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Senior parking limited to Warner and Crown

By Theresa Fu, Claire Ireland, & Ela Jain
Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editor of News,
& Managing Editor of A&E

Starting this year, parking in front of the Science Center and Atlass has been color-coded to enforce a new school-wide policy of no student parking beyond Warner and Crown— including seniors, who had long been the exception. In its place, what used to be student parking is now home to a line of Caxy Vans and more spots for guests, while newly painted lines explicitly designate parking spaces for faculty.

The motivation came from a myriad of factors. Namely, the 45,000-square-foot Athletic Center Expansion Project has resulted in a diaspora of Caxy Vans migrating to occupy former student parking in Atlass. Due to ongoing construction debris disrupting their previous space west of Crown, it was impossible for them to stay without risking physical damage to the buses.

In addition, there was a lack of general adherence to where senior parking is, with cars overflowing into the Science Center lots

from Atlass. “Now it’s clear if I say Crown and Warner. You don’t have to deliberate over where Atlass begins and the Science Center ends,” Jennifer Rundles, Dean of Students, explained in reference to rescinding privileges. Although Atlass does have adequate space to host seniors, “Tenth graders and eleventh graders and everybody... [were] parking there,” she said, resulting in congestion that became problematic for faculty and guest parking in previous years.

For instance, after a “doctors appointment, [faculty would] come back with literally nowhere for them to park because a student had parked there,” Rundles noted. Now late to class and trekking across campus to enter their classrooms, faculty could not have this remain as the norm. Similarly, visitors struggled to find parking, “especially near Cressey where [they] most often go” as the result of unpermitted student parking.

All of this raises the issue of how parking restrictions are going to be enforced. As of now, administration is working on defining clear punishment for those who commit parking violations; there is though-

-as expressed in an email by Maura Johansson, Manager of the DOS Office--a guaranteed detention for drivers who did not register their cars by September 15th.

A main point of concern for many students is the number of available spots remaining. Vicky Mesropyan ‘24 said, “I know that faculty really do need spots for school, and buses need to be parked due to construction. I respected the lines and parked in Atlas before I knew we couldn’t. However, there is still free space available— and we cannot use it.”

As assessed by security, there are still on average 23 spots available in Crown and Warner combined on a typical day of student parking. However, this wiggle room substantially shrinks or fills up entirely when considering special events on campus (such as Ice Hockey Tournaments) and poses questions regarding the amount of space available after underclassmen receive their license.

For some seniors, the debate over parking involves more than complaints over the extra hundred foot journey they must now take from Crown or Warner to class. Mesropyan elaborated that beyond a matter of convenience



Photo by Myles Haight

Atlas spots sit unoccupied at noon on a schoolday.

or avoiding a tardy, preserving senior parking meant keeping “a tradition [she] looked forward to partaking in.” Plus, with parking restrictions installed at the very start of the semester, seniors may feel as though they are paying for the wrongdoings of the previous classes without a trial period to prove themselves.

With that in mind, senior parking is not forever off the table. Atlass buses are parked in deliberately yellow lines so that LFA can repurpose it back to student use; though for the time being, it has been expressed that at least for the rest of the school year (due to the ongoing Crown Expansion project), student parking in these locations will not return.

New residential changes: From food delivery to study hours

By Erin Cho

Assitant Managing Editor of Production

At the start of this new semester, LFA announced a series of residential changes that altered the boarding experience for our students. One of the significant changes is the drop-off location for food deliveries. New residential rules forbid students from ordering food deliveries to their dorm directly due to safety issues. Emily Kalis, Assistant Dean of Students: Residential & Campus Life, said, “ We wanted to limit the amount of people coming up close to our dorms specifically.” She also added the fact of how deliveries were being left at random places, and delivery drivers were driving around the campus to find the right dorms, causing safety concerns. Due to these reasons, the Crown Center for Athletics, and the circle that connects Korhumel and Corbin will be the only eligible drop-off locations for food deliveries. A big stop sign has been installed at Crown, making it easier for drivers to find their way.

These changes have brought up conflict-

ing opinions among boarding students regarding the convenience of these new rules. Grace Inouye ‘26 said, “It does bother me to go all the way to Crown to get my food, but thinking about it in terms of security, it is a valid response to make new rules like this.” Most students have accepted the new procedure due to the valid reasoning behind it.

In an additional change to residential life, mandatory study-halls for freshmen were introduced. Freshmen now have to

study in the Student Union during study hours two nights per week. Kalis said, “Based on consistent patterns that we have seen... we have seen struggles of organization, study habits, and how to effectively use their time especially during their first year.” She added that it is structured every other night, in order to slowly integrate study habits into their dorm lives.

Students have mixed opinions about mandatory hours. Aaron Kim’27 said, “I

think mandatory study halls make an environment for us to focus more effectively... I get my work done more efficiently in STU than studying in my room.” Also, he added “As Stem Help takes place during study hours, I can go ask questions which really helps.” Freshman study halls have a rotating schedule according to the dorm placement, ensuring that it isn’t too crowded and letting upperclassmen and structured study take place accordingly.

Furthermore, Sunday nights’ study hours have been replaced by “quiet hours,” allowing students to get ready for the week. Students should check-in by 8pm; however, quiet hours do not require structured study and open-door rooms. Almira Tepe’25 said, “ It’s nice that it gives students freedom to reset themselves before school days start. I see students usually finishing their work during the weekends, so Sunday study hours were not necessary for a lot of them.” Also, Dorm Cup events are taking place during quiet hours, in order to reduce disrupting students during their study hours on weekdays.



Photo by Erin Cho

Mandatory freshman study hall in Student Union.

Jiawei “Jerry” Ren: All-School President

By Junming Xing
Editor-in-Chief

“Lights, camera, and action” is more than an introduction, but a motto for All-School President Jiawei Ren. Known as Jerry by the LFA community, Ren wears a checkered button-up and khakis, complemented with a pair of tinted trapezoid frames that warm his radiant smile. Before becoming All-School President, Ren served as the Junior Class President in the student council. Excluding the title, Ren’s vivacious character made him the magnet of spotlights, and not too long after, a cornerstone of LFA.

But Ren’s character is the product of his international background. Born in Ningbo, China, Ren grew up in the world of high rises, 100-men dormitories, and public showers. In middle school, Ren studied at a boarding Chinese public school that shared a building with an internation-

“I used to tell my friends that I will always be a Chinese public school kid,” said Ren. “When I initially came to America, I thought I was just going to be one of those students who grinds down homework all day long. But I had no idea I would go this deep or to be ‘affiliated’ with American society.”

To Ren, an affiliation with American society isn’t turning a blind eye to his past, but rather an openness to new ways of life. Ren is present at every fire pit at Warner House. He sits in the front rows of every bus heading to each new Brunch on Us spot, dominated the recent quidditch game, and supported solo concerts performed by fellow peers.

As one of the finishers of the entire ALEKS pie, and the pioneer who led LFA’s Math Team to 1st place at the 2023 ICTM State Math Contest, you may be surprised that studying “only takes 20% of Ren’s time.”



Photo courtesy of Jiawei Ren

Jiawei Ren and his parents hike at Lake District, England.

al high school. To Ren, the main theme of the day then was to “grind through tons of homework nonstop” before ending the day catching up with friends.

Needless to say, that 20% surely got us a bigger trophy than Fenwick High School.

But beyond trophies, Ren’s charisma holds greater merit than any won com-



Courtesy of @lffacademy on Instagram

Ren stands with HOS Chris Tennyson after receiving the Jewell J. Jackson Award on Move-Up Day.

modity. “Being charismatic is a byproduct of me being kind,” Ren said. As a prolific traveler and hiker, Ren and his parents encountered several instances of kindness.

“There was one time when me and my family needed to get onto this rock cliff,” recounted Ren. “My mom wasn’t tall enough to reach at that time, and I was at the bottom watching my mom while my dad was uphill scouting the terrain. Then, there was this one hiker who held his hand, let my mom step on it, and lifted her up,” Ren said.

Between Ren’s kindness and charisma also lies a pride towards intersectionality. The act of connecting with people has always been in Ren’s blood. Traveling for the past ten years, Ren and his parents stayed in Airbnbs so they could talk to the host, and learn about their backgrounds and cultures.

“As Chinese people, we like to learn from the beauty of other cultures and leave the dross behind,” Ren stated. “Therefore, I’m an embodiment of the

different cultures I have encountered.”

For international students, the journey to America may be temporary, yet it opens eyes and hearts. For Ren, every challenge meant a creative risk, and every risk taken unfolds in an adventure.

“It took me two months to be able to kind of speak English fluently so that my tongue doesn’t stagger,” said Ren. “But this is just like something you have to fight through, just like a cramp while you’re doing cross country. I tried to talk to as many local kids as possible, and asked my friends to correct me if I make any pronunciation or grammar mistakes.”

Whether it’s learning English, or tying strings to both ends of a kayak to load it into a stream ten ft below a colonial bridge, there are no correct answers. To Ren, a spirit of adventure should not be framed by normality, but by creative notions that make things happen.

In the end, there is no mountain high enough, only the size of the heart.

A new freshman media literacy class

By Ford Sweet & Myles Haight

Managing Copy Editor & Managing Editor of Photography and Digital Content

As the curriculum continues to advance, LFA finds importance in having study halls and enforcing media literacy as a way of helping freshmen navigate their first year and growing a societal understanding within our world. Media literacy is a class introduced only to freshmen this year and provides information on technology, how to research, and much more in order to help the fresh-

man with later classes that use these skills. “The media literacy class is a foundation class for all freshmen,” said Ashley Kolovitz, Information & Media Literacy Librarian. She continued to state “It teaches critical thinking skills, with an inquiry-based approach.” This includes learning a broad range of topics from “understanding how to use technology responsibly and ethically to research methodology” and everything in between. With such, students can expect all kinds of interesting and fun projects that involve learning specialties, such

as 3D-printing, social media, and more. Many of the skills freshmen will learn have been “interwoven into other curriculum” stretching over all four years.

Since the sophomore Journalism I class’s media bootcamp unit already focused on some of this content, next year’s Journalism I sophmores will need to receive more advanced content for that unit, having already progressed through this new freshmen course. Director of Journalism, Mandy Krause noted, “It’s now required by the state of Illinois to have media literacy as part of the curriculum, and while LFA, as an independent school, doesn’t need to strictly adhere to that, I think it shows how vital these skills are, and I’m glad that now all students will get exposed to them when first coming into school.”

The media literacy class aims to bring all these skills together, as well as other topics. Kolovitz stated that they, “decided to have a standalone course due to a number of factors, the main one being efficiency”

in explaining why they felt the need to create the new class. The information that they are learning is something that is “transferable throughout their four years at LFA and beyond.” It teaches students how to navigate the web and research correctly, both of which are important skills applicable wherever you go. The course also focuses on navigating “fake news,” which is another skill that needs to be taught these days. Kolovitz said that “reading the news is a skill you’re going to continue [using] your whole life.”

Current freshmen perceive the class as a way of learning about the tools needed for future years. Fitz Knight ’27 stated that the class, “helps teach students about school work and homework” so that they can be prepared for this year and many years to come. The research skills that they learn are applicable to many aspects of their future lives. Everything that media literacy teaches helps students develop a better understanding of LFA’s classes.



Photo by Ford Sweet

Mrs. Kolovitz teaches a Media Literacy course for the Freshman Class of 2027.

Orah: A brand new system, the good and the bad

By Cynthia Li & Harry Luo
Managing Editor of Global & Managing Editor of Production

As we are starting the new academic year, the Orah system is one significant change to boarding students. On this platform, faculty members are able to track student locations as students are required to scan tiles through each day to prove they are physically in specified places such as dorms and STU— including before study hall on weekdays, on-time checking in for nights on weekends, and every time prior to getting on a school van. The sign-out process for boarders has also changed as students started using Orah. Emily Kalis, Assistant Dean of Students: Residential and Campus Life, said, “Instead of signing out in a binder and writing your whereabouts on a whiteboard, you are doing it all through one app.” Kalis explained, “It records their whereabouts for their safety and accountability as well.”

The changes have resulted in controversies among students and faculty. The old signout policy that was established for boarders required students to call the dorm phones in order to get permission as well as record their destination in the binder and whiteboard in the dorm. Kalis shared, “Those were three different physical places. One was on a phone, one was physically in a binder in the dorm commons, and one was on a whiteboard.



Harry Luo scans the Orah Tile at the Circle to sign in.

I personally saw that as too many different locations. So we really hope to alleviate all these different locations that students need to go to in order to sign out.”

As for faculty, Kalis stated, “This has drastically improved the process for Mrs. Johansson in the Dean of Students’ Office as it relates to overnight signouts. It has definitely streamlined the process for her and cut down a lot of unnecessary steps by having it all together on Orah. The biggest piece of feedback we had from both students and dorm faculty was

that there were just so many places that we needed to look. Orah was to make it easier while still trying to achieve what we’re supposed to be doing, which is maintaining your safety and knowledge of your whereabouts as your local parents.”

Kalis reported positivity among students that many students consider the tapping process for Orah as a fun activity to do and are happy to get rid of the use of the whiteboard when signing out. However, students also have responded negatively to this change. David Yao 24’

said, “For me, Orah is a very complicated process. After three years of ordinary boarding life, I have adapted myself to the management of this school. Orah’s arrival has completely changed my habits, which are not friendly for seniors.”

Daisy Zhang 24’, a proctor from Marshall Field, concluded, “Students are still not very familiar with this app and forget to scan it before study hours or on caxy vans. For an off-campus pass, many students would prefer signing out earlier, and if the plan has changed, we cannot cancel the pre-signout submission and need to submit a new off campus pass instead; this would lead to misunderstanding for dorm parents.” Additionally, the requirement for us to scan the tile is redundant since the boarders have to remember to scan for Orah in the hour before study hall starts every day even if they have never left the location. On weekends, when boarders don’t have in-room check-ins, they still have to go scan the tile at required times as well as to bump the dorm parents on duty, which is a long applied tradition for LFA dorms on weekends.

While it is yet to be seen if this new technology takes hold as a godsend, or continues to be just an annoyance for boarders to leave their rooms to swipe when they’re already settled doing their work on a Sunday night, only time will tell.

Do you have a question? We (might) have an answer!

By Theresa Fu & Ela Jain
Editor in Chief & Mangaging Editor of A&E

How do you keep a gerbil entertained?

Rejuvenate them with a lovely cardboard maze and wheel; they love new toys. Lastly, try to ensure that their routine isn’t the same everyday.

Bees won’t stop bothering me, how do I deter them?

Easy: bee-nice to them. They don’t want to sting you unwarranted.

Is threads a real thing? Am I missing out?

Threads aren’t real; you aren’t missing out on anything.

How to not be jealous?

Just a reminder that social media is not a place of truth— people choose what they wish to express, and oftentimes, they don’t disclose the darker periods of their life. Ultimately, it is in human nature to experience jealousy; what is important is for it to not interfere with your wellbeing and self-perception. Your value does not stem from external validation and your experiences in life hold an inherent value that is incomparable.

Is superman ice cream really that bad?

Superman ice cream is the product of vanilla and food dye. If you can accept that, live your truth.

Best way to snatch lunch in between classes?

Try asking your teacher to be excused 5 minutes early— if that doesn’t work, ask a friend to make you a special sandwich, dash during break, or (what will never fail) is to arrange to pick up a lunch bag on certain letter days with your advisor.

My dog seems lonely, how do I vitalize him?

Incorporate him into doing menial tasks with you (e.g. doing homework); maybe get him some animal friends— alive or stuffed. Remember that not all dogs showcase their love the same way, and just by spending some more time with him can brighten his day.

How do I manage my mental health?

Though school can seem like the end-all be-all in an intense academic setting, your rest will be most critical to success and long term wellbeing. Also, our on-campus

therapists Mrs. Madeley and Mrs. Dalia are here for any instances you want to talk.

What can anyone do to increase productivity?

The hardest part is often to start; overplanning can be counterproductive, waiting contributes to procrastination, and the task itself may be intimidating. Crossing that bridge and making a habit of embracing the uncomfortable will not only prepare your mind, but also allow you to tackle the task with increased efficiency. However, do rest when you need it— don’t pull all-nighters or 12 hour long study sessions if it is uncondusive to your learning.

How do I get my friends to stop making fun of my music taste?

Let them know that it bothers you; at the end of the day, if their respect for you depends on how they perceive your music, then maybe reevaluate the depth of your friendship.

I’d like to know where are the places to hang out around our school?

Boba — Bearology or Kung Fu Tea.
Pasta — Rosebud or Francesca’s.
Coffee — Tala or Starbucks
Salads — Foodstuffs
Smoothies — Forestgreen



A frog gives an encouraging message.

Courtesy of @froggy_dailylife on Instagram

Trump and his charges are making history

By Liv Kelly & Chloe Jhin

Managing Editor of Op-Ed & Managing Editors of Politics

Past presidents have gone through many scandals during United States history as mistakes are made, and certain decisions do not sit well with the public. Despite this, there has never once been a president charged with any federal crime until now. Former President Trump is the first president in the United States to ever be charged in this manner, as he has now been indicted on four counts. This investigation has been going on for two years and is now being brought to light as it was recently revealed that he is believed to have attempted to illegally overturn the 2020 election.

Although his charges are because of the belief that he tried to overturn the 2020 election, the charges fall under an act called the Espionage Act. The Espionage Act is an act that covers anything that is



Courtesy of @realDonaldTrump on Twitter
Trump's mugshot is taken in the Georgia case.



Courtesy of Creative Commons

A group of protestors raise a "Trump Lies Matter" poster in a rally.

considered to be disloyal or dangerous to the United States, including acquiring information with the intent to harm the U.S. His charges also include obstruction of justice, destruction or falsification of records, conspiracy, and false statements rooted in incidents which include him persuading his attorney to hide classified documents to mislead the FBI, paying \$130,000 to an adult film star under his company as business expenses, as well as possible election interference in Georgia. A trial date for the Georgia charges, which fall under RICO, which is typically reserved for conglomerate crime families and large, multifaceted

cases, has been set and already attempted to be changed by Trump's attorneys, but it has been promised that the trial will be broadcasted to the public, much like how Johnny Depp and Amber Heard's trial was.

As stated before, presidents have gone through multiple scandals in the past, but Trump is the first to be federally charged. However, with the direction the country has been headed in, was it inevitable that this would eventually occur? Jessica Kapadia, Department Chair of History and Social Science at LFA, believes this was an inevitable act stating, "This is a reflection of the division around and between

this country. Our country is so divided that we feel the need to attack each other." Along with that, Kapadia noted that this court case will probably not change the way that Trump's supporters feel about him going into the 2024 election. Even though it might damage his eligibility, she said, "The trial will not change anybody's minds," acknowledging that many who are watching, supporters or rivals, are not watching to change their own minds.

As the trials get closer with new information coming out each day, it will be enticing to see how the race plays out and if it will have any impact on the 2024 election.

What does it means to be eighteen?

By Jason Xing & Quinn Knight

Editor-in-Chief & Managing Editor of Sports

Turning 18 marks a significant milestone in one's life, a transition from adolescence to adulthood that comes with a list of new responsibilities and opportunities. Becoming an adult bestows individuals with a range of legal obligations, including the right to vote and manage property. Independence becomes a defining aspect of this journey as young adults grasp with choices regarding education and career paths. This stage in life also involves developing personal networks, and understanding the role parents play in providing guidance while respecting their child's freedom. In this article, we explore the various responsibilities that come with turning 18.

Independence plays a huge role in adulthood as people associate it with making your own decisions in a way that fits for you. Jamie Pruett '24 reflected on his transition to adulthood and his part time job by saying, "Over this past summer, I had a full-time internship doing software development that's now turned into a part-time job that's fully remote. The whole process of applying and getting accepted at that job was kind of all self-driven." Self-driven is

the word that defines this whole process, encapsulating the essence of independence that comes with the territory of adulthood.

With drive comes greater responsibilities. Pruett highlighted this freedom by saying, "I bought a car, and I pay for upkeep, maintenance, and insurance costs. With money I've earned from my jobs, I can pay for clothes and take the load off my parents' backs with expenses and school tuition." In this path to adulthood, financial responsibility becomes an integral part of independence as a family's livelihood weighs upon one's decisions.

Yet most parents hoped to give their kids the freedom to pursue their passions while offering support when needed. "I expect them to do what brings them joy," said Katie Brickman, aunt of Fitzpatrick Knight '27. "If you do what brings you joy, you will do those things a lot, and if you do something a lot, you will do things well," Brickman said.

Parents aim to see their children happy, embrace adulthood, and take on challenges to better themselves, turning freedom into a currency for self-growth. "When I was 18, I read abundantly, and soon finished every book in the college's library," said Jie Ying, parent of Siyue Fei '24. "Although physically, you have to follow all the rules,

spiritually, you learn a lot of new things. So when I graduate, I understand what kind of freedom I'm pursuing," Fei recounted.

Perhaps to both the children and parents, turning 18 opens a brand new outlook to one's life. Whether it's choos-

ing between a name brand and common bag, or diving deeper into the fluid dynamics of aerospace engineering, the interests are endless, and the relationships daunting - but the pursuit of happiness is worth the trials and tribulations.



Photo by Colin Gupta

Jamie Pruett takes responsibility and manages his car at the gas station.

Trump's ghostly dominance in the first Republican debates of 2024

By Chloe Jhin

Managing Editor of Politics

As the term of the current United States President Joe Biden is coming to an end, the race for the 2024 presidential election has been intensifying with the recent first Republican Party debate, as well as Former President Donald Trump's indictments. With eight Republican candidates, only three Democratic candidates, and high possibilities of both Trump and Biden returning as the nominees, there has been curiosity about who is ahead of the race so far.

In the first debate, the candidates covered several topics, including their stances on banning abortion and increasing aid to Ukraine. However, there was one particular issue that stuck out to Ackim Mpofu, Assistant Dean of Students: Student Leadership and Activities and a History and Social Science teacher at Lake Forest Academy. When asked in an interview about his thoughts on the 2024 Republican presidential debate, Mpofu elaborated on the topic of eliminating the Department of Education. As a teacher, Mpofu understands how the issue can be detrimental to other teachers and students as he stated, "I start to think about students with disabilities and accommodations, especially in public schools that

need government money." With other issues that were discussed, another point made in the debate was the lack of the Republican candidate that is currently dominating the polls. While seven Republican candidates attended the debate to discuss the current revolving issues, the eighth candidate, Trump, decided to have a night off and post his interview with Former Fox News anchor Tucker Carlson on X.

After being fired by Fox News due to the discovery of Carlson's pro-violent and racist text messages, *Tucker Carlson Tonight* was canceled by the network and moved to X where his interview with Trump was released five minutes before the debate. When asked if there was a deeper reason behind Trump's unique decision, Mpofu stated, "After Carlson's termination of employment, many people followed him and his show." He further elaborated that Trump taking his own route was better than attending the debate, as it allowed him to clean his image and have space to converse with someone who supports, rather than attack his ideas. Although the interview is professional, it is also a personal, one-on-one conversation. With this, Trump's decision was a politically smart move.

Even with his indictments, it is believed that Trump has a high chance of being the Republican nominee again for



Courtesy of @yoogrunt720 on Instagram

Nikki Haley, a Republican candidate, at the first Republican debate.

the upcoming election by looking at his strategic actions and dominating polls; however, nothing is for sure. As the election further unfolds, we cannot accurately predict anything for now. Since Trump's cases are still being handled, it is unknown whether he can even contin-

ue running in the race. Mpofu expressed his uncertainty by stating, "The polls say Trump, but they haven't been as reliable as they used to be. Where we are at with the Republican Party as of now, a lot of things are simply not predictable."

The overloading financial stress of the college process

By Emma Swanson & Mimi Sexton

Managing Editor of Social Justice &
Managing Editor of Features and Social Media

LFA prides itself on diversity regarding race and ethnicity, but it is also important to note that our student body varies financially as well. Nearly 30% of the LFA community is on need-based financial aid with nearly 7% of the student body on 90% or more of financial aid. Although LFA strives to immerse students into the community who may not be able to afford campus activities such as prom, homecoming tickets, travel, and more, financial stress is still prevalent

amongst students—and its prevalence gets exacerbated when it comes to the college process. In a poll conducted regarding financial worries, nearly 25% of students responded, giving insight into their concerns. Students were asked how often they think about their finances when considering their future. 34.6% of students stated they think about finances often, and 31.8% said finances take up a prominent part when they think of the future regarding college. A follow-up question asked whether or not that affected their mental health. A student stated, "I tried so hard to get my grades up for the scholarship because I'm an international student. I can't

get financial aid, so I have to try hard. It tired me out and my depression got really worse." Unfortunately, international students do not typically qualify for FAFSA, which is federal aid for U.S. citizens can receive for college. LFA has a large population of international students, and it's important to emphasize the different factors when it comes to college finances. Another shared, "I come from a lower middle-class family, and for that reason I am not sure if I will be completely supported in college." These financial worries invade the minds of students throughout the school year and add extra pressure to the college admission process.

However, LFA's college counselors work to eliminate those stresses for students. Assistant Dean of College Counseling, Keily Pacheco said, "We try to be as strategic as possible when it comes to creating that college list if I know that a counselee or family has discussed with me that financial aid is going to be a big part of the process." LFAs college counselors can help set the student up for opportunities that can help them financially.

When asked how middle class families go about applying for college when they do not qualify for need-based aid, Pacheco said, "Many schools, especially small liberal arts, have created initiatives to help with middle class families." She continued, "I do think that in the future, there is definitely going to be a better initiative that will be adopted by more than just a number of small liberal arts schools." In terms of students worrying about "standing out" for colleges when everything is not in their control, Pacheco suggested, "One thing for sure that I encourage you to do, especially because of the space you're in, is to network. Sometimes there are alumni speakers come in or dinners, and when those opportunities come to campus, I strongly recommend that you go in there and introduce yourself. You never know if they could help you out!" As much as the financial aspect of college causes tension and may feel as if you're at a disadvantage, the college counselors are here to help with this process, and using LFA's opportunities can be key.



Photo by Mimi Sexton

Students can seek financial advice from a College Counseling.

Decision on Affirmative Action reshapes college admissions

By Cynthia Li & Harry Luo

Managing Editor of Global & Managing
Editor of Production

On Thursday, June 29th, 2023, the Supreme Court struck down Affirmative Action in college admissions. Institutions across the board, including Harvard University – against which the original suit was brought – will need to reassess their admission process.

Affirmative Action is also known as positive discrimination, involving policies and practices that seek the inclusion of groups that are historically discriminated against. The roots of Affirmative Action can be traced to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. To combat racial discrimination and bridge racial divisions in the country, President John F. Kennedy introduced the concept in Executive Order 10925 in 1961. The order stated that government contractors should “take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, creed, color, or national origins.” The policy then expanded to administrations of colleges and universities across the US. The goal was to ensure equal accessibility to higher education for minorities. Over the years, this mandate was extended to benefit women, ensuring gender diversity in various sectors.

The most common criticism of Affirmative Action is that it brings reverse discrimination – some believe individuals from the majority are overlooked in favor of less qualified groups from minority backgrounds. Affirmative action also causes some to face the unjust stigma of incompetence, with peers attributing their positions to policy rather than merit. It is thought this could cause reli-



Courtesy of Creative Commons

The Supreme Court makes decisions that affect the nation, like the new one on Affirmative Action.

ance on Affirmative Action, which prevents minority communities from seeking success through excellence alone.

However, Affirmative Action has undeniably led to increased representation of minorities in higher education and workplaces. Historically white institutions have opened up and diversified the professional landscape of the country. Also, as institutions of higher learning increased diversity in their student bodies, fostering an environment with enriched academic discussion and better-prepared graduates for a diverse global marketplace. Furthermore, by providing opportunities to marginalized communities, Affirmative Action helped break poverty for families, allowing them to ascend to middle and upper-middle-class statuses. It also is a way to help compensate for the historical discrimination that some communities experienced.

In his opinion of the case “Students for

Fair Admissions V. Harvard,” Chief Justice John Roberts, known for his skepticism of Affirmative Action, stated that colleges must apply colorblind admissions, arguing that universities have overly emphasized race as a determinant of one’s identity. In concurrence, Justice Clarence Thomas voiced his belief that affirmative action imposes a stigma on minorities.

On the other hand, Columbia University President Bollinger described the decision on an NPR program as “tragic,” saying, “It feels like the country has been on a course of choosing between a continuation of the great era of civil rights and another view of ‘we’ve done this long enough, and we need a whole new approach in this society.’ [Civil rights are] now the second choice.”

Justice Sonia Sotomayor suggested that the decision deepens racial inequality in education. Places where affirmative action was previously eliminated have seen a no-

ticeable decrease in minority admissions.

However, it is important to note that the Supreme Court did not wholly ban racial considerations. Universities can still discuss how race affects an applicant’s life, and military academies might continue their race-conscious admissions due to “distinct interests.” As Chief Justice John Roberts stated, “Nothing prohibits universities from considering an applicant’s discussion of how race affected the applicant’s life, so long as that discussion is concretely tied to a quality of character or unique ability that the particular applicant can contribute to the university.”

The decision will have widespread implications that influence businesses, primary and secondary schools, and other sectors of society, including LFA.

“Of all the various statements I’ve read, and webinars attended since that decision was rendered this summer, I think that colleges continue to be stalwart defenders of the fact that diversity is an important part of what they’re looking for,” stated Associate Dean of College Counseling Ben Wetherbee.

Although one factor was eliminated from colleges’ evaluation and enrollment, other factors can be weighed. Harvard weighs around 90 different factors in admissions, University of North Carolina considers 20 to 25. Thus, Wetherbee said, “Taking away one isn’t going to drastically impact how diverse of a student body a school is able to enroll.” For instance, the University of California schools and the University of Michigan were bounded by state governments in the early 2000s, yet the diverse student body was not affected.

The college counseling office is committed to supporting students from all underrepresented backgrounds. The Supreme Court may have limited how colleges can consider one factor in their admission review, but as LFA College Counseling says, “Each of you is indelibly more complex than just one factor.”



Courtesy of Creative Commons

Protests for college application take place regarding to the Supreme Court’s decision on Affirmative Action.

Editorial: Subjectivity of the Dress Code

By Claire Ireland
Managing Editor of News

If there’s one constant at LFA, it’s a population disillusionment with the dress code. Too much, too little, too sexist, too *fill in the blank*. Satisfaction and dress code never seem to go hand in hand in our community. Why?

In all certainty, vagueness is the culprit. It seems as though the vast majority of the dress code lives in a gray area of the unsaid. LFA students who identify as female are most likely all too familiar with the concept of having a minimum of three finger thickness in a tank top and an arms length skirt or dress. This concept has been backed with dress codings from teachers. However, no such distinction exists within the dress code. No discussion of strap width exists, simply the necessity to have any.

Also confusing is the prohibition of T-Shirts. Though it is widely accepted that T-Shirts not of graphic nature (namely for female identifying students) are adequate clothing, it is still written into the dress code that T-Shirts are not allowed. What is allowed is a dress shirt or blouse. But when the line between these types of shirts and t-shirts becomes blurred, it leaves further wiggle room in the dress code. However

this wiggle room can then lead students to being reprimanded for taking advantage of it.

Newly added to the dress code is the ability to wear any sweatshirt, LFA or not. It could be said that this change was an effort to make it simpler on students and teachers because too many students simply chose to wear them before they were included in the dress code. But this quite literally negates the entire purpose of a dress code, or at least what LFA touts the dress code to mean. Continually, it is expressed that the purpose is to enforce “business casual” dress to make a more seamless integration into the professional world. Of course, there are more contributing factors such as tradition and the nature of private schools themselves, but at its core, business casual appears to be the driving force behind the dress code. Sweatshirts are not business casual. Arguably, even less so than a t-shirt. Sweatshirts as well can have the same content on them as graphic T-shirts. So why discriminate against one as opposed to the other? If there are going to be constant amendments to the dress code, then what is the purpose of it? Its existence then falters from the law to mere suggestion due to this constant fluctuation.

Most importantly, despite

the fact that dresscode is becoming continually more subjective and simultaneously inclusive in its language, in practice, dress code points are still dispensed with the utmost consideration of gender. Specifically, the female identifying portion of the LFA population still confronts the brunt of criticism when it comes to their clothing choices. How can teachers and staff categorize and quantify dresses and skirts that are too short if the dress code doesn’t even do it itself. “Body parts that should otherwise be covered” as stated on LFA’s website, is simply what is described in the dresscode as related to bottoms, a statement where practically no specificity can be found outside of the obvious.

Students subsist on a communal understanding or “version” of what the dress code is as do administrators and teachers. While it makes perfect sense that the dress code is a living, breathing document, it seems to be changing to make what is widely understood less so. Thus, if it’s going to be enforced, it should be in the dress code. Write in the three finger rule. Write in when T-shirts are acceptable. Write in the goal of the dress code so that students feel less penalized for no reason. Remove the obscurity and simply say it how it is.

The Lake Forest

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

EDITORIALS

Opinions of the staff may be 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 you can dream it,
you can do it”
-Walt Disney



Welcome aboard and congratulations! New

By Theresa Fu & Joon Lee

Editor-in-Chief & Managing Editor of STEM

Patricia Bartolome Del Canto



A member of the Modern & Classical Languages Department, Ms. Bartolome teaches Spanish 3, French 2, and French 2 Advanced. Within her classes, she believes in “teaching through the culture... [and] having students fully connect with the language and being comfortable to speak.” Before LFA, she lived in Salamanca, Spain for the majority of her life – including attending university there to study translation and interpretation. Afterwards, she taught Spanish in West Virginia University for two years and wanted to change perspectives by moving to LFA, where she is also a Dorm Parent. “You can be a teacher here, but also live here... [and] have other roles,” she shared in reference to being able to connect with students other than her own. She will also be the Assistant Coach for the Chance team and loves playing the ukulele or recreationally dancing any genre from salsa to ballet.

Shannon Dey



Born in Illinois, Freshman teacher Ms. Dey is the newest addition to the LFA English Department. Although other English classes may primarily focus on analysis and correct answers, she centers her teaching around embracing uncertainty and inspiring wonder—two critical elements that “when it comes time for a large paper or presentation, [will enable the student to] explore multiple possibilities first.” Plus, having done her Masters in Aesthetic Education, she incorporates art into her teaching. Similarly, she was drawn to LFA for its tight knit family-feel, and is now co-advising five freshmen with Mrs. Nassr. She can also be found reading Japanese fiction, exploring forest reserves, and timing Hockey in the winter.

Emmy Schwerdt



Hailing from Lake Zurich, Ms. Schwerdt is LFA’s newest Digital Engagement Specialist. From overseeing school and athletic social media accounts, to photography and videography, her role concentrates on “fluidly assessing the needs of the school” and adapting digital communications to best showcase and grow the school’s vision. Having loved being in academic settings before, she was drawn to LFA for its community and the dynamic nature of her job. Outside of school, she is an avid mystery and thriller reader, as well as an impassioned environmental activist.

Kevin Ingram

Teaching Physics I and Advanced Chemistry, Mr. Ingram is a new addition to our LFA Science Department. Coming from Pleasant Plains, Illinois, he enjoys watching football, basketball, and reading nonfiction science novels. One fun fact about him is that he’s ordained and can officiate weddings. He is also passionate about researching diabetes, obesity, and alcoholic liver disease. Wanting to explore a teaching career after graduation, he chose LFA for its unmatched diversity and proximity to his family. Now, he’s also involved with coaching the JVB Boys Soccer and JV Boys Basketball teams. Additionally, he looks forward to his daily “short commute” traveling from his New Hall home to the Science Center.



Leigh Morrison

Ms. Morrison, the new Learning Resources Specialist, is working with Ms. Norman in the Dean of Students Office to provide additional academic help and operate the structured Study Hall. She has lived in LFA for the past 6 years with her husband Mr. Johnson, and enjoys playing pickleball, solving crossword puzzles, and walking her two little dogs. At her previous school, she was Chair of the Religious Studies and Philosophy Department— which fueled her passion for world religion and culture. And now at LFA, she’s excited to experience unique traditions, such as the All-School Handshake firsthand, and working with Mr. Koenig in the winter for *Mama Mia*.



Gillian Teichman

Ms. Teichman, an avid art lover, is the new Photography Teacher at LFA. She likes to explore nature as a big hiker, and believes in photography as she noted, “One picture is worth a thousand words.” One reason she chose to come to LFA was because of the diverse community it offers; with art often being a reflection of oneself, she’s excited to see and bring out all those diverse perspectives in a college-prep setting. Beyond class, she’s interested in starting an art-related club and creating new projects alongside her students. Plus, she’s the only faculty member with blue hair!



LFA faculty and positions for the new year



Photos courtesy of LFA Communications

Tanika Golota



As the new Assistant Director of Athletics and Summer Programs, Mrs. Golota oversees much of the responsibilities she has held prior at LFA— from beginning as a coach in basketball back in 2017,

transitioning to Assistant Director of Summer Programs in 2021, and becoming the Athletic Coordinator. From scheduling athletic programs and third party facility rentals to serving as the Advisor for the Caxy Athletics Team Committee, she works to strengthen school sports spirit and increase representation. A key focus of hers overall is to “highlight female athletics... [and] developing it so that it gets the same attention as male athletes— including receiving the same input and excitement” rallying around those programs, which she mentions includes bringing in quality coaches that are female.

Ackim Mpofu



A history teacher, coach, and now the new Assistant Dean of Students for Student Leadership and Activities, Mr. Mpofu is a liaison between students and administration. While he teaches three sections of AP Government and one class of World History,

he is simultaneously developing curriculum (specifically for prefects and student council) in order to solidify what leadership at LFA means. “Though I technically have a new role, my goal is still the same: supporting students the best way I can,” Mpofu explained. Before, he did so primarily through teaching and instruction; now, he is also on the administrative side, where he helps ensure activities like Homecoming, Prom, and other school spirit events run smoothly. At the end of the day, LFA is to be an inclusive and safe space for students to engage and learn in— and this role offers him an additional platform to do so.

Kyle Koncz



As the Dorm Head of Atlass for four years and the Assistant Dean of Admissions for six years, Mr. Koncz is continuing his career in one additional position as the Assistant Director of Athletics. Before this change he worked fully in the

admissions office, helping families and students, and going to fairs as well as open houses. This year, he is more involved in the Athletic Department by helping schedule sports games, and identifying any problems teams are experiencing to support them for the best season possible. He thinks athletics is a big team since “everyone’s an athlete in this school,” and starting from three-thirty everyday, he is keeping an eye on the field and gym to make sure everything is running smoothly. With multiple “hats” he is wearing in LFA, Koncz is extremely grateful to “pursue everything he is passionate about.”

Emily Kalis



Entering her sixth year at LFA, Ms. Kalis’s role now encompasses both assisting in admissions and serving as the newly added Assistant Dean of Students for Residential and Campus Life. Before she was located in admissions, where she conducted interviews, worked with the Communications office, and managed dig-

ital print production for external audiences. With “these past few years living in Marshall Field, coaching Field Hockey, and overall being in a boarding environment,” she is excited to dive deeper into advancing Residential and Day Student life, including already rewriting the Student Residential Handbook to reflect increased clarity and to “[place] student wellbeing at the forefront.” Some key focuses she shares include instituting more themed weekends, holding bigger trips -- be it exploring the local neighborhood or highlighting LFA’s nearby cities -- and “encouraging students to go back to LFA and bond both as a class and as friends.”

Jon Freeman



Working in LFA since 2001, Mr. Freeman, the prior Head of Residential Life, switched roles to become the new Bird Master Chair of English. Approaching this new year with his new position, he is excited to be back teaching full time and coordinating all those guest speakers, authors, and artists. He is also in charge of show-

casing the beautiful work that our faculty and students produce in writing. Mr. Freeman thinks that it was a great change for him to become the Bird Master Chair of English because even though he enjoyed scheduling dorm activities, he thinks it is time for him to “move on” and pass all this onto the “very capable hands of Ms. Kalis and Mr. Mpofu.” This year, in his new position he is planning to make very “robust” programs where guest speakers present great experiences to the students. Coming back to the classroom this year, he is looking forward to meeting all these different students and trying his best to bring in great guest speakers to LFA.

Education in pieces: Florida's ban on AP Psychology

By Jessie Ji

Managing Editor of Podcasts

Politics has again interfered with education: in August 2023, Florida Department of Education effectively banned the AP Psychology course within the state as it contains contents on gender and sexuality, contradicting the “Don’t Say Gay” law. While Governor Ron DeSantis originally asked for the removal of the materials that were in conflict with its state law, the College Board rejected to modify its material. The committee affirmed that “gender and sexual orientation are essential, longstanding, and foundational topics in the study of psychology.”

The removal of AP Psychology, a course launched in 1992 by the College Board, fundamentally hinders the opportunity for students to learn. Over the years, AP Psychology has been highly popular among all the college-level courses College Board offered; it has continuously been considered in the top five “most requested” classes with more than 28,000 students in Florida taking it in the previous academic year. The AP Program of College Board allows for high school students to take challenging college-level classes and benefit from them in the long-term by earning college credits ahead of time. The cancellation of this AP course affects students’ plans, especially if they intend to major in related fields, consuming their time to take basic courses that could otherwise have been done in high school and not have time to complete more advanced ones. While education aims to be holistic, Nancy Nassr, the Assistant Head of School & Academic

Dean, stated, “Taking a class out of your course offerings, in this case AP Psychology, is detrimental to students [in the] long-term because it limits the chances for students to learn, challenge, and to be introduced to new topics. It’s a fundamental responsibility of schools to create the greatest opportunities for students.”

Florida’s persistence in censoring educational materials trespasses on students’ right to learn about themselves, their peers, or areas of knowledge they had not been exposed to correctly. While AP Psychology is a course to understand human behaviors based on empirical evidence and promoting the fundamental understanding of each other, purposefully neglecting gender and sexuality that composes a large part in our development as humans is in conflict to who we are. “If you look at psychology as a field, it’s sexual behavior, gender identities, and all kinds of identities that all are very central to who we are,” said Dr. Sarah Taylor, Science Department Chair and AP Psychology teacher, continuing, “We can’t pick and choose which part of the human we want to understand and which part we don’t, and within psychology, the most important thing to humans is the sense of self that separates us from other species, and that sense of self is interesting, such as understanding the development of identity is critical and a part of that is sexual orientation and gender identity. So deleting it is really doing a disservice to our understanding of human behavior.”

Nonetheless, censorship on education is not uncommon in Florida: retrospectively, DeSantis has a history of dismissing certain materials in class. From banning



Courtesy of Creative Commons

Florida’s Governor Ron DeSantis gives a speech.

books in public schools and libraries, rejecting AP African American Studies, to the recent ban on AP Psychology, the censorship seems to be triggered in regards to topics such as race, gender, or sexuality. The primary responsibility of education, Nassr said, is “to nurture and develop critical thinking in students as well as empathetic thinking. We are not in a position to tell our students what they should or shouldn’t believe in, but we should be able to present all sides of a topic so that they can form their own well thought-out and conceived ideas”; however, DeSantis completely contradicted this principle of learning through his actions of limiting access to certain knowledge.

Taking this course away also signifies a backlash to the LGBTQ+ community. Nassr commented, “If you make one deci-

sion, there will be implications happening that are far greater than—in this case—in the classroom.” Whilst class materials are tools for validating the representation of ourselves or learning from the experiences of others, claiming in a class that it’s inappropriate, “what you’re also saying is that those people’s experiences are not legitimate; you are denying people’s humanity, which is far more damaging than anything,” continued Nassr. Students in high school undergo a period of self-exploration, during which they are more affected emotionally; hence, not seeing themselves with enough positive representation in textbooks, classrooms, or any occasions will be hard for them to feel validated.

When politicians start to make decisions on what can be taught and what is limited from learning in schools, that is the sign of politicizing classrooms into battlefields. As a result, students with a lack of exposure on topics considered “sensitive” contributes to the continual fragmentation within the society—words become rusted and piercing over a long time not being used.

While in AP Psychology students strive to understand humans in various ways, “We’re seeing that playing out in an ironic way—the very ban on AP Psychology is getting at the heart of everything we talk about, like why do we react when we feel our values are being attacked—protecting, hiding, and taking away. It’s a missed opportunity for all people who are not able to take this course because it gets to the heart of group conflict and conflict in politics and binary thinking,” stated Taylor.

Education is supposed to be a way of eliminating discrimination and prejudice—it takes a neutral standpoint and fosters the young generation with unbiased information that could ultimately uphold us to seek justice for the world we live in.

Even in the learning of science, education can be a force for the democratization of cultural life. If it couldn’t be, there would be little purpose in committing oneself to a classroom.



Photo by Jessie Ji

Students in an AP Psychology class actively engage with their teacher, Dr. Sarah Taylor.

A look at the 2023 Women's World Cup

By Myles Haight

Managing Editor of Photography and Digital Content

2023 marked an incredible moment in the world of sports as the world witnessed the anticipated Women's World Cup, a global event that celebrated the talent, athleticism and determination of female soccer players from all over the globe. Hosted by Australia and New Zealand, this tournament captured the hearts of millions of fans worldwide, transcending borders and setting records.

The 2023 Women's World Cup symbolized a new era for women's soccer. While the sport had been steadily gaining popularity over time, this particular World Cup took it to new heights. The immense viewership and sponsorship deals clearly demonstrated an increased interest in women's soccer, firmly establishing it on the global stage.

There were also many incredible performances this year by both players and teams. Spain beat England in the finals of the tournament and claimed their first ever Women's World Cup title in the country's history. Teams from all continents brought their A-game to the competition, and fans were treated to some truly remarkable displays of soccer prowess. Countries like South Africa and Morocco surprised everybody with upsets over Italy and Colombia. However, the most unexpected



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

An exiting slide tackle occurs during a match between Austria and Israel.

result by far was Sweden beating Team USA, who were the favorites to win it all.

Beyond being just a sporting event, the 2023 Women's World Cup served as a platform for empowerment and inclusivity. It celebrated the diversity within women's soccer and showcased soccer's ability to break down barriers. Teams from nations around the world came together with players hailing from various backgrounds and ethnicities to inspire future generations of female athletes. The Women's World Cup emphasized gen-

der equality in sports and encouraged girls to pursue their dreams in soccer.

Kelly Cheon '25 is a soccer player at LFA on the varsity team. She said that her favorite part of the World Cup is "the fact that so many countries unite for one event." She went on to say how this tournament "teaches me a lot about the game itself, and also helps my performance during games." However, she was definitely disappointed at the US's performance, as they are her favorite team. The 2023 Women's World Cup was

a historic event that celebrated the remarkable talent, unity, and empowerment of female soccer players. It set new records, broke down barriers, and inspired a new generation of athletes. The legacy of this tournament extends far beyond the soccer pitch, as it continues to pave the way for gender equality and inclusivity in the world of sports.

The 2023 Women's World Cup will be remembered as a turning point in the history of women's soccer, and it has left an indelible mark on the global sports landscape.

Navigating sports-related injuries as athletes

By Mimi Sexton

Managing Editor of Features and Social Media

Many athletes at one point or another have to cope with a sports related injury. These injuries affect athletes both mentally and physically. Kate Delia '25, a top runner for LFA Girls Cross Country, has been dealing with recurring stress fractures. She is constantly having to work herself out of injuries and regain her strength back. Delia said, "It has definitely taught me to be resilient." She has had to keep her head up during a mentally exhausting time as she recovers.

It is critical for athletes going through these injuries to have a strong support system from family, friends, and coaches. Students at Lake Forest Academy are fortunate to have two astounding athletic trainers to help them through the process, Trainer Jenni Gorey, and Trainer Dave Atas.

Atas said, "A lot of athletes see their sport as their identity, and when they can't participate in that due to injury, you see that take a toll on them."

The trainers are not only there to support students through their physical hardships, but through the mental repercussions as well.

Atas explained that he encourages students to "set goals" throughout their



Photo by Mimi Sexton

Trainer Dave actively checks up on students in Crown's health facilities.

recovery. This promotes the students to show up for physical therapy, icing, and rehab. Setting small achievable goals helps motivate the athletes and assists in

keeping their spirits up during hard times.

Recovering from a sports related injury is holistic. Although it is important to address physical injury, it is equally

as important to, "commit to a mindset that it will get better," said Atas. Injured athletes should try to maintain a growth mindset to aid in the mental hardships.

Delia struggles with, "knowing if it's smart to keep going." Even when she is in pain and feels a stress fracture coming on, it is challenging to stop running and to seek help. She tries to listen to her body when it comes to sports related injuries, although it is difficult.

"I remind myself that it's not the end of the world, and there is always another season," she said. She tries to keep her head up and be constantly reminding herself of the goals and the season ahead.

Arnas Simaitis '25 is on the Boys Varsity basketball team. He dealt with a fractured ankle, and followed a strict recovery plan including, "going to the trainers everyday and following a resting, icing, compression and exercising procedure twice a day. I did this for around a month." He shared that when it came down to it, he could not heal the fracture, but only treat the symptoms. This required a lot of patience for Simaitis when it came to recovering from his sports related injury. Both Delia and Simaitis feel like they had a great support system at LFA that constantly had their back during and after their recoveries.

Leaving legends, and the rise of a new generation

By **Tanya Ganesh & Esti Rosenblatt**
Sports Director & Managing Editor of Production

We all remember our childhood athletic idols—the players that we have grown up with through a screen. We watched their ups and downs, wins and losses, controversies and beauties. But, sports change. Our favorite athletes retire, and new ones emerge, plastered across headlines like “The Next *insert athlete here*.” It can be a bitter-sweet feeling watching the “Greatest of All Time” pass their prime; however, that’s an inevitable part of sports. At the same time, the new flux of athletes that have taken on the weight of their country’s flag on their shoulders gives us a newfound excitement and hope for the future of the game.

As players change, the game does too. Carlos Alcaraz is a 20 year-old tennis player from Spain, and he is currently ranked the best male tennis player in the world. Alcaraz defeated Djokovic, Nadal, Sinner, Tiafoe, Ruud, all big names in tennis in his fight for that desirable “No. 1.”

Dr. Sarah Taylor, Girls Varsity Tennis coach and former pro player, said, “Athletes have gotten stronger, fitter, faster.” She continued, “If you compare to the 60s and 70s, there is a conception of having some talented athletes that didn’t have to work so hard. In today’s game, you have to be talented, athletically gifted, and be the hardest worker out there.” Taylor reflected on some of her idols, such as Steffi Graf and Andre Agassi. “Serena meant so much to the game. She elevat-

ed the entire feeling around a tournament. Seeing her retire, it took me a minute”.

However, there are so many upcoming athletes that have dominated the game at the start of their career. “Ben Shelton is so exciting to watch—he has so much power; he’s athletic.” Taylor continued, “Coco Gauff is another player who’s just



Coco Gauff receives the trophy at the US Open.

phenomenal, and also at the start of her career.” After the recent retirements of the legends, these players have been able to take the horse by its reins and keep

the sport moving, especially during that “mourning period after the greats retire.”

Darrin Madeley, LFA Athletic Director and former NHL player, reflected, “Watching people we idolize hit an age where they struggle to walk, I realize that my body will continue to deteriorate too.” He continued about how it has put things in perspec-

western University lacrosse coach said it best; “It’s important to tell the stories of the past.” The players we grew up with had big impacts on the game. We can’t go further unless we remember where we started.

Ackim Mpofu, former pro soccer player and current Girls Soccer Coach reminisced on Cristiano Ronaldo’s playing, saying, “Ronaldo, plays with so much joy; even if you don’t play the game, you can see it. He made me fall in love with soccer.” Ronaldo has recently moved to a Saudi pro league team- Al-Nassr, leaving a large gap in the Premier League that he formerly played for. Ronaldo and Messi were two figureheads of soccer. They both have recently left European leagues. Messi is now playing in the US MLS league for the team Inter Miami. He left another huge gap in European soccer.

In soccer, despite the exit of Megan Rapinoe, FIFA’s best women’s player in 2016, we’re seeing new names like Pablo Gavi, a 19 year-old Spanish soccer player, Jude Bellingham (20) and Lamine Yamal Spain’s youngest player (16). Younger basketball players like Victor Wembanayama, Josh Giddey, Ja Morant and Nikola Jokić are, “changing the game of basketball into a less aggressive sport—it’s now a more shooting and skill based sport,” said Track and Field Coach and avid basketball fan, Ted Golata.

It is bittersweet to watch our role models pass their prime in a sport that they have dedicated so much to. As a new generation of athletes sweep stadiums and take over crowds, we can’t help but enjoy watching as they take it to the next level.

Courtesy of @usopen on Instagram

tive as “the guys leaving now are the ones that were coming in when I was leaving”.

Alexis Venachanos, former Assistant Athletic Director at LFA and current North-

What’s coming next in sports

By **Quinn Knight & Ford Sweet**
Managing Editor of Sports & Managing Copy Editor

As school starts up again, there is one thing that gets our hopes up and brings us happiness—fall sports. When the leaves on the trees start changing colors, we know that cheering for our favorite teams and athletes is around the corner. Sports are a fun way to take a break from the craziness of the new school year, but one should be aware of the changes coming for the new seasons.

In September, sports enthusiasts find themselves on the brink of the football season. Stadiums that were once quiet for months on end now fill with high energy crowds, chants, screams, and excitement reverberating from the field and beyond. People all across the country prepare themselves for months for the non-stop football of the NFL, colleges, high schools, and more. Players experience the same excitement as they are now able to showcase their talents and athleticism once again. Endless crowds find spirit and joy through football and having it finally return is always worshiped.

When it comes to the other type of foot-

ball, the majority of top-tier players take their talents to Europe. However, when Lionel Messi, who is often hailed as one of the greatest to ever step foot on the soccer field, transitioned to playing soccer in the MLS (Major League Soccer) with Inter Miami, it boosted the global recognition within the area. Even though the MLS had made significant changes in years past, his arrival brought new appreciation towards the league. Varsity soccer player Sami Awada ‘24 stated in regards to Messi’s switch, “Having the best player in the world join a league will bring more awareness to soccer in the United States, and more eyes on the MLS.” In other words, his level of play will likely establish more popularity in the United States, and bring in fans who had not initially expressed love towards the sport.

Shifting away from the US and back to Europe, one of golf’s greatest traditions will take place at the end of the month in Rome. The Ryder Cup is a biennial battle between Europe and the US in a fight for golf supremacy. For golf fans this event shapes their year as it is a source of national pride for the country/continent. Team USA dominated the event two years ago

and is looking to defend their title from 2021. However, they approach the event as an underdog as they haven’t won on European soil in 30 years. In commenting on the significance of this event, Varsity golfer Christian Martinez ‘25 said, “[The Ryder Cup] generates significant excitement among golf fans. It’s import-

ant to the world because it’s USA’s best players vs Europe’s best players, and those are two very different playing styles going head to head.” It will be a true sight to see who takes the title in Rome.

Fall sports bring happiness and excitement to both fans and athletes, uniting everyone in the spirit of the season.



Lionel Messi smiles toward the crowd.

Courtesy of @ringochiu on Instagram

WGA + SAG-AFTRA strike: An explanation

By Ela Jain

Managing Editor of A&E

Dune 2 delayed, *Deadpool 3* production suspended, and *Saturday Night Live* on hiatus. What is happening in the film industry that caused these massive projects to be suspended?

The short answer is: The Writers Guild of America (WGA) and the Screen Actors Guild (SAG-AFTRA) have gone on a joint strike against major companies in the film and TV industry and demand increased minimum compensation, more residual pay, pensions and health plans, and all writing to be done by humans, rather than artificial intelligence.

A big concern of the two unions is residuals: a royalty paid to the creators of media when the media is replayed. Residuals are the main way an actor or writer can make money, especially in a fickle industry where jobs can be few and far between. Residual income can be the main way an actor or writer makes money between jobs, and as the workforce is starting to be even more selective, it is now more important than ever.

In an exclusive interview with *The Spectator*, Victor Yerrid explained how things have changed. He's an actor and puppeteer who has worked on productions like *Sid the Science Kid*, *Dark Crystal: Age of Re-*

want to keep it on for another year, they pay a fee to keep it on for that year. Compared with how many times people watch it, you're getting paid pennies if anything."

Residual pay has been steadily decreasing as access to media increased; the model created decades ago has proved nonfunctional now. The lack of residual pay is not just a result of the modernization of the film industry; sometimes it's active sabotage from producers. When TV shows move from platform to platform, studios are supposed to pay a fee to the cast and crew to move the product, as well as the expected residual fee at the end of every year. However, producers often ignore those fees, and hope that the arduous process of reporting the lack of residuals deters actors from doing so. "It's a good gamble for them not to pay, because what if the actors don't call. They don't notice it was on Netflix, or they get frustrated trying to track them down. For a lot of streamers, they play that game of 'maybe they won't notice.'" Yerrid expounded.

AI is also a major sticking point of the strikes, especially within the WGA. With the development of new technology, writers are actively being replaced by artificial intelligence software, and human created stories are starting to seem hard to find. "(AI) is definitely starting to squeeze things



Courtesy of Creative Commons

The Writers Guild of America protest on the strike picket lines.

Dinosaur, and *Ninjago: Dragons Rising*.

Yerrid argued that AI is not entirely a bad thing, "On the positive side, what AI is doing is allowing people to present ideas very quickly. One of the things I do as a writer, as a show creator, is try to sell ideas and productions. I used to do moodboards, but now AI can generate very specific images for you, so as a selling tool, there are a lot of positives for it."

However, when AI software is used for writing scripts, it can be detrimental - not just to the writers involved, but also to the product created. "It's incredible and miraculous [that] you can type in keywords and get some semblance of a script, but the individual choices you make as a human... (that's) brought to your writing is something I don't think computers will ever be able to replace, because it's all derivative" Yerrid said.

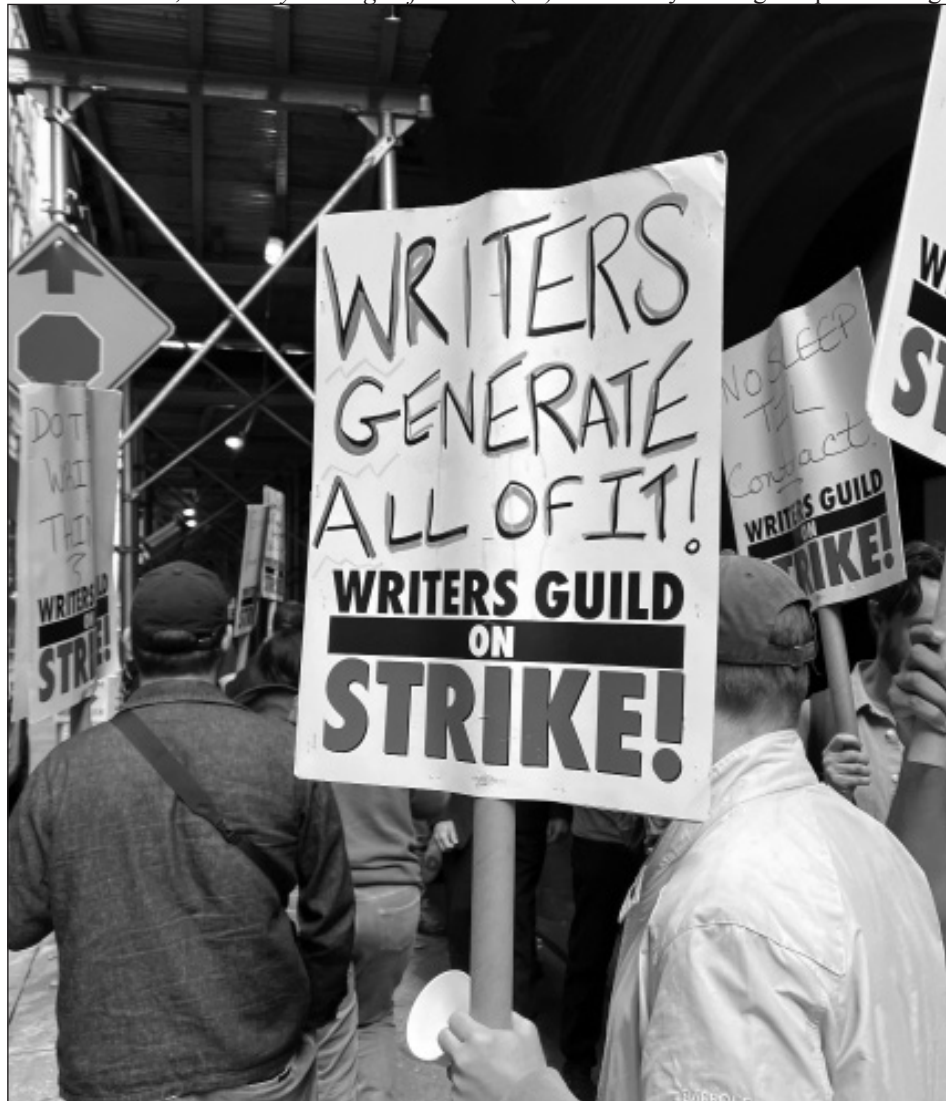
So, what about negotiations? The WGA and SAG-AFTRA have both expressed their readiness to make a good faith deal with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), though members of the AMPTP have public-

ly stated they intend to starve the strikers out until they have no choice but to agree to a bad deal. For months, negotiations have been going poorly, as the AMPTP has rejected proposals about weekly pay, expanded writers rooms, banned AI in writing rooms, and has offered only a slight increase in residual pay.

The strikes don't show any sign of slowing down, and all production is paused until an agreement is reached. Though the issues are serious, the spirit on the picket lines has still been positive. From D&D games to themed dress days, the strikes haven't been dull for the workers, and there is some sense of solidarity within the union workers. Hara explained, "The union is more than just faceless organizations. We really are a community, which is part of our superpower."

Additional Note

As of September 25, 2023, a tentative agreement has been reached between the WGA and the AMPTP, which will go under review by the guild leaders shortly, deciding whether to end the strike.



Courtesy of Creative Commons

The Writers Guild of America displays a sign on the picket line.

naissance, and *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*. Yerrid said, "Back in the days when it was on network television, (studios) would air something, then they would play it again; when they played it again, you would get a pretty sizable check that was similar to what you originally got paid. With the streaming model, now it's an annual thing, so if they

out, I know one of my side projects is starting to cut down the work or the writers, because they are able to get AI generated stories and then have writers polish them, for a fraction of what we might otherwise make" stated Liz Hara when speaking with exclusively with *The Spectator*. She's a writer on *Sesame Street*, *Moon Girl and Devil*



Courtesy of Creative Commons

The Screen Actors Guild members strike.

Summer flicks: From *Barbie* to *Oppenheimer*

By Bela Bock & Olivia Kelly

Managing Editor of Op-Eds & Managing Editor of Collaborations

Barbenheimer was a popular movie marathon this summer, with both movies released in July. *Barbie* and *Oppenheimer* had very different messages



Courtesy of Creative Commons

Advertisements for the *Barbie* movie sprawl in Times Square in New York City.

about completely different topics. *Oppenheimer* was about the future of the atomic bomb. Yet notably, *Barbie* is a figure to all young women and children; this movie taught them lessons of gender equality and feminism at a young age. Madison Rosen '25 particularly loved the movie. When asked why she enjoyed it, she said, "I liked the movie because it was a celebration of femininity, and the cast were made up of actors [and] actresses I like." Rosen felt that the message of gender equality was displayed well with actors that have an influence on people's lives. She said that gender equality was preached but not in a demonizing way; rather, it came across in a way of accepting one another. "I felt that the message of feminism isn't too strong, but it also wasn't fully "anti-man"," said Rosen. In turn, Rosen felt

that *Barbie* was generous to men at times, (for instance, when she apologizes to Ken after his wrong doings), therefore, it was not a movie solely based on feminism. On the contrary, Joseph Satriano '25 felt the movie was overrated. When asked why he did not enjoy the movie, he said, "I didn't know going into it that it was go-

ing to be a musical, and I didn't like the music." Satriano felt that the music undermines the topic of gender equality and finding oneself. When Satriano was questioned on what the message of the movie was, he said, "I'm not sure. I didn't feel the message of feminism was too strong. But I think they downgraded Ken's masculinity to make Barbie stronger." Satriano felt that parts of the movie were unnecessary and could have been shortened. While both of these perspectives on the film differ, *Barbie* is a commemoration of gender equality and feminism. Stereotypically, Barbie is an image of plastic perfection and "role model" to women. However, the film expresses acceptance by showing Barbie's flaws and conveys that nobody is perfect. In fact, it shows how everyone is Barbie, as demonstrated

through more inclusive types of Barbies.

Alongside Barbie, on the same weekend, *Oppenheimer* was released. The film centers around J. Robert Oppenheimer and his journey as the "father of the atomic bomb." While starring Cillian Murphy as J. Robert Oppenheimer, the cast is also jam-packed with famous names including Robert Downey Jr, Emily Blunt, Matt Damon and Florence Pugh. However, unlike how *Barbie's* reviews were a little more split with some loving it and some hating it, *Oppenheimer* had consistently favorable reviews in regards to that majority of audiences and critics agreeing it is a well rounded film that does a good job of portraying this story.

Despite *Barbie* being one of the biggest films of this summer, many other large movies came out as well. *Little Mermaid*, having already been an animated film released in 1989, was an addition this year to the other live action remakes Disney has already done previously, like *Beauty and the Beast*, *Mulan* and *Aladdin*. The movie stars Halle Bailey, Melissa McCarthy and Jonah Hauer-King, alongside many other names, with Halle Bailey in her acting debut since branching out of pop music. Despite the addition of a couple songs and the controversial lyric changes of original songs to make them more appropriate for

through the spiderverse. Sequels are often hard to compare to the previous films, as they sometimes are not able to live up to the original. However for *Across the Spider-Verse*, this was not the case. The movie was applauded by critics and viewers, with many applauding the innovative, colorful take that the film has generated. Although there were some negative reviews, including a critic from Rotten Tomatoes writing that the film is a "complete trainwreck of a motion picture," many critics even went as far as to say that the film tops the original, stating that it very well could be a "superior film." Although the film has some complaints about the storytelling, it is noted to be an overall enticing and impressively animated film that pays homage to all the *Spideymans* that came before

One of the final most anticipated movies of this past summer was *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*, the final movie to the Indiana Jones series. For such a famous series, this movie was met with mixed reviews. The movie is much like other *Indiana Jones* movies, starring Harrison Ford, as he embarks on a new adventure to seek something out. However with this movie, it was more met with reviews saying that it was slow compared to other films. Critics did note that it was a nice nostal-

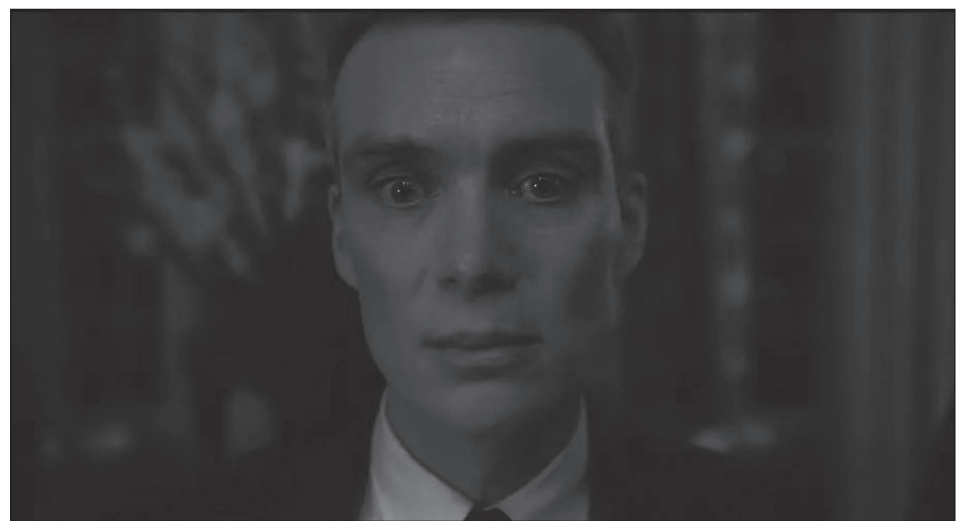


Photo courtesy of Universal

Peaky Blinders star Cillian Murphy stars as J. Robert Oppenheimer.

current times, the story stays the same and does not stray far from the 1989 film. The critics mostly agree as well, with all noting how well the delivery of the film is from the casting, to directing, and the visual effects. Critics also applauded Bailey's role, with even one critic from Rotten Tomatoes exclaiming that she was "born to play a Disney princess." Overall, it is a fun, summer film that many agree is worth the watch.

The summer also premiered the sequel to the animated spiderman movie, *Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse*, with this summer releasing *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse*. With the original movie having a tremendously good reaction to a new interpretation of Spiderman, the sequel was a hopeful attempt at generating the same reaction. The movie centers around the same main character, Miles Morales, and the fellow other Spidermen from other universes as they encounter numerous other Spidermen on their journey

gic film, but some even said it was a "disappointment." While the film does have an opening scene that features a young Harrison Ford fighting off Nazi's, the rest of the movie is him as a much older man still attempting to do the same tricks as before, causing critics and viewers to see it as slower than some of the other action packed movies. As *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny* is a series finale to the long and insanely popular *Indiana Jones* series, the film would be a good as well as nostalgic watch for long time fans; however, it is said it might not to appeal to people not familiar with the series, or those that are just watching to watch a fun movie.

These films were only a couple movies released this summer, all with very different messages, storylines and characters. With going into the colder months, these fun summer movies are a perfect way to remember summer as the seasons begin to change.



Courtesy of @lfacademy on Instagram

Students watchi *Barbie* - hosted by LFA's Harlow Club - in the Dance Room.

Record-breaking weather takes the summer by storm

By **Bela Bock & Esti Rosenblatt**
Managing Editor of Collaborations & Managing Editor of Production

Your summer was most likely interrupted by many “Extreme Heat Alert!” or “Dangerous Air Quality!” notifications. In early May, Canada was ambushed by wildfires. By early June, New York was filled with orange, apocalyptic smoke. July was the month of dangerous heat levels and the month when Typhoon Doksuri visited Asia. In August, heat rose - and in Maui, Hawaii - devastating wildfires destroyed the town of Lahaina. Southern California was flooded by Tropical Storm Hilary. The wild series of disasters, which was the summer of 2023, has many people asking- is this the new normal?

Kevin Hagen, AP Environmental Science teacher, attempted to approach this question. “With record temperatures happening this summer from around the world and with unprecedented ocean heat, people rightfully want to know what this means in greater context of what normal is and how this impacts regions of the world and people in the future. That in itself is so hard to understand.” It is hard to say what the “new normal” (in terms of extreme weather) is, but following the rising trends of global warming and climate change, heat waves, hurricanes, and storms could possibly become bigger threats as well. “Hurricane Lee (a major hurricane that formed in early September in the North Atlantic) intensified +90 mph wind speed in just 30 hours, shattering the prerequisite of +35 mph in 24 hours. So,what maybe wouldn’t have developed into a category 5 storm 50 years ago, now does,” said Hagen. Hagen also described how some of this “rapid intensification” is because of “warmer ocean temperatures [which] are one of the factors that can increase hurricane size, wind

speed, and moisture”. Climate change is not the only reason for these extreme storms and heat waves, but it does tie most of these seemingly sporadic events together.

Scientists believe that the intensity and severity of recent wildfires, such as the ones in Quebec, were about 50% more intense because of human-induced climate change. In Canada, nearly 16 million hectares (39,536,861 acres) have burned. Maui’s wildfires have caused major destruction to its land as well.

The historical town of Lahaina in Maui was nearly completely burned by the fires. On the island, many people are left without homes. 115 people have passed away, and as of mid September, 66 are still missing. LFA junior and resident of Honolulu, Hawaii, Aaron Ing ’25, was not affected by the fires. However, Ing was able to see the aftermath that occurred from the tragedy. “The town that the fire destroyed was also a very famous historical site and a popular tourist destination,” Ing said. “It showed a lot of the culture that Hawaii had to offer, and now it’s gone.” He emphasized how Hawaii hasn’t seen anything that has corresponded to this level of destruction that this fire has caused. “The only thing [in comparison to destruction of the Maui wildfire] I could think of is the lava that occasionally erupts from maunaloa and kilauea on the Big Island,” he said Ing explained that the wildfire began due to electrical currents, and because of global warming’s increase in temperatures, the fire was easily spread throughout the entire island.

Provinces and islands were being destroyed by fires as coasts, states and countries fell victim to storms. In late July, Typhoon Doksuri hit the Philippines, Taiwan, China, and Vietnam. The Typhoon tore its way through the four countries causing extensive damage. In 9 out of the 17 Philippines regions were heavily flood-



Photo Courtesy of Creative Commons
A firefighter traverses through the scorched remains of Maui, Hawaii's landscape

ed. Doksuri killed 137 people. Typhoon Doksuri expenses amounted to over \$15 billion USD. Storms are becoming more and more expensive. Hagen agreed, saying, “What I can say with confidence is that storms are becoming more expensive. The number of billion and multibillion dollar disasters is increasing.” Typhoon Doksuri was close to the costliest typhoon on record in China. Later, in August, Hurricane Hilary swept the pacifist coast of Mexico, the south of California and many other Southwest US States. Hilary resulted in nearly \$14.7 million USD and broke four southwestern states’ records for wettest tropical cyclone or its remnants.

July 2023 was the hottest month in history. The heatwaves across the globe definitely contribute to the wild weather of this summer. The extreme heat waves were different than they have ever been. Heat waves across the globe were not only more

frequently experienced, but they also lasted longer and were more severe. These heat waves fueled other crises, such as droughts and wildfires. It is easy to blame the climate crisis for inducing the heatwaves, but at the end of the line, it’s human activities that have changed our atmosphere in ways that make temperatures rise.

This destructive and dangerous summer still leaves many wondering if they should expect to see more of these extreme events that occurred shockingly frequently this summer. There is no sure way to predict the scale or frequency of future events. Yet, global warming and human-induced climate change definitely play a part. There could, potentially, be a rise of extreme weather as our climate changes and our earth and oceans heat. Hopefully, in the future, we will be able to avoid the drastic damages many witnessed this summer.



Wildsmoke from Quebec, Canada, consumes New York City on June 7th, 2023

Photo Courtesy of Creative Commons

Regaining hope in climate action: It can start at LFA!

By Emma Swanson

Managing Editor of Social Justice

Why should I compost and recycle if I already know the planet is dying off? This is a common misconception that many individuals have when it comes to being sustainable. While the warming of the planet may not be reversible at this point, that does not mean that we cannot work towards prolonging human existence on Earth.

Many have begun to lose hope in making efforts to protect the planet, not only because they think it is “too late” to do anything, but also because they don’t believe that their own sustainable efforts are going to make a difference.

When people don’t see the immediate results play out in front of them or see others combatting their efforts, they get discouraged. Dr. Kerry Cedergren, a science teacher at LFA who also leads the school’s Sustainability Initiative, related by saying, “I understand the frustration, I get frustrated on a daily basis. I see people take a half eaten bagel and throw it in the recycling bin or use single use plastic and have no issue with it.”

As someone who devotes her daily life to being sustainable, she relates to people losing hope when everyone else around them is doing the exact opposite.

Unfortunately, many fall into the thinking of, “If the majority isn’t doing anything to fight this cause, then what kind of impact am I really going to have?”

If one is wondering whether or not their single recycled paper plate is going to make a significant change in the world—it isn’t. A few individuals’ choices are not going to stop the global temperature from drastically increasing. However, that is not a reason to give up hope on taking climate action. Combating this issue on a large level starts with individuals actively choosing to be a part of a movement that is striving to create change.

An article from *The Guardian* that is centered around tips to take part in climate action stated, “As citizens of the Earth, we have a responsibility to participate. As citizens massed together, we have the power to affect change, and it is only on that scale that enough change can happen.”

When we, as a global community, decide to take action and join this movement, only then will we have the chance to potentially prolong humanity’s time on this planet.

Within our LFA community is a perfect example on how we can all join this climate action movement. We can begin with choosing to compost our leftovers in STU, using less single-use plastics, and encouraging our peers to do these things through educating them.



Photo by Emma Swanson

A community compst bin sits in the Student Union.

Cedergren stated, “I always think that if I can spread my knowledge and my ways and lifestyle that I think is going to help the planet, then I can pass those onto you. You can help and pass it onto someone else, and a domino effect takes place. It’s not going to be an overnight thing.”

Remaining determined is essential to the human race’s existence, and if we want to stretch that hope, maybe LFA could make its way to joining a larger movement of schools who have gone completely sustainable.

Ultimately, as Cedergren encouraged, “You’re doing things not just for yourself, you’re doing it for the world.”



Photo by Kerry Cedergren

LFA Sustainability Club handles new composting.

Response to releasing Japanese nuclear waste water

By Joon Lee

Managing Editor of STEM

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced that they are releasing nuclear waste water starting August 24th, 2023. There was a huge controversy surrounding the issue prior to its release, with governments expressing support and opposition, and with a lot of Asian consumers concerned with the future contamination of marine life and natural resources. The start of this worldwide issue can be traced all the way back to the 2011 Fukushima Nuclear disaster. This event caused the reactor core to overheat and contaminate the water inside the nuclear plant. To cool the reactor down, water was added for the last 11 years in order to prevent explosion. Eventually, in 2019, it reached its limit.

The Japanese government highlighted their plan by pointing out how the released water is going to be heavily diluted with clean water so it only has a very low concentration of tritium, which is the radiation contained in the wastewater. The plan seems questionable, and opinions from other countries are conflicting. The US has backed up Japan, and nearby Taiwan has agreed that the amount of tritium released will have minimal impact. While South Korean leaders agreed with the plan, the citizens

are insisting on opposition. The people in Japan are also expressing opposition to their government’s decision as well.

Shunta Nambara ’24, a student from Japan, expressed his opinion that “Japanese people are highly against the wastewater thrown away in the ocean, and the government by itself is executing this tragedy.”

Moreover, he expressed his concern about the seafood consumption that will be limited due to wastewater. In South Korea, consumers have started boycotting Japanese food products and holding protests against Japan’s wastewater release and it does not seem to have come to an end.

People’s anxiousness led to questions about the safety of diluted wastewater. Dr. Kerry Cedegren, an LFA chemistry teacher, explained the consequences of wastewater out in the ocean. She explained that “the material in the wastewater that is concerning is radioactive, but even though it is diluted, we are not able to filter the radiation fully so there is going to be high levels of radioactivity in the water that would potentially harm marine life and human life.” For Tritium, the radioactive material in Japan wastewater, it takes 12.3 years for it to decay into half. Therefore, Cedegren expressed her “skepticism”

about this issue because the radiation is going to be near us for a decently long amount of time. She wrapped up by saying there should be a better way to store these rather than contaminating the ocean.

Japan’s nuclear wastewater has been a significant issue politically and environmentally. It is hard to say that the radiation released in the water would have zero effect on our marine and daily lives. The decision made by Japan follows the concerns of the people and the uncertainty of the future situation.



Courtesy of Creative Commons

The view of a nuclear power plant near Fukushima, Japan.