compete – just get excited when they are going fast!



Students pose for a photo at the Homecoming hockey game with the caxy frog.

Courtesy of @saanvi.malkani on Instagram

Tua Tagovailoa's concussion

By Nicholas Bisulca
Editor in Chief

In week three against the Buffalo Bills, Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa was tackled to the ground, got up, and immediately stumbled and fell back down. Following this, in week four against the Bengals, Tua was run down by a defensive linebacker, thrown to the ground, and suffered a severe concussion. Immediately after the hit, his fingers stiffened, indicating damage to his brain's cortex.

Many fans burst into an outrage, saying doctors had failed to evaluate Tua after the hit in week three. But doctors allocated his first stumble to "gross motor instability" caused by a back injury, not neurological causes. During a conference call three days later, NFL executive vice president Jeff Miller said that "every indication from our perspective" suggested that the Dolphins followed the protocols. According to the determination of the team and unaffiliated doctors, he was permitted to play under the terms of protocol. Mike McDaniel, Dolphins Head Coach, said Tagovailoa was dealing with ankle and

back soreness and would not commit to his availability for Thursday's game.

As expected, concussion protocol did change in the NFL after a joint investigation between the NFL and its player's association. The amended protocol will prohibit a player from returning to play if they show signs of ataxia: impaired balance, or coordination caused by damage to the brain or nerves. In the previous protocol, players showing "gross motor instability" —difficulty getting off or walking— could return to playing if doctors ruled that there was an orthopedic reason for the instability.

Pierce Chaseley '23, LFA's varsity soccer captain who has suffered seven concussions in his athletic career, says, "Tua's concussion was definitely scary to watch. I've never been shaken up as bad as that, but I have taken hits that have caused me to stumble a bit. Concussions, especially in professional sports, aren't taken seriously enough, and even in my case, I can confidently say I've played in games that I shouldn't have been playing in."

The National Federation of State High School Association's guideline of management for concussions in sports states

that no athlete should return to play or practice on the same day after suffering a concussion, and athletes should never be allowed to resume playing following a concussion until symptoms are free and cleared by a medical professional.

So far, there are no signs of concussion protocol changing for young athletes.

As for Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, his recovery was successful, and he was back playing in week seven against the Steelers.



Tua celebrates after a victory against the Steelers, coming back from his head injury.

Courtesy of @BleacherReport

Movie review: *Don't Worry Darling*

By Ava Trandel
Managing Editor of Features

Between the controversial production and widely mixed reviews, *Don't Worry Darling* has caused worry amongst fans who have concerns for the cast, and some viewers who were left underwhelmed by the film. The psychological thriller directed by Olivia Wilde, starring Florence Pugh and Harry Styles, does have its fair share of positive reviews, movie goers are divided for numerous reasons, not all of them being related to what is visible during the 2 hour duration of the film.

Set during the 1950's in Victory, a picturesque town in California, it is the perfect facade of the nuclear family model and the American Dream. Gender roles are as prominent as ever as the beautiful wives spend their days at home with their children and gossiping with friends, their husbands are working on a highly classified project that none of the women know the details of. Over time, Florence Pugh's character, Alice, becomes increasingly aware of the discrepancies between what she experiences and what she is told, and how flawed the blissful town may actually be.

Most reviewers were pleased with the cinematography, soundtrack, and aesthetics of the film. Where people found an issue was in the acting, namely Harry

Styles' performance as Jack, Alice's husband. Additionally disconcerting the viewers were the many symbols introduced early in the film, only to not be followed up in later acts of the film. While Harry Styles' acting wasn't mind blowing, it didn't severely hinder the film's effect nor did it overshadow the other actors' performances. Florence Pugh did an outstanding job as she has done before, so it was her along with the rest of the established cast including Chris Pine, Gemma Chan, and Olivia Wilde who carried the movie.

Some claim that *Don't Worry Darling* is littered with plot holes that were never explained, but part of that uncertainty is due to the nature of it being a psychological thriller. The ending is meant to be open-ended, and many of the initial mysteries can be solved through a bit of critical thinking or a rewatch of the movie. The ending isn't terribly ambiguous and neither is the rest of the plot, so many of the watchers who were left confused may not have known what to expect getting into a film of this genre.

A large portion of the criticism for this film comes from what happened off screen. Many speculate that there was internal strife between cast members while filming and off-screen romances like that of Harry Styles and Olivia Wilde. The last minute replacement of Shia LaBeouf with Harry Styles after which he and Florence



Courtesy of @oliviawilde on Instagram

The cast of the film rehearses lines on set.

Pugh weren't getting along set the filming process off to a chaotic start, and could have contributed to lasting tension. Others are critical of Olivia Wilde having an acting role as Alice's best friend Bunny, since she is also the film's director, however it isn't uncommon for directors to have screen time in their own movies, and her acting performance hasn't been criticized.

A significant amount of the hate directed

toward the movie has nothing to do with the quality of the film, but rather the product of defensive fans who don't like seeing their favorite celebrities portrayed in a certain light. The film is worth watching and the drama surrounding it shouldn't affect how the film is received by audiences. Ultimately, most viewers were pleasantly surprised by *Don't Worry Darling* and found relevance in the themes it portrays.

BLACKPINK returns in your area

By Cynthia Li
Staff Writer

On October 15th, 2022, the girl K-pop band BLACKPINK returned with their new album, BORN PINK, and is set to go on the largest-ever world tour for a girl K-pop group. The four members of BLACKPINK—Jisoo Kim, Jennie Kim, Rosé Park, and Lisa Monoban—will travel to 27 cities and hold 37 concerts from Oct 2022 to June 2023. Multiple cities in the US, such as Atlanta, Chicago, Newark, and Los Angeles, have been included in their schedule.

BLACKPINK, first debuted in August 2016 by YG Entertainment styling a girl crush vibe that thrives on dark and mature representing female empowerment, has grown into one of the world's biggest and most successful bands. BLACKPINK was the first K-Pop girl group that held a show at Coachella, the first music group that reached 1 billion views on YouTube, and the most subscribed music group on the platform. They played an influential role in K-pop culture, as claimed by Jenny Sun 23', "[BLACKPINK has been] bringing up a wave of positive influence [with] their resilience and experience since they were seen as exemplary of trainees fighting their way to debut finally." Also commenting on BLACKPINK's influence, Nghi Doan 23' explained, "I feel like a lot of the

younger generation has been getting into Kpop under their influence. More groups have gotten further with the music that BLACKPINK did, the softer, girl crush vibe." What's more, BLACKPINK's influence is in no way limited to the world of music – they were also changing society. Doan said, "I feel like they also branched more globally in recent years, with fashion shows and collaborations, and I feel like it's just getting started and you kind of see their aspect everywhere from brands you buy, clothes you wear, and like places you go to eat. They are everywhere."

After two years without publishing new songs or performing on stage, BLACKPINK comes back holding one of the largest-scale worldwide concerts. Doan said, "It was exciting for them to come back because two years feels like forever." This comeback is not only to show their gratitude towards their fans, the BLINKS, but also to enhance their impact worldwide. Sun commented, "Their return this time definitely creates many heated discussions because the whole style of the group, no matter their looks or the style of the song, is transforming to a more globalized style." In the same way, Doan stated that "the music industry in Korea has grown a lot [while BLACKPINK was absent from the public]; a lot of new girl groups have

popped up. And a lot of the second generation, like the older groups, has been coming back as well. So I feel like they coming back at this time is also keeping their position or their status and their music industry with this comeback." In a similar fashion, Annie Zhang 24' said, "Since there have been some 'predictions' that BLACKPINK would become more popular, I think their reappearance will demonstrate that they are still who they are."

BLACKPINK, just like the name of

one of its albums, BLACKPINK in Your Area, once again brings its music to the BLINKS, the audience, and to everyone who is supporting and waiting for their comeback. With its members individually succeeding in fashion, music, and acting, the fans agree upon speculations presuming BLACKPINK's comeback in 2022 being their last collective concert, expressing concerns that they "literally do not know what is going to happen after this about this group," as Doan stated.



Blackpink members gathered for their return.

Courtesy of Creative Commons

10 Halloween movie favorites

By Connor Drobny & Ela Jain
Managing Editor of Op-Ed & Staff Writer

Rocky Horror Picture Show

A cult classic film, *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, is a camp musical comedy that has become famous for its interactive audience live showings. It follows the story of Brad (Barry Bostwick) and Janet (Susan Sarandon), a newlywed couple visiting a friend, when they find themselves stuck in a haunted house run by Frank-N-Furter (Tim Curry), a stylish mad scientist who creates life and stirs up trouble. *Rocky Horror Picture Show* experiments with the rules of cinema with its loud fashion, energetic musical numbers, and above all, the character of Frank-N-Furter, a bisexual androgynous seducer who creates a web of tricks and games in order to entertain himself. This movie brought a host of homages, anywhere from *The Simpsons* to *Glee*, and inspired movies like *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* and *House of 1000 Corpses*. Not only was *Rocky Horror* ahead of its time in the 1970s, it's ahead of its time now, and there is really nothing else like it.

What We Do In The Shadows

What We Do In The Shadows is a horror comedy about three roommates living life, with the added twist that they are all vampires. It is one of the funniest movies I have ever seen, and though it's slow paced, each scene is a laugh. Viago (Taika Waititi), Vladislav (Jermaine Clements), and Deacon (Jonny Brugh) all add a comedic performance to a well written script. This movie masters the mockumentary format and allows the characters to acknowledge and have fun with the cameras throughout the film. While the gory nature and crass humor might not be for everyone, *What We Do In The Shadows* is delightfully funny and well made.

Muppets: Haunted Mansion

Muppets: Haunted Mansion is a film that perfectly captures the halloween spirit while bringing the lovable muppets into a comedy story. The story follows Gonzo trying to live through his idol, the Great Macguffin's (Will Arnett), by staying in the haunted mansion where the Great Macguffin died. This movie perfectly encapsulates halloween drama and mystery with a brilliant cast, complete with an ensemble of ghosts. On top of that, this movie is a musical, and each song brought intrigue to the haunted house. I greatly enjoyed *Muppets: Haunted Mansion*, and it brought a halloween whimsy perfect for the season.

Labyrinth

Labyrinth follows a young girl named Sarah (Jennifer Connelly), who in a fit



Photo by Riya Kapoor

LFA students watching a horror movie in Cressey.

of rage wishes for her baby brother to be taken away by the Goblin King (David Bowie), and must retrieve him when her wish comes true. The movie stars goblins as it's main halloween monster, but Sarah encounters many interesting monsters on her way. While David Bowie's electric performance brought this movie its popularity, director Jim Henson brought the artistry of the movie to a new level by creating incredibly detailed puppets as the stars of the show. The puppets are so beautifully made and lifelike, it is impossible not to be impressed by them. While the dialogue is awkward, it's written in an unintentionally funny way. The wonderfully charming film is a must-watch for any and all halloween fans.

Scooby Doo and the Ghoul School

Scooby Doo and the Ghoul School follows the story of Scooby-Doo, Shaggy, and Scrappy-Doo after being hired as gym teachers at an all-girls boarding school to be halloween monsters. This movie has every kind of halloween monster that a person could dream of: mummies, vampires, zombies, phantoms, and more. The designs provide a chilling ambience, and the design of each student at the boarding school is very unique, with each of the main girls having a different style representing what halloween creature they are. The pacing is incredibly strange, which may not be up everyone's alley, but it makes the movie all the funnier. The plot, at one point, stops entirely for an extended volleyball sequence, but speeds through an important halloween party. Overall, *Scooby Doo and the Ghoul School* is a must watch when it comes to Halloween movies.

IT

Arguably, *It* (2018) sits as the only horror film better than the book it was based

on. The drowsy town of Derry is an incredibly meta setting for a horror movie, and all 7 main characters exude realistic depth. Bill Skarsgård, accompanied by the makeup and visual effects team, perfect the look and personality of the sadistic antagonist, Pennywise. However, the unexpected sense of realism is what separates this movie from other horror films. One might think that a movie about an interdimensional shape-shifter would be totally unrelatable, but the display of sexual and physical abuse, self-harm, and the loss of innocence all resonate on a deeper note.

The Shining

Similar to other older horror films, there are no jumpscare or traditionally horrifying monsters in *The Shining*. The strengths of the movie lie in its original setting and plot, complemented by even better acting. Jack Nicholson plays the antagonizing Jack Torrance to perfection, displaying violent cabin fever. Some criticize Shelly Duvall's portrayal of Wendy Torrance, arguing that she was annoying to a fault. However, I believe this was intentional, as it adds another layer of depth to Jack's eventual insanity and almost makes the viewer pity him. Sadly, the characters do not retain the same depth that they have in the book, which is a shame given it was one of the book's strong suits.

The Exorcist

The Exorcist is one of the movies your dad tells you not to watch, and rightfully so. It is not as scary as *It* and not as tense as *The Shining*, but retains possibly the greatest plot and cinematography of all the movies on this list and possibly all horror movies of all time. Because of the depth of the plot, the movie can be hard to follow at times, as the viewer is tasked with keeping track of many character names, and a slew of quiet

conversations. Unfortunately, this movie has not aged as well as others on this list, as some of the scenes can be almost comical with how dramatic they are.

The Thing

A story about a violent alien stalking isolated humans was not unheard of when *The Thing* came out in 1982, as the generational *Alien* came out only three years before. Yet, the antagonistic "thing" in the film of the same name is much more original than that of *Alien*. Although the movie suffers from a lack of character depth, it keeps the viewer entangled within the story due to its puzzle of a plot. *The Thing* has the watcher question who is actually human and who is not, even through the end credits. The original plot and visual effects that rival those of modern times made the movie age perfectly. The characters and chronology of events can be found to be a little corny and predictable, but the movie is still a great watch if one is not too afraid of blood and gore.

28 days later

The zombie film is an infamous sub-genre of horror, and, even with all the competitors, *28 Days Later* might do the zombie film best. The movie is intense, with scenes being more heart pounding than scary at times. The realism of this movie is what truly brings it home. The actions of the characters are even scarier than the zombies (if you can truly call them that) themselves. The fact that the movie has multiple dimensions makes it more interesting and allows the movie to have a deeper meaning. However, the movie can be slow at times and some scenes feel unnecessary, particularly at the beginning and the end. Therefore, the slow pace isn't for everyone. Nonetheless, it's definitely a must watch during the Halloween season.

Russia-Ukraine War 2022: Overview of an everchanging stage

By **Changhao Luo**

Staff Writer

On the morning of February 24th, 2022, Russia's president Vladimir Putin announced a "special military operation" for Ukraine's "demilitarization and denazification," falsely claiming that neo-Nazis govern Ukraine that prosecute ethnic Russian minorities.

Under the false aim to purge Ukraine of its "neo-nazis," which Putin claims persecute ethnic Russian minorities, Russian forces attacked from the south and took the province of Kherson in March. The following month, a Russian missile struck a train station in Kramatorsk, a city in Donetsk, killing more than 50 civilians. This attack marks the offensive to seize Donetsk and Luhansk, known as the Donbas.

In May, as the Ukrainian soldiers surrendered due to Russian pressure, Russian forces took control of Mariupol – a port city and industrial hub on the sea of Azov. Repeated bombings of surrounding cities killed thousands of civilians, yet the Ukrainians fought to seize the Azovstal Iron and Steel Work plant from Russian control to resist.

In June, Ukrainian forces regained control of Snake Island, which was in control of the Russians during the start of the war. The victory led to more control in the city of Odesa and dented the Russian Naval Forces.

In July, Luhansk fell into the hands of the Russians after losing Lysychansk. However, the Russian forces made little progress in securing the rest of the Donbas.

In August, Ukraine announced a counter-offensive in the southern region of Kherson. This military force was constructed based on the newly arrived missile system supplied by the U.S. and other western countries. Furthermore, the Ukrainian forces also attacked a Russian airbase in Crimea.

As the Ukrainian forces recapture the northeastern Kharkiv region, irritation rises for Putin. Recently, the Wagner Group went to prison and asked prisoners to join the battlefield - with the promise of commending their sentences. Prisoners were equipped with handguns, and charging into the battle, they were essentially moving targets for Ukrainian soldiers. After positioning the Ukrainian forces, the Russian bombings targeted both Ukrainians and Russians. "So it doesn't seem like they care about their own civilians," said Math teacher Ted Golota.

The recent bombing of Ukraine continues to display the frustration of the Russian troops by making the war "asymmetrical," History teacher Filipp Velgach said, "Ukrainians attack an arms location, and Russians bomb an apartment in response. This makes war really difficult to predict and, naturally, is hard on people's



Photo Courtesy of Creative Commons

Ukraine soliders waving the Ukrianian Flag, smiling on the street.

psyches. From everything I am seeing, however, it looks like Ukrainian morale is growing back to the levels at the start of the war. And Russian morale is falling." As the Russian draft conscripts people up to age 67, an estimated 700,000 citizens fled to escape involuntary service. Desperation pervades in Moscow as civilians with very little military expertise are subject to military conscription.

Furthermore, Nord Stream's recent destructure shows the war's complications. "Russia is 99% likely responsible for the bombing underwater. But this is impos-

sible to prove, which means that (technically) Russia did not break their distribution agreement," Velgach stated, "and Russia, of course, blamed others, saying that other countries could have profited from this issue – a lot of countries stand to benefit because their gas will now be in higher demand." The Nord Stream destructure eliminated a major source of Natural Gas for Ukraine and Europe. "We'll really get to see how allied Europe and Germany are when winter kicks in," said Golota, "but it seems like Russia just doesn't care about anybody at this point."

Giorgia Meloni: The first female Prime Minister of Italy

By **Anusha Srivastava**

Managing Editor of Production

The first female Prime Minister of Italy: Giorgia Meloni, a politician and journalist, representing the Fratelli d'Italia, or Brothers of Italy, and serves as the head of the national-conservative and right-wing populist political party. Joining the bullpen of politics at a very early age as a Youth Front activist, Meloni was officially elected as a seat in the Chambers of Deputies in 2006. Meloni's ties to the Youth Front activist group and her political party are heavily associated with neo-fascism—stemming from relations with the past party of Benito Mussolini, which included extreme nationalism, xenophobia, and imperialism.

The Italian Prime Minister is elected by their political party. For perspective, in the U.S. many electoral candidates run and will drop out based on their popularity in initial polls and the primaries. Then come November, the final election takes place, which through the electoral college directly votes for the president based on the sway of their state district. In Italy, however, this process is reversed. Citizens only have a sway in the vote for the political party they see fit for the new term. Within each political party, members of the party will elect a president for the Fratelli d'Italia, since 2020, Meloni has served as the president.



Photo Courtesy of Creative Commons

Giorgia Meloni, 45, sworn in as the 31st prime minister of Italy startign in October, 22, 2022

During the election period, Meloni's party won with a clear majority of 44%. When discussing the new election with her family, Ines Morroni, the Admissions Office Manager at LFA and a dual citizen of Italy and the United States explained how, "... the election was driven by older voters, and in comparison to the older population wanting to vote directly against the old government, the younger populations took their stance against the government by not voting."

With the newly instated Fratelli d'Italia, many worry about the direction that

Italy is headed. Although it is, as Morroni described, "wonderful to have a woman Prime Minister, it is bittersweet with some of the new policies that she supports."

Some of Meloni's current polices address immigration and Italy's rising taxes. Her focus for immigration is to slow down immigration "to protect those who play host to immigrants and those who really need us to welcome them," as she reasoned in a recent campaign in Rome. She wants to cut down immigration to be able to better improve the economics of

Italy. Meloni also stated that she wanted to cut taxes for national tax income. She believes in supporting the loss of revenue through cutting the "citizens wage" which gives impoverished citizens a source of income while they are unemployed.

Although Meloni is proposing many extreme plans for Italy, Morroni expressed, "I have hope that her extremist views are not going to be implemented, I trust that the parliament will make a difference in passing her ideas... I just think it is great to finally have a female Prime Minister."

Asia region threatened: Water disasters

By Nghi Doan

Managing Editor of News

In historical, never-seen-before proportions, different parts of Asia have reported many cases of flooding and storms in places such as Pakistan and the Philippines.

Since June 14, 2022, flooding in Pakistan has devastatingly affected many lives. It is estimated that due to the above-average rainfall this year, about one-third of the country is submerged underwater. In addition, nearly 1.7 million homes were destroyed, leaving around 1,481 people dead and half a million people living in camps. As an agricultural country, the floods have destroyed about 70% of the crops Pakistan is producing, causing \$10 billion in damages. Right now, the Pakistani government is giving out urgent aid to Pakistani people, and many organizations such as UNICEF have also come to help. Furthermore, Pakistan's Minister for climate change, Sherry Rehman, has started to gather help to find a solution to this problem.

Typhoon Noru, on September 26, 2022, affected many countries including the Philippines, Viet Nam, and Thailand. In the Philippines, typhoon Noru moved through the island nation and destroyed everything in its path. The typhoon started as category 1 but became category 5 in a few hours. As the typhoon passed the Philippines, it destroyed houses, caused flooding, and cut off electricity. The government is directing supplies in order to clean up the areas affected by the typhoon. The Red Cross has also come in to help get people to safety. When Typhoon Noru reaches Vietnam and Thailand, it had already weakened, but it still causes severe flooding. In Viet Nam, it was reported that there were many landslides in the Middle region of the country, specifically Da Nang, Hoi An, and more.



Courtesy of Creative Commons

The devastation in Pakistan after the flooding.

Across these affected provinces, 8,139 houses were flooded, roofs were ripped from houses, and 88 households were evacuated. Over 6,000 hectares of crops were damaged and over 34,423 livestock were killed or swept away. Currently, around 400,000 people have been evacuated but the flooding still continues, and the area is left without electricity. In Thailand, there

were many reports of houses being affected by flooding and strong wind across 35 districts. Currently, 1 person died and 2 were injured due to wind damage in Phetchabun, where a total of 1,301 households were affected by typhoon Noru in Thailand.

Scientists and meteorologists state plainly that the severity of these two events is linked to global warming. The culmination of carbon dioxide emissions has severely impacted the environment, heaving heavy rainfall in some areas and severe drought in others. It was reported that in 2022, there was a 24% increase in flooding rates compared to 2021. This was particularly due to the fact that the earth is 1.5 Celsius warmer this year than last. Because of this, many scientists and environmentalists have called for countries to limit their emissions in order to help solve this problem.

When asked about the causes and consequences of climate change, Kevin Hagen, environmental science teacher, mentioned that "Our current lifestyles have impacted the earth negatively with how our emissions have increased, causing the temperatures to rise." Not only have our current lifestyles had a negative effect, but the consequences of the damage done by our ancestors can still be seen today. Hagen noted that "We had changed the earth geographically so much in a short amount of time." Considering how the Industrial

Revolution was a few hundred years ago, a lot has changed about the earth in the small amount of time since. Prior to the Industrial Revolution, fossil fuels were not widely used; however, after it, the use of fossil fuels is seen nearly everywhere, contributing to the rise of carbon dioxide emissions and thus causing global warming. Though there have been multiple warnings about global warming for many years, most were ignored and still continue to be. In recent years, people have started to pay more attention to global warming because of more severe droughts and floodings. If humans do not change their living habits, then weather changes will only continue to worsen. At LFA, the news of flooding came in the midst of summer break and now college season, and many members of the community are unaware of what is going on in the home country of some of our students. When asked how we can make ourselves more aware of this situation, Hagen added that "LFA will offer a course on natural disasters this spring". Having this course will help spread knowledge about these disasters and can help interested students and faculty better understand what climate change is, why it affects different communities differently, and what we can do not just to prepare for intensifying weather extremities, but also combat climate change too.



Photo courtesy of Creative Commons

Land swamped in Philippines after Typhoon Noru