

FEATURE

Noëlle Balson’s retirement at this end of this school year marks the closing of an exquisite career in the Modern and Classical Languages Department.

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CENTERFOLD

Bid farewell to the seniors of the *Spectator* staff as they share memories from their four years at LFA, and three years in the journalism program.

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A&E

Have you tried the new Hometown Coffee and Juice in Lake Forest? Find out more about this new treasure to the local restaurant scene.

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End of Year Awards

SENIOR PRIZES

Aurelian Book Prize.....Michael Xing

For the students who embodies the values of the Aurelian Honor Society.

Alexander Award.....Brian Botero

For the senior boy who best exemplifies the spirit and ideals of LFA.

American Legion Award.....Ben Arthurs

For the senior who exemplifies honor, courage, scholarship, leadership, & service.

Butler Award.....Abigail Trejo

For the senior who has earned academic achievement through perseverance.

DAR Award.....Tommy Enrietto

For the senior who exemplifies service, leadership, patriotism & dependability.

Faculty Award.....Saanvi Malkani

For the student who has in thought, word, and deed embodied the ideal of scholarship.

Freeland Award.....Cindy Nguyen

For the senior girl who best exemplifies the spirit and ideals of LFA.

Hixon Award.....Miranda Hernandez

For the senior who is outstanding in friendliness and concern for others.

Speidel Award.....Abigail Trejo

For the senior girl who is outstanding in sincerity, courtesy, and thoughtfulness.

Vaile Award.....Montgomery Gold

For the senior who has most imaginatively discharged administrative responsibilities.

Wetzel Award.....Riya Kapoor

For the senior girl who has best exemplified the spirit of Ferry Hall.

Waldie Award.....Tatum Young

For the senior who, by the nature of his or her presence, has substantially impacted LFA.

DEPARTMENTAL AND UNDERCLASSMEN AWARDS

Jonathan Fremd Award:Jasiek Bugaj & Clare Gartz

McLaughlin Prize:Lily Botero

Jewel J. Jackson Award:Jerry Ren

E.J. Barry Language Award:Cameron Fink & Saanvi Malkani

Kulieke Award for Spanish:Ben Arthurs, Annika Subrahmanian, & Abigail Trejo

Nelson Award:Ella Gartz

Overdorf History Prize:Evelyn King

Delaplaine Burnet Prize in Economics:Saanvi Malkani

English Award:Saanvi Malkani

Dana W. Niswender Prize:Andrew Wong

English as a Second Language Award:Matthew Jun

Ainsworth Award:Cindy Nguyen

Math Department Award.....Toby Nelson

Louch Award in Science:Cindy Nguyen

McCormick Prize in Drama:Josh Li

McCormick Prize in Music:Thomas Tobin

McCormick Prize in Visual Arts:Sophie Fei, Sunny Hwang, Elva Zong

Everett E. Grace Music Prize:Miranda Hernandez

Fine Arts Department Award:Ben Arthurs

Pridmore Award:Abby Trejo

Taylor Award:Khanh Phan

Theater Tech Award:Alejandro Quiroz

Yearbook Award:Heewoong Kim

Library Media Award.....Madeline Cournoyer & Abigail Trejo

Journalism Award:Ambika Gupta

Cum Laude (seniors inducted this year): Benjamin Arthurs, Myke Chen, Cameron Fink, Elinor Gartz, Montgomery Gold, Ambika Gupta, Luke Hampel, Mia Hernandez, Juliette Hulsizer, Cong Hoang Le, Stephanie Li, Zihan Li, Bradley Ma, Yuyang Ma, Saanvi Malkani, Khue Nguyen, Alan Nigmatullin, Anna Nikishina, Sajjan Shah, Annika Subrahmanian, Jiayi Sun, Abigail Trejo, Rohan Vashi, Anton Walvoord, Evan Wang, Michael Xing, QiMao Yang, & Aaron Zhang

ATHLETIC AWARDS

Freshmen Athletes of the Year:Carlos Brito & Lindsay Farbman

Sophmore Athletes of the Year:Trevor Stewart & Kate Delia

Junior Athletes of the Year:Evan Stastny & Emmi Sierra

Athletes of the Year:Charlie Campbell & Diana Bishopp

David O. MacKenzie Award (Male).....Tommy Enrietto

David O. MacKenzie Award (Female).....Tatum Young

Sandra Bolz Memorial Fan Award.....Ed Campbell

William “Bill” Dolbee AwardCarolyn Garowski

STUDENT LEADERSHIP 2023-2024

Prefects: Noah Cedergren, Salajan English, Theresa Fu, Tanya Ganesh, Kate Graham, Henry Gold, Teagn Hubbard, Evelyn King, Daniya Nussipbek, Advika Rangan, Gabi Stewart, & Steven Zhang

Proctors: (Atlas) Steven Zhang, Nicholas Tsui, Andrew Wong, Jose Onofre, Krish Desai, Jonathan Xiao; (Warner) Mark Rios, John Greer, Henry Gold, Jim Nguyen, David Keene; (Ferry) Xitlali Ocote, Sidney Do, Daniya Nussipbek; (McIntosh) Gahhee Chae, Bao Le; (Field) Daisy Zhang, Chloe Doan, Nalani Hill, Lily Botero, & Terryn Wilson

All-School President:Jerry Ren

Discipline Committee Chair.....Henry Gold

Master Keys:Camryn Farbman, Colin Gupta, & Claire Ireland

Masters of the Houses:Noah Cedergren & Daniya Nussipbek

Student Council:(‘24) Yaseen Primus (President), Jeevam Bhatia, Colin Gupta, Nalani Hill, (‘25) Enos Zaah (President), Santi Delgado, Madison Rosen, & Mimi Sexton

Editors-in-Chief of *The Spectator*.....Theresa Fu & Jason Xing

Staff joins grad procession

Photo by Amanda Krause

Only faculty are included in the lineup by seniority until 2023.

are some things we can do?” This change exists as yet another effort by the school to bridge the gap between staff and faculty.

Mike Seidl, IT Operations Manager and founder of the Staff Consultative Committee, said of this gap, “A lot of the staff are just eight-to-four, so getting coaching duty and dorm duty where they’re involved in the student experience is tough when they’re not here in the evenings.” He continued, “That being said..the school has made a ton of strides in making sure that all the opportunities that are open to teachers are open to staff as well.” Some of these opportunities include clarifying roles that are extended to staff--such as coaching.

When it comes down to definitions, faculty (further containing administrative faculty) is as Tennyson outlined, “adults that are in the classroom working directly with our students in a teaching capacity” and staff “are adults who are sometimes working in offices or other roles that support our students.” Despite these legal and employment status differentiations, staff and faculty both exist as part of the community of LFA. As such, their incorporation in this momentous event is reestablishing this fact.

As Seidl put it, “[Staff] having the ability to go to events that are as important as graduation really helps them feel included and like they are a part of the school community.”

Noëlle Balson retiring after 18 years

By Junming Xing & Marvin Ma

Managing Editor of Global & Staff Writer

On March 14th, the Modern & Classical Languages Department officially announced Noëlle Balson's retirement at the 2023 International Talent show, expressing appreciation for her 18 years of unwavering commitment to teaching at LFA.

Since joining the Modern and Classical Languages Department as a Spanish instructor in 2005, Balson remained steadfast in her dedication towards the intellectual and emotional well-being of her students.

"When I think of Mrs. Balson, I think of dedication - not only to teaching, but also in helping her students in any way she can," said David Wick, Latin Instructor. "Her compassion and her humanity are very impressive. She loves all of her students and her colleagues," Wick said.

Whether helping students with their coursework in the classroom, or chaperoning curricular trips for her Spanish students on Spring Break, Balson upheld her passion for teaching in her preparation for each class, her grading of each assessment, as well as her readiness to meet with students outside of class.

"She's been one of the key members of the language department," said Sam Wold, History teacher. "Every student that's had her in a class, she's one of their favorite teachers. She is so caring, and she puts the students first," Wold said.

"I see her coming in early every morning, and there's often a student talking with her," Wick mentioned. "When I was department chair, I worked with her on a daily basis as I did with the other teachers in the department. She's always sought out the best resources possible for her students, picking the best textbooks and other resources that she could use in the classroom," Wick recounted. "Her generosity is what I find amazing."

Born in France, Balson was exposed to a myriad of languages and cultures across Europe. A fluent speaker in Spanish, French, Portuguese, and English, Balson advanced her passion for language learning by attaining proficiency in Latin, Ancient Greek, as well as cultural studies in the classics.

For Balson, expressing oneself in another language extends beyond communicating with someone. It is expressing who one is as a person, and sharing one's values, one's thoughts, and one's emotions with other people through that language.

"Just being able to communicate is one thing, but she's taking that much further. [She is] teaching students how to really express what's in their hearts and their souls through this new language, Wick mentioned. "No matter what language she's speaking, she's always expressing what's in her heart, her thoughts, her sincerity, and her genuine nature," Wick stated.



Photo Courtesy of Mariana Gonzales

Mrs. Noëlle Balson with her graduating students

Balson cultivated an illustrious career that began with a degree in Business Administration and Commerce from the Université de Valenciennes, as well as studies at the Ecole des Langues et Affaires in Paris. From 2010 to 2013, Balson held LFA's A. John Huss Jr. '58 and Ruth S. Huss Chair in Humanities.

Aside from teaching, Balson is an avid traveler, and has since extended her compassion in curricular trips to Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, Cuba, Argenti-

hasn't just gone there to visit, help out, and leave," Wick said. "She offers this generous, helping hand that is empathetic to their situation, and everything she does is truly done out of love for humanity."

Beyond teaching, Balson channeled her generosity into her passions in the culinary and performing arts, expressing genuine interests in foreign cultures while sharing aspects of her life in Brazil.

"We've both lived in Brazil, so we both really enjoy the same type of foods," said

becue restaurants, and I've been the recipient of her culinary expertise on many occasions when she's cooked herself or partly in recommendations to visit other places in Brazil," said Ryder. "[Besides cooking], she likes dancing and singing and she's very fond of Spanish music, French music, Brazilian music, and Portuguese music."

In learning language as well as culture, Balson is a natural linguist who is quick to absorb and become fluent in the new language. She picks up languages just through immersion, and creates the same immersion situation for the students in the classroom by speaking the target language. Beyond the classroom, Balson strives to transmit the same experience to faculty.

"She helps me with my French, and she helped me with my family tree that goes all the way back to the 1400s in a little town in France where it turns out she owns a home," said Wick. "She's got a close relationship with these French nuns, the sisters from St. Rogers Abbey in Wilmette, and she's developed this great relationship so she brings all these baked goods made by the sisters for us to share," Wick stated.

Despite retirement, Balson's passion towards education remains undeterred. Prior to LFA, Balson amassed great experience in secondary language education at Loyola Academy and Lake Forest Country Day School. Balson's teachings have then extended to The Elms, Colwall, England; Malvern College Preparatory School, England; Keighley College, England; Alliance Française, São Paulo, Brazil; Lycée Notre Dame, as well as in Roubaix, France.

Balson plans to continue to substitute teach in local schools, namely the Lycée Français de Chicago, and prolong her involvement in the academic lives of LFA.

The Spectator team, students, and faculty wish Mrs. Balson all the best in retirement.



Photo Courtesy of Mariana Gonzales

Mrs. Noëlle Balson and her students during their trip to Brazil

na, Uruguay, Nicaragua, Panama, The Dominican Republic, and Costa Rica.

Outside of LFA, Balson is willing to strike up a conversation with strangers, understanding their stories, displaying the same compassion towards them that she would towards their own students, and seeking to impart the same care, compassion, and love.

"If she's taking a trip to a country and working with underprivileged people in a particular area, and if you look at the pictures from those trips, you can tell that she

Wold. "If I go to a food store that has Brazilian drinks, I'll bring in a drink called Guarana, which is a drink in Brazil that we both miss. [We like] to greet each other with a kiss on the cheeks. That's the thing that I kind of started to do in Brazil - those little cultural things that nobody else in the United States does that we still share."

"She's a fantastic cook, and she knows all kinds of different cuisines from all around the world," said Steve Ryder, former LFA French teacher. "We went to Brazilian bar-

Goodbye Caxys

LFA’s Class of 2023 College List

Alexos, Justinian	Indiana University	Mathews, Cole	Junior Hockey
Anderson, Elizabeth	New York University	Minsky, Taylor	University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Arthurs, Benjamin	Harvard University	Mitckess, Maya	Carleton College
Awada, Mazin	Wake Forest University	Mullarkey, Maxwell	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Ayala, Xitlali	Tufts University	Murray, Braeden	Arizona State University
Bishopp, Diana	Sacred Heart University	Nguyen, Khue	Rice University
Bisulca, Nicholas	Babson College	Nguyen, Khuong Duy	Case Western Reserve University
Bonaguidi, Isabelle	University of Wisconsin, Madison	Nguyen, Lam	New York University
Botero, Brian	University of Richmond	Nigmatullin, Alan	University of Toronto
Campbell, Charles	Junior Hockey	Nikishina, Anna	Johns Hopkins University
Chaseley, Pierce	Purdue University	Ortiz, Yaelle	Northeastern University
Chen, Myke	University of Southern California	Otti, Chinwe	New York University
Comfort, Peter	Connecticut College	Park, Koeun	University of Washington
Costin, Ryan	Indiana University	Pemberton, Kennedy	Boston College
Cournoyer, Madeline	Bates College	Penty, Kekeli	DePaul University
Coxe, Owen	Tulane University	Persons, Amelia	Emory University
Daly, Sarah	Butler University	Petrini-Poli, Alexandre	Loyola Marymount University
Dao, Anh	The College of William and Mary	Phan, Khanh	Parsons School of Design at The New School
Doan, Nghi Tuong Bao	Undecided	Plambeck, Julia	Augustana College
Drobny, Connor	Phillips Exeter Academy (PG Year)	Quiroz, Alejandro	Washington University in St. Louis
Drobny, Jack	College of the Holy Cross	Rashid, Ariana	Wellesley College
Durchslag, Madison	University of Chicago	Roach, Jacob	US Navy
English, Djasahn	Occidental College	Romelus, Joie	Swarthmore College
Enrietto, Thomas	Junior Hockey	Royale, Bryson	Brandeis University
Fink, Cameron	Dartmouth College	Sebolt, Jordan	Auburn University
Fishman, Beverly	University of Miami	Shah, Sajan	Northwestern University
Frusher, Sydney	University of California, Irvine	Shao, Zijiao	New York University
Gartz, Elinor	University of Michigan	Smith, Cemond	Michigan State University
Gearman, Tyler	Junior Hockey	Snyderman, Benjamin	Amherst College
George, Spencer	Duke University	Srivastava, Anusha	Northeastern University
Gold, Montgomery	University of St. Andrews	Subrahmanian, Annika	Northwestern University
Grushevsky, Anthony	Lake Forest College	Sun, Jiayi	New York University
Gupta, Ambika	Claremont McKenna College	Terada, Issei	Undecided
Hampel, Luke	Junior Hockey	Tobin, Thomas	Villanova University
Harrison, Finnian	Undecided	Tran, Nhi	University of Melbourne
Heller, Rose	Emory University	Trandel, Ava	University of St. Andrews
Hernandez, Mia	Stanford University	Trejo, Abigail	Yale University
Hernandez, Miranda	Colorado College	Vandenberg, Ian	Junior Hockey
Hulsizer, Juliette	Harvard University	Vashi, Rohan	University of Michigan
Jacobson, Andrew	Denison University	Vinokurova, Sofya	Carnegie Mellon University
Kapoor, Riya	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Walvoord, Anton	Northwestern University
Kim, Heewoong	New York University	Wang, Evan	Tufts University
Kishitani, Riko	University of Washington	Wang, Ziang	University of California, Riverside
Koh, Edward	Harvard University	Wei, Yueshan	University of California, San Diego
Kuhns, Charles	Santa Clara University	Weisserman, Simon	Macalester College
Kuklina, Daria	Vassar College	Wood, Tyler	Chapman University
Le, Cong Hoang	Olin College of Engineering	Worth, Redding	Vanderbilt University
Li, Stephanie	Emory University	Wyne, Jack	Bucknell University
Li, Wenjia	Claremont McKenna College	Xiao, Liwei	University of California, San Diego
Li, Zihan	Northwestern University	Xing, Michael	Northwestern University
Liu, Tracey	Grinnell College	Yan, Yizhuo	University of California, Davis
Lubaev, Nicholas	University of Miami	Yang, QiMao	Cornell University
Ma, Bradley	Washington University in St. Louis	Ye, Ziyi	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Ma, Yuyang	Duke University	Yin, Zhiyu	Pratt Institute
Macejko, Jackson	Junior Hockey	Young, Tatum	Wheaton College - MA
Malacsina, Isabella	Undecided	Zhang, Aaron	University of Southern California
Malkani, Saanvi	Harvard University	Zhang, Richard	New York University
Martin, Avery	University of Southern California	Zhou, Tianyi	New York University

Congratulations!

List provided by the College Counseling Department
Note: This list is not final and is subject to change

Glitz and glamour: Prom 2023

By Claire Ireland & Erin Cho
Senior Editor & Staff Writer

Excitement was in the air as students prepared for one of the biggest events of the year--prom. The secret to every good party is that it seems effortlessly pulled off. While of course, LFA's prom always turns out to be a seemingly easily pulled off good party, the truth of the matter is far from that. When scheduling errors arose prohibiting prom from being scheduled on April 15th 2023, faculty (Kim Graham, Director of Student Leadership and Student Life, and Rachael Josephsen, Director of Advancement Events and Special Projects) were left having to find another venue on incredibly short notice. "[The venue] has

to be booked at least a year in advance. It's kind of like a wedding" said Stephanie Ramirez, Junior Class Advisor. The booking process of prom is one that requires years of planning ahead. The original venue for prom was one that was booked in such a manner.

"They actually booked the boat before the pandemic, but as I remember because of the pandemic...they postponed two-three years," said Prom Committee member Jerry Ren '24. As such, finding another venue was no small feat.

When it comes down to the nitty gritty of Prom planning, duties are split between students and faculty. Prom committee members work to develop the theme, subsequent decorations, and food. Student council



Joe's Live serves as a replacement venue.

Photo by David Atas



Photo by David Atas

LFA students dancing to the music at prom on May 13, 2023.

members work to fundraise for prom itself throughout the year with various fundraisers and bake sales hosted in Senior Square. Regarding student responsibilities when it came to planning prom, Ramirez said, "The student council is responsible for a lot of the personal choices, the theme, what they like music-wise, managing where everybody sits--understanding that theme is reflected in the venue was very important to them".

However, the picking of the venue, transportation of students, and other logistical details are left to the involved adults.

All of this hard work pays off in the form of a truly enjoyable school-wide event. With the venue secured, Joe's Live in Rosemonts, and the details carefully orchestrated, the only thing left was to kick back and enjoy the fun. This fun was evident with waves of jumping and jiving students out on the dance floor, screaming--singing along to their favorite songs. The energy and excitement lingered well after the last song, the night being a memorable one for all who participated.

Balancing summer jobs and play

By Tanya Ganesh & Ela Jain
Sports Director & Writer

As summer approaches, LFA students start to disperse into different activities. Some take classes, some hang out with friends, some travel across the world, but many students take summer jobs to fill the time. Teenagers working over the summer has been an American staple, and many understand it to be part of the quintessential American teen experience. While some teenagers work to make money for themselves or their family, some also work to boost a college resume, or just to make friends.

The Department of Labor set rules for teenagers, to ensure child labor is not abused. Those who are 14-15 have limited hours, only allowed 18 hours of work during a school week, and 40 hours on a non-school week. Students 16 to 17 have more freedom, allowed to work unlimited hours, but only in jobs declared non-hazardous. In Illinois, these rules are especially strict, specifically in the face of new laws in many states that are rolling back child-labor laws. "I've worked three jobs so far, one at the Left Bank, a restaurant, one at Gerhard's, a bakery, and most recently at Starbucks," Jaime Pruette '24 explained. "The two biggest things I wish I knew before I started working are that scheduling flexibility is very important for someone working while going to school, and that even when working

entry-level jobs, you shouldn't undervalue your labor. Quite a few local business seem to hire the 14 to 15 year olds that won't be hired at bigger fast food chains and underpay them because of the leverage they have."

The concept of working summer jobs as a high school student has many mixed opinions. The common opposing view is that it takes away time and energy from being a student, focusing on academics, or extracurricular activities they could utilize to become competitive in the college process. As college admissions become more and more selective and competitive over the years, student rigor has ramped up tremendously--racking up awards, conducting research projects, and founding clubs/organizations at the mere ages of 14-17

when we are still growing. Pruette further reflected on this struggle for time, saying, "I was being scheduled between 45-50 hours a week at \$8.50 an hour. I was making money, but as I got into the school year, a nine to ten hour shift with only a 15 minute lunch break under an awful boss with little scheduling flexibility got to be too much."

However, having a summer job holds much more significance than one would assume. The simple task teaches vital-to-life concepts and habits such as learning to budget time and use it at school, develop social skills, take on independence and responsibility, etc. Concepts like these are crucial as they can carry great weightage into anything and everything student will go on to do in the future.

The versatility in the qualities having a job teaches allows them to be more applicable to any other task, having more long-term value. Knowing how to handle various responsibilities helps students prepare for the academic vigor of college while establishing a sense of financial awareness. Pruette shared, "I'm saving for a car, college, and to help my parents out with finances, and hunting around for job that pays better as you get older is the best way to earn move towards those goals, not picking up more hours."

Beyond the life-lessons, these experiences can also lead to long-lasting friendships, and serve as a time and space to escape the rigor of the day. Cicily Caruso '24 described, "At Culver's, it has been such a healthy work environment, keeping me there for two years now, and giving me friendships and skills that I will have forever such as time management and scheduling as I have continued to work throughout the school year since starting." Caruso continued, "Living farther from the school makes it hard to connect with LFA friends throughout the summer, so making more friends closer to home through work was great. I have met some of my closest friends through work."

When being cogniscent and aware of prioritization and balance of work, school, and rest, carrying the responsibilities of a job can be rewarding in skills, finances, and habits.



Ela Jain '24 working at a comic book shop.

Photo by Tanya Ganesh

Editorial: The reality of cummulatives

From the middle to end of April, every LFA student in an AP class has come into contact with the dreaded cumulative. Hefty in weighting but not so much as the final, shortly before the AP exam, and requiring relooking over an entire two semesters worth of material, the cumulative leaves one question--what's the purpose?

April can be a dreadful month and is the precursor to May's first two weeks of rigorous AP testing. Intended to prepare students for the impending AP exam that will test year-round knowledge, cumulatives serve almost as the traditional test-taking "final" of a class--but a month in advance. With LFA offering over 20 AP courses from foreign language to the sciences, most students will encounter this form of testing sometime in their academic career. However, this time is also home to not only the various other AP classes that students take on, but the demand of extracurriculars and academic competitions that combat for attention.

With the slew of responsibilities coming to head in this spring season, it is difficult to maintain a balanced lifestyle and a school performance in-

dicative of AP "readiness." That's not to say LFA students do not recognize the additional responsibility an AP class assigns, and LFA--whether it be through an advisor, college counselor, or school-instated restrictions based on grades-- does pay attention to reminding students to not overload themselves.

But despite the benefits, the placement of cumulatives can be contrary to its effectiveness for arguably the most important exam-- the AP. The barrage of constant testing and from multiple sources can decrease a student's retention rate, the close timing to the AP exam can exacerbate anxiety, and a cumulative's role in grading can lead to sudden burnout-- all of which act as an obstruction to its ultimate goal of elevating a student's confidence. On top of this, it can lead students to shirk other responsibilities of classes that aren't AP's just because they have to study for cumulatives and AP's for a solid month straight.

To combat this short-term goal of performing well on the cumulative in exchange for rashly brushing over the course material under the pressure of

stress, decreasing the cumulative's weightage in the overall class grade can maintain the exam-simulating environment while refraining from taking a toll on students. Or it could be entirely grade-optional, where it's meant to help the students and not to hurt their grade.

Apart from the testing itself, teachers should remain conscious that though teaching unit after unit is critical and allowing a student to fully comprehend individual concepts is necessary, it is just as important to allot time for a student to apply those skills holistically-- as the AP exam likes to enforce. Part of preparing for a cumulative is preparing how to weave together course material that is previously taught throughout the year in segments. Cumulatives should not act as a decisive grading factor if the style of the test is still foreign to its taker.

When teachers enable students to effectively space out their time, and students approach testing with the intent to understand, practice, and retain rather than simply getting that A, it will ultimately promote stronger longterm AP results and enjoyment.

The Lake Forest

SPECTATOR
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PUBLICATION

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EDITORIALS

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

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

AWARDS

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

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"It always seems impossible until it is done."
- Nelson Mandela



Scan this QR code to get a list of summer reading books!

A final farewell to *The Spectator*

Bika Gupta

Editor-in-Chief

Favorite Memory: Prom last year on the boat!

Takeaway: My takeaway for journalism would be that it's always worth talking to the people behind the stories; people talking about their lives and experiences can be insightful. There's no need to be scared.

Future Plans: I'm going to Claremont Mckenna, and I'm going to join the school paper there so I'm excited for that— I'm also going to study abroad, and would love to go to either London or an Asian country.

Spirit Animal: Chihuahua, Thomas's dog (Shihtzu Poodle mix)



Photo by Theresa Fu

The Spectator's 2023 Editors-in-Chief.

Nick Bisulca

Editor-in-Chief

Favorite Memory: The bus ride back from my last JV soccer game my junior year. Everyone was dancing and the music practically broke the speakers.

Takeaway: Writing with freedom is always more effortless than writing by a prompt. When you can really get behind what you say, and you write in a similar tone that you speak in, writing comes easily and can be fun. Never force yourself to say something you don't mean.

Future plans: I'm going to Babson College to study Business. I'd love to take a year abroad in Dubai for new experiences.

Spirit Animal: Meerkat

TJ Minsky

Staff Writer

Favorite Memory: Being on the golf team for four years and the Gerber Cup (where we play in our own teams and against each other).

Takeaway: Becoming a stronger writer.

Future Plans: To go to college and discover new things.

Spirit Animal: Golden Retriever

Ella Gartz

Editor-in-Chief

Favorite Memory: My AP US History class Junior Year.

Takeaway: Learning how to bring out the best in the people that I am working with.

Future Plans: Studying Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) and Applied Statistics at the University of Michigan.

Spirit Animal: Chimpanzee

Max Ma

Senior Editor of Social Justice

Favorite Memory: Playing soccer with friends (futsal).

Takeaway: The fact that words are powerful to deliver truth.

Future Plans: Freedom in college.

Spirit Animal: Poodle

Connor Drobny

Managing Editor of Op-Ed

Favorite Memory: In freshman year, our Ice Hockey team went to a Girls Volleyball game in the fall and stormed the court to show support.

Takeaway: The importance of unbiased news-reporting

Future Plans: Excited to live somewhere else beyond the Midwest

Spirit Animal: Monarch Butterfly/ Armadillo

Maya Mitckess

Managing Editor of Digital

Favorite Memory: Senior retreat, being able to bond with my classmates since the freshman retreat and seeing how much we've changed

Takeaway: The best thing to do is



Graduating seniors in the Formal Gardens.



The Spectator graduating Staff.

give the truth and make sure you are writing something that isn't biased. If you do, know where it's coming from— as it affects who you're giving information to.

Future plans: I'm really excited to study psychology and political

science at Carleton College and being able to explore more of my interests, broaden my horizons, and continue writing for a paper.

Spirit Animal: Cuttlefish

Finn Harrison

Managing Editor of Politics

Favorite Memory: The senior retreat.

Takeaway: How important the spread of information is to stay aware and invested in the community.

Future Plans: To become supreme ruler of the Earth.

Spirit Animal: British Shorthair cat

Djasahn English

Managing Editor of Social Justice

Favorite Memory: Dropping off U-High and Latin with gamewinners at home.

Takeaway: Any story can be im-

Photo by Amanda Krause

Senior's graduating Class of 2023



Photo by Jessie Li

pactful if given the right attention.
 Future Plans: I'll be attending Occidental College in LA as a computer science major as well as running track.
 Spirit Animal: Lion

Richard Zhang

Managing Editors of Digital

Favorite Memory: Being able to start for the Varsity Basketball on Senior Night and scoring the first two points

Takeaway: Writing articles about things that I'm genuinely interested in and interviewing other people where I am having conversations and learning more about them.

Future Plans: Excited to go back to the East Coast where I grew up and meeting new people all over the world.

Spirit Animal: Minions (particularly Stuart)



Photo by Theresa Fu

Nghi Doan and Anusha Srivastava

Anusha Srivastava

Managing Editor of Production

Favorite Memory: The dance circle at the LFA Diwali celebration and when there were sparklers outside

of Stu.

Takeaway: There's so much going on around you that you aren't always cognizant of. Taking the time to look around at what's happening locally and globally, even if it's not affecting us, can open eyes
 Future Plans: Studying abroad in Greece for the first semester of college and meeting new people!
 Spirit Animal: Salamander



Photo by Amanda Krause

Avery Martin and Ava Trandel pose.

Ava Trandel

Managing Editor of Features

Favorite Memory: The vibes and energy of Prom last year.

Takeaway: It's shaped me into a more concise writer and allowed me to practice in a writing style that we don't really do in regular English classes.

Future Plans: Go abroad in college and hopefully eventually going to law school

Spirit Animal: Leopard

Avery Martin

Managing Editor of A&E

Favorite Memory: Multicultural Day.

Takeaway: Developing my own writer's voice and breaking away from formal argumentative voice
 Future Plans: Attending USC for college and meeting new people with a focus on English/history etc.
 Spirit Animal: Maizy

Nghi Doan

Managing Editor of News

Favorite Memory: Multicultural day and being able to perform and grow closer together

Takeaway: Be patient (and on time). I've also learned a lot about collaboration and how to communicate well.

Future Plans: Going to college

and maybe doing a year abroad.

This summer will also be my first time back home in Vietnam in four years.

Spirit Animal: Red panda

Riya Kapoor

Managing Editor of Collaborations

Favorite Memory: Being in Field as a whole is the best thing that has ever happened to me. I've built sister-like connections with both older and younger students and experienced so many fun late nights.

Takeaway: You are going to be able to enrich your life and experiences by listening to other peoples' stories. I've learned that so many times we live in our own little bubble, and by going out and genuinely listening intently, you can benefit your life by expanding your viewpoints and perspectives.

Future Plans: Excited to meet a bunch of new people all at once, and to do so on a fresh slate where I can be anyone I want and re-invent myself. Majoring in engineering will also push and challenge myself to build connections.

Spirit Animal: Chinchilla/Prairie Dog/Capybara/Koi Fish



Photo by Theresa Fu

Riya Kapoor and Beverly Fishman stand back-to-back.

Beverly Fishman

Managing Copy Editor

Favorite Memory: Each lacrosse season because I love the sport and I love playing with the girls!

Takeaway: There are so many ways to write about a story and different formats to create them in.

Future Plans: Going to UMiami to study psychology and neuroscience. I'm planning on going abroad and hope to expand my knowledge and network!

Spirit Animal: My dogs (Odin and Thor)

The overturning of Roe v. Wade impacting the college process

By Liv and Emma

Staff Writers

In June of 2022, the lives of many people in the U.S. were completely changed by the decision to overturn Roe v. Wade from the Supreme Court, which was the federal right to abortion in the United States. Many states that had abortion restrictions prior to Roe v. Wade put those laws back in place after it was overturned, such as Texas, Florida, Wisconsin, Georgia, North Carolina, and more. The threat to women's reproductive rights in certain states is very concerning to some students and is affecting the college process at LFA. Ben Wetherbee, Associate Dean of College Counseling at LFA, said that politics are a completely reasonable conversation to have when discussing college, especially with the new reproductive laws. Many students do decide on occasion to rule out states that they would not feel comfortable

in due to their laws and policies, including abortion. Wetherbee hopes that this sends a message to the colleges within these states to help change certain policies if they are able to, or voice their opinions so that it will "lead to action" as they are "a product of the environment they are in." Despite that, he said it is a "pretty gray area currently" because of how recent the changes are; it will be interesting to see how these laws impact colleges, states, and students over time.

Mia Rogers, a female college counselor at LFA, also stated "There are definitely students who will be talking to colleges. I'll make a suggestion for a school or university that's in, for example, Texas. Their response will be like, 'Oh, I can't go there.' The follow up about that is always about Roe v Wade and rights for women in particular." While the overturning of Roe v. Wade is still relatively recent, and college counselors may not have experienced these effects yet, students are al-

ready taking that into consideration when searching for colleges to attend.

Riya Kapoor '23 said, "When I was applying to my big schools, I wanted to apply to schools in states that had restrictions on abortions, but I didn't because I physically can't be in a state where I feel like I am going to be attacked for my political views. I couldn't be somewhere where I wouldn't feel comfortable politically."

Similarly, Saanvi Malkani '23 shared how she applied to only two schools in the South, which were both top on her list. She stated, "I got into Rice in Texas. It was one of my dream schools, and it was really great for my major; I loved the diversity, and I loved the impact the school has on social justice. One of the deciding factors for me was that if I left Houston, TX, I would not feel comfortable in that state. In terms of access like birth control and abortions, those are constantly threatened." She continued with

her initial feelings when the overturning of Roe v. Wade took place, "It was really frustrating because as a person with the ability to get pregnant, I had to consider that factor into deciding where I could apply to colleges, and that immediately cut my list in half based on the schools I could apply to and feel safe and supported in." Despite that this issue does affect male students, female students expressed how it felt unfair that they had to now base their decision off of their access to women's reproductive rights in certain states. The overturning of Roe v. Wade has had an enormous impact on everyone living in the United States, whether they realize it or not. At the end of the day, many will have to face a decision: the risk of putting one's basic human rights on the line or severely limiting one's college choices; neither of which has been a part of the college process until now.

LFA's Connie McCabe runs for Local Office

By Jessie Ji and Max Ma

Staff Writer & Senior Editor of Social Justice

Many teachers at LFA are very vocal about the issues they care about, and some continue to devote their passion outside school after they retire. Constance McCabe, after her retirement from LFA as an ESL (English as a Second Language) instructor in 2021, recently ran for office in the Lake Bluff Park District. She has a hope to establish the Lake Bluff Reserve, so that it boosts the natural growth of animals, and provide a mild habitat for endangered species to survive when dramatic environmental changes occur. She noted a very alarming drop in the bird population--nearly three billion are gone since 1970. "It only takes a little bit of preserved land to bring back the wildlife, [...] so nature could have a place to be," said McCabe. With this vision in mind, McCabe found the golf course in Lake Bluff would be the solution: converting it to a wetland, meanwhile generating a \$10 million fund through the wetland credits for income. However, McCabe and her campaign team also met obstacles. While they were investigating the splitting of the golf course and wetlands for six months, they found that there was zero discussion on this issue. The park district rejected asking people's ideas about converting a

portion of the golf course into a place to save animals, or seemed to oversimplify it as losing a recreational place for wetland. While McCabe wasn't always so active in local politics, this impulse of converting golf courses into wetlands did not come from nowhere; she and her friends in college had worked to support the candidates running for governor, and she believes, "If you want to see things happen you have to

be part of making it happen. You can't just sit back and hope somebody else does all the work." Hence, McCabe contributed tremendous efforts in the campaign. She constantly discussed campaign philosophy, plans, printed material with the team, met with the golf course designer, signed contracts, and knocked on people's doors to talk about their campaign ideas...All of these require good governance, building

consensus, and finding creative solutions. Although McCabe's team of three running for office eventually did not win the campaign, this experience was memorable. "Knocking on lots of people's doors, I got to know a lot of neighbors—a lot of cool people," McCabe recalled, "It's a good way to become integrated into the fabric of the town."



Photo Courtesy of Fawcett, Martin, McCabe: A Park District for Everyone Campaign
Former LFA Director of ESL, Connie McCabe, puts her hat in the local political ring.

One year after the Highland Park shooting: Still unrest

By: Esti Rosenblatt

Photo Editor

The one year anniversary of the Highland Park shooting is approaching. The city of Highland Park is still recovering but initially responded with “compassion, empathy, and generosity,” as phrased by the city.

Quickly after the shooting, the city created the line, “Highland Park Strong,” which was painted on store fronts, made into stickers and yard signs, and printed on tee shirts, an homage to the strength shown after the Highland Park shooting. The “Highland Park Strong” 5k and 1 Mile race, formerly known as the North Shore Classics, is taking place on June 4, 2023. The race is working with the Highland Park Community Foundation as their charity partner. Money from the race will go into a shooting response fund.

“Highland Park Strong” is beginning to be phased out of use. “Together Highland Park Unidos,” is now the city’s official slogan of reverence and remembrance. “Together Highland Park Unidos,” as said by the city, “will identify resources, services, and programming to support individuals impacted by the Highland Park shooting.”

Ten months after the fourth of July shooting, students at High-



Photo courtesy of Highland Park website

A new image arrives to commemorate the tragedy.

land Park High School went under lockdown. There was a possible shooter on campus and quickly the fear from the prior shooting came rushing back. Oliva Gorton, a junior at Highland Park High School, had just gotten back from a walk-out protesting the country’s gun laws, when she and her classmates were put under lockdown because students brought guns to campus. Gorton spoke about her experience with the recent scare, saying “I was fortunate to have been away during the first shooting, but during lockdown I saw a lot of people very

triggered by the shooting scare and returning PTSD”. Thankfully students at the Highschool were safe. “The school community really came together especially due to the recent lockdown and students are provided with a lot of resources and support,” said Gorton.

The city of Highland Park recently announced their plans for the 1-year anniversary of the Fourth of July shooting, which was planned with input from families of the deceased and those who were injured in the shooting. The Mayor, Nan-

cy Roterger, describes the fourth of July activities: “We know that the day will be filled with emotion as we mark the one-year remembrance of the Highland Park shooting. We have carefully planned events and activities that will allow our community the time and space to remember the seven individuals who were taken from us too soon, opportunities to gather and connect, and provide us with the chance to celebrate Independence Day together as we create new traditions and memories.” The activities planned start with a morning performance by the Highland Park Strings and will be followed by a moment of silence at 10:14 am -when shots were first fired last year. The city is also holding a community walk which follows the same route of the 2022 fourth of July parade and ends with a picnic at Sunset Woods Park. Annual evening fireworks will not be held but instead community members can gather at Wolters Field for live music and ice cream novelties.

Highland Park has come a long way from last year’s shooting. And although the city’s community has significantly strengthened since the shooting, the feelings of fear and loss are still very present. The community plans to restore its strength during the memorial activities on July 4th, 2023.

A need for change: Can making an innocent mistake result in being shot?

By: Emma Swanson and Mimi

Sexton

Staff Writers

Imagine pulling into the wrong driveway, ringing the wrong doorbell, or mistakenly opening the wrong car door in a parking lot, and it results in you getting shot; that is the America that we live in today. These are innocent mistakes most people have made or will make at one point in their life. However, with the gun policies that many states have in place and lack of restrictions, a minor mistake could result in gun related violence.

Within the first five months of the year of 2023, there have been 184 mass shootings and 578 teens and children have been killed due to gun violence. Although these numbers show the amount of deaths guns have caused, our nation continues to not put more restrictions on the usage of armed weapons.

An article from the Washington Post, written in 2018, stated, “There are more than 393 million civilian-owned firearms in the United States, or enough for every man, woman and child to own one and still have 67 million guns left over.” Not coincidentally, the U.S. has continuously had one of the

highest deaths due to gun violence, whether it was intentional or unintentional shootings, or self harm. As of April of 2023, 25 states have passed gun laws allowing gun owners to conceal carry and open carry their guns in public without a permit. Even with the rise in deaths due to gun violence, policy makers in states have continued to fail to put restrictions on carrying guns in public which has greatly contributed to the rise in shootings. Former Police Officer and current Campus Safety Manager Norm Sydnor said, “Carrying and conceal doesn’t give you the right to shoot somebody, just because they stepped on your foot or cut you off in traffic.”

Kaylin Gillis, a 20-year old woman, was a passenger in the car when her friend pulled into the wrong driveway—she was shot twice and killed. Payton Washington and Heather Roth, two high school girls in Texas, were in a supermarket parking lot when Heather Roth got into the wrong vehicle—their car was shot at five times and Payton was shot in the leg and back. Ralph Yarl, a 16-year old boy, went to the wrong home to pick up his younger siblings—he was shot in the head and arm.

These incidents of people being



Photo courtesy of Creative Commons

Man protests for safer gun laws.

at the wrong place are sparking fear amongst the American public. Madison Rosen 25’ said, “ I fear going to a parade, that should be ingrained in my mind as a happy childhood memory, but has now become the reminder that gun violence has and will touch the lives of so many in this country.”

Specific laws such as the “castle doctrine” law and laws that include “stand your ground” ideas have stated that force, including deadly force, can be used in specific circumstances such as home invasions and self defense. In some cases,

these laws have been misinterpreted and have justified the use of gun violence and have allowed for the defendant to be discharged from facing all consequences. People living in America today should not be fearful of being shot or killed for making a minor mistake that should be handled without the use of guns. This should serve as a wake up call for policy makers to better protect their country. Rosen said “So, in short, I fear the atmosphere that lawmakers in the United States refuse to change every single day.”

Finals: Why they are better off now

By Joon Lee
Staff Writer

The most stressful time of the school year is no doubt finals week. After all that hard work you put into your classes, you have a big test awaiting you at the end. This year, at Lake Forest Academy, we made major changes to the finals policy. The finals policy should consider both the lens of students and faculty for a better environment for everyone.

Last semester, the new finals policy finally got implemented, before which finals were taken by day according to subject. All students took Math on one day and English on the other day. This was an easy way to combine all the classes and take the exams all at once. However, students who double or triple on subjects had a hard time organizing their schedules because they needed to take conflict exams. To solve this issue, Nancy Nassr, the Dean of Academics, proposed a new policy for finals: finals by period. Nassr “looked for opportunities in this school from an academic perspective,” and she found out that “the final exam

schedule didn’t actually support the individualization of students to pursue here at LFA.” Therefore, Nassr decided to change the process and structure of the final exams to make it convenient for both students and faculty. She came up with the final exam schedule mirroring the A-day schedule.

This winter, everyone experienced the new finals policy. We had A1 and A7 class tests on the first day and so on for other classes. One addition to the schedule was a weekend between the four days of finals. The finals week last year lasted one whole week where we started on Monday and finished on Thursday. The new policy added a weekend in between the finals, allowing students to take a break between finals, making it more friendly for students who are taking the exams.

After the exams, students’ reactions were mixed, but mostly positive. Nassr conducted a survey for feedback about this new policy, and it was “overwhelmingly positive on both sides (teachers and students), allowing designated time no matter who you are to take your exam, and built-in breaks.” Nassr also added that it “affords teachers to batch grade so they do

not need to grade their finals all at once.” From the student’s perspective, Joshua Joh ‘24 expressed his satisfaction with the new finals policy, saying it was “perfect for people who are doubling up in science like me, and taking tests in classrooms is less intimidating compared to the little theater or the gym.”

However, while there is satisfaction among the student body for this new policy, confusion also has stemmed about how the finals week can allot for two tests per day when it’s done by period, when this year,

students were not required to go to class if they just had one AP exam any time that day, making some feel as if it’s contradictory to the AP policy, and thus delegitimizes the weight of finals that aren’t AP related.

Finals are stressful and hard for a lot of students, which makes finals policies even more important. How can we alleviate as much stress for students? How can we make a better test environment for everyone? The new policies put into use are looking out to be pretty effective and reasonable for both students and faculty.

Day 1 12.8.2022	Day 2 12.9.2022	Day 3 12.12.2022	Day 4 12.13.2022
8:30-10:00 (10:45) 8:30-10:30 (11:30) A1	8:30-10:00 (10:45) 8:30-10:30 (11:30) A3	8:30-10:00 (10:45) 8:30-10:30 (11:30) A5	8:30-10:00 (10:45) 8:30-10:30 (11:30) A8
10:45-12:30 Lunch	10:45-12:30 Lunch	10:45-12:30 Lunch	10:45-12:30 Lunch
1:00-2:30 (3:15) 1:00-3:00 (4:00) A7	1:00-2:30 (3:15) 1:00-3:00 (4:00) A6	1:00-2:30 (3:15) 1:00-3:00 (4:00) A2	1:00-2:30 (3:15) 1:00-3:00 (4:00) A4

Courtesy of LFA Communications

The final exam schedule for last winter

Is LFA’s campus truly accessible?

By Maya Mitckess
Managing Editor of Digital

Lake Forest Academy students may have noticed a few new ramps and even a chair lift being installed on campus over the past year, the goal of this being to make the

campus more accessible to students who have physical ailments. Yet, have these improvements made the campus truly accessible? The struggle between historical preservation, accessibility, and other competing interests needing financial backing has made this goal lacking in fulfillment.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) provides that a landowner must

insure that individuals with disabilities, or better termed “parabilities,” are not excluded from services, programs and activities because buildings are not accessible. At LFA, there are several ways that the campus appears to be out of sync with the ADA. For example, Reid Hall has no elevators, and many classrooms are only accessible by climbing up a marble staircase. The Armour Mansion where Reid Hall is located is protected by being listed on the National Register of Historic Places, so modern modifications aren’t necessarily feasible. Yet, it is one building that holds one subject that accommodations are already made for as class relocation is commonly practiced for these hard to get to classrooms. Unlike Reid, Corbin and Korhummel house numerous main subjects and are not historically protected, but similarly, are fairly inaccessible.

In interviewing Tuana Cavusoglu 25’, leader of the Parability Awareness Club, it became apparent that LFA still has additional areas of opportunity in terms of accessibility. In her interview, she referenced the fact that these aforementioned buildings have a negative commonality, saying “If you have to go to upper Corbin, you can take the lift, but then you can’t get to lower Corbin from there; you would have to walk around all the way, and it’s like an added ten minutes of walking.” Every classroom is technically accessible by different doors, many difficult to open, even if many of the staircases aren’t ramped or the building doesn’t have an elevator, but

it adds extra walking and time that many with parabilities can’t afford to have.

Not only do these main campus buildings lack the modifications to accommodate parabled community members, but LFA requires students to take sports where they could become injured and have to deal with these difficulties. If the smaller population of permanently parabled students isn’t enough to cause improvement, the special circumstances of LFA requiring potential bodily injuring athletics for the entire population should raise a flag of support for these needed modifications.

These modifications would need to be funded though. The problem is that LFA has many ventures and goals already planned with the money they have and fundraise throughout the year. “I feel like if they should be raising money for anything, it should be focusing on making the school more accessible,” Cavusoglu said.

LFA has made an effort to make the school more welcoming to the parabled as seen by its new ramps and past accommodations, but it has more to do. One thing LFA prides itself on is its diversity, but diversity isn’t just racial; it is so many categories. There is a population out there that is intelligent that may not be able to go to LFA due to their challenges and the lack of solace they find in the existing accommodations the school has. Not only would accessibility modifications create a better environment for the existing student body, but it would lead to a diverse and better future for the students who come to LFA hereafter.



Photo by Maya Mitckess

The view from the outside of the LFA door into Corbin

College pursuits of LFA's student athletes

By Quinn Knight & Ford Sweet

Senior Copy Editor & Staff Writer

Sports at LFA are something we all know well; whether it's our forte or not, it's something we're required to experience. However, for some, it is more than just a requirement. A select few strive to be the best they can at what they do because it's something that gives them unparalleled enjoyment, and it is a significant accomplishment to play at any collegiate level. It is a challenging task to manage the effort of school alone, still for some select people, the journey to college is not just about academics, but also about honing their athletic skills to a level that will catch the attention of college recruiters and get them a place on a respective team.

LFA has produced many athletes who participated in collegiate or junior-level sports in years past. As the school year is nearing to an end and seniors are preparing themselves for their next step in life, a select few of students are going to devote time and effort playing sports in college. In commenting on how LFA has helped her

throughout her journey, D1 hockey commit Diana Bishopp said, "LFA has helped prepare me to play college sports by requiring everyone to play sports, so I have met many people through sports whom I may not have met otherwise. This has helped me build my teamwork skills and learn to play together with people of all levels." LFA's sports requirements are a huge strength for athletes pursuing an athletic-based college experience. It helps develop skills that might not be seen as necessary and grow skills required to be a good team player and leader, especially in college.

The level of commitment is crucial to the dream of becoming a college athlete. In discussing what LFA gives to athletes who want to pursue a college athletic dream, Athletic Operations Manager Pam Dye says, "The biggest lesson LFA students learn to prepare for collegiate athletics is time-management. Most of LFA's student-athletes who continue playing after high school are scholars who juggle multiple team/sport obligations." According to Dye, balancing school and sports is crucial to success in college and is something LFA



Photo Courtesy of Diana Bishopp

Diana Bishopp '23 poses for a photo at her signing. prides itself on doing. At LFA, the list of college athletes has grown yearly, especially in the last five years, as more people want to pursue their athletic dreams in college. This year in particular, the list is still being developed with sports like basketball, golf, and hockey across all levels--D1 to DIII.

While LFA's athletic program continuously buzzes upon the collegiate radar, it has continued to produce more and more athletes who are pursuing their dreams at the next level, something that might have

only been a dream in childhood, but is now a reality. As the athletes sign and commit themselves into their college, the joy and exhilaration of that moment is beyond imaginable for many. They have all devoted time and energy into reaching a moment like this, which is why LFA's community helps make that commitment extra special for them. As the years progress, hopefully, more people notice that LFA's athletic program is taken for granted.

Is baseball no longer America's pastime?

By Myles Haight

Staff Writer

Baseball—the game is commonly known as America's pastime. However, that narrative has recently changed. Viewership in baseball has been steadily declining over the past years. According to The University of Michigan, Major League Baseball viewership has gone from 21.98 million viewers per year in 1992 down to 7.51 million in 2022. But why? What has caused this significant jump in viewership? Dr. Mike Hall, Math Faculty and Head Varsity Baseball coach at LFA, said he has noticed a decrease in baseball viewership not just in the MLB, but also at LFA. He believes that Covid might have something to do with it. He said, "We only have a couple of juniors, whereas in the senior class, we have a bunch, in the sophomore class we have a bunch, and in the freshman class we have a bunch, but the junior class is the year that was most affected by Covid, so consequently that's the year we have the fewest players."

However, in other countries, baseball is only gaining popularity. According to NBC, The Korea Vs. Japan Game in the World Baseball Classic had 62 million viewers. That is more viewers than any world series game has ever had. Juno Kim '25, a South Korean student at LFA, said that over the past couple of years, he has noticed that "there has definitely been an increase [in the popularity of baseball] in Korea". So if baseball is gaining popularity in other countries, why is it losing so many fans in the US?

Dr. Hall has a theory for why viewership in the MLB is declining. He says that it is because "MLB itself has changed the way you watch games. They pushed everything to individual platforms."

This means that if you buy a subscription from MLB to watch baseball, you can watch all the baseball games around the country, but the catch is that fans are not allowed to watch any team's games that are broadcast in their local market. This means that if I'm a Cubs fan living in Chicago, I could watch all MLB games, except for the

Cubs games. This is the case for all teams around the country. If you're blocked out from watching your favorite team play, the only option is to buy cable. This would mean that if you were a baseball fan, you would have to expect to pay over \$100 a month, which is not worth it to lots of fans.

However I believe baseball can still be America's pastime. The problem isn't with the game itself, but with the availability of the games. If the MLB realizes this and makes it easy for people to watch any baseball game they want, baseball would become one of the most popular sports again.

World Series TV Ratings

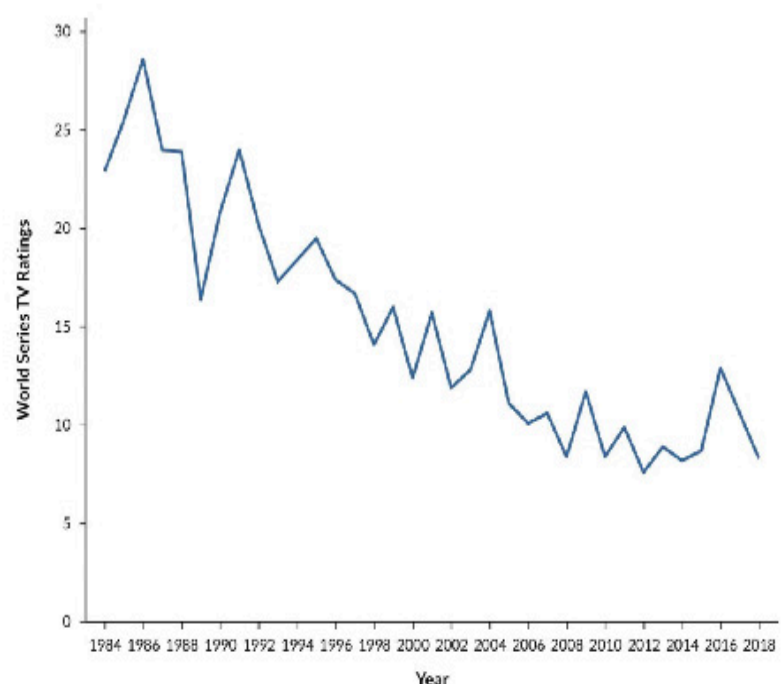


Photo Courtesy of Creative Commons

This graph shows the decrease in TV viewership for the World Series.

Hometown Coffee and Juice arrives in Lake Forest

By **Bela Bock and Chloe Jhin**
Staff Writers

While Hometown Coffee and Juice is based in Glencoe and Winnetka, it recently opened a new location in downtown Lake Forest. Several new customers among the North Shore have been thrilled to try what Hometown has to offer.

After living in Glencoe for more than 20 years, Julie and Lou Rubin wanted to find a way to give back to their community. From working in the mortgage industry, Julie and Lou established Hometown to fulfill their benevolent goal. When asked about the Rubin's intentions about first opening Hometown in Glencoe, Julia, the Hometown manager stated, "They wanted to create a community gathering space for any and everybody to have genuine human connections. We are 100% built off of the community." Furthermore, Julia explained that they were curious to see if other towns would benefit from Hometown. From seeing the success in Glencoe and Winnetka and its transformation on peoples' daily habits, the idea of opening a new location in Lake Forest sparked. After months of planning, Hometown opened in Lake Forest in March. When asked if there were

any differences in the amount of customers from older Hometown cafes to the new one, Julia stated, "To be honest, Lake Forest has not pulled much from the business of the other locations. If anything, it's brought people from further north locations who are completely new to Hometown, which is super exciting." Julia additionally explained that seeing new customers allows her the opportunity to give them adequate first impressions. Managing all three of Hometown's locations, Julia works with Gray Drobny '25 who especially loves sharing his working experiences with the communities. He specifically enjoys working at Hometown because of the social aspect of it.

Drobny said, "I like working in the center of my community, being able to work at a place where people come to gather, and being a part of the facilitation of that." By working in two locations, he has noticed a pattern from customers' orders. He says fan favorites are: Bacon Egg, and Cheese, Classic Avocado Toast, and Tropical Escape Smoothie. He emphasized how Hometown added new menu items when opening their new location: the Cobb Salad, Mexican Avocado Toast, Yogurt Bowl, and Tuna Bagel Melt." This added onto the excitement of the opening as it allowed existing custom



Photo courtesy of Hometown Coffee and Juice Facebook page

The new Hometown sits officially ready to open up in Lake Forest.

ers to explore more food items, ultimately bringing more people to the restaurant.

They even offer a discount for patrons that work at any local business, furthering the local vibe that the founders were trying to encourage. At the recent Faculty Appreciation Day, Dean of Faculty Tom Johnson even displayed a gorgeous platter of their unique and doughy

cookies, so members of the community might have already gotten a taste and not even realized it.

The new Hometown location allows for community members to connect with their neighbors in a welcoming space. It not only allows Lake Forest residents to enjoy Hometown's friendly environment, but also people around the community.

Summer media and upcoming activities in the area

By **Ela Jain and Myles Haight**
Staff Writers

Concerts

The biggest weekend for music in Chicago is fast approaching, as the Lollapalooza festival kicks off in August. Lollapalooza has been one of the most popular and lucrative concerts in Chicago history, as hundreds of thousands of people make their way to Grant Park for the four day festival. This year, the lineup is full of huge artists headlining the festival, from rapper Kendrick Lamar, pop star Billie Eilish, and K-Pop icons Tomorrow X Together. Lollapalooza began in 1991, as a farewell tour for the band Jane's Addiction. The first few incarnations of Lollapalooza mostly featured alternative rock music, with performers like Souxsie and The Banshees and Nine Inch Nails, now it hosts a diverse number of genres and artists. Lollapalooza has been criticized by punk journalists for "selling out," but its suffice to say that this year, it will.

Chicago also has other incredible festivals to see music, the most noteworthy being Pitchfork Festival and Riot Fest. Pitchfork Festival is an annual music festival organized by music journalist publication Pitchfork, and features mostly alternative and punk music in its lineup. This year, it will be headlined by The Smile, Big

Thief, and Bon Iver, at Union Park in Chicago. Riot Festival is one of the biggest punk-rock festivals in the world, and has facilitated the reunion of huge punk bands like Misfits, Jawbreaker, and My Chemical Romance. It is the largest privately owned festival in the world, and this year the festival promises a great show.

TV shows

Always Sunny

The longest running live-action comedy show is back for its 16th season, as the *Always Sunny* gang returns for another season of chaos and schemes, with the charm of their older seasons in tow. The satire-comedy follows Mac (Rob McElhenney), Dennis (Glenn Howerton), Charlie (Charlie Day), Dee (Caitlin Olson), and Frank (Danny DeVito) as they plan schemes and conspire revenge for their own entertainment, and each episode ends with the gang returning to the status quo. The most recent season, season 15, saw critique from

fans, as many thought the show had lost their signature depravity. However, creators McElhenney, Howerton, and Day promised fans a return to form with the new season, and more elaborate cons in store.

American Born Chinese

The stars of *Everything, Everywhere, All At Once* as well as some new faces reunite for the action-comedy tv show on Disney+. The show adapts the 2006 graphic novel of the same name, which follows three separate storylines that grapple with Chinese identity, and intertwine by the end. The TV show seems to follow the same outline, though focusing on a teenager who is roped into a battle with the Chinese mythical gods. With the star-studded cast and *Bob's Burger* alumni Kelvin Yu as showrunner, its sure to be a good time.

The Bear

The Bear returns for Season 2, after a critically acclaimed season 1, following a chef who takes over his family's restaurant after the sui-

cide of his brother. Season 1 of *The Bear* was highly awarded, taking home Best Actor at the Golden Globe Awards as well as multiple Screen Actors Guild Awards. Jeremy Allan White, best known for playing Lip on *Shameless*, returns to screens as the head chef and owner, carrying the weight of his family's business and the death of his brother while trying to run the unruly restaurant. Personal strifes are set to mix with professional journeys in the second season of this well-loved comedy-drama.

The Idol

The Idol is one of the most anticipated (and controversial) TV shows of the year. Headlined by Sam Levinson, most known for his work on *Euphoria*, and starring Lily-Rose Depp and The Weeknd, *The Idol* follows a struggling singer and her relationship with the leader of a cult. The show has come under fire when Levinson took over for Amy Seimetz, when the show faced a massive overhaul. The Weeknd spoke on Seimetz's leave, saying that the show was "leaning too much into a female perspective," and had to be changed. Levinson was brought on as director, and the show took a new direction, with heavier emphasis on the love story aspect. No matter the thoughts that social media has had on this show, it is promised to be a wild ride, and something to look out for.



Photo courtesy of Hulu

The Bear returns for Season 2.