

September 2019

Volume 29, Issue 02



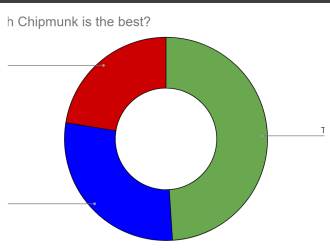
A1: Homecoming 2019



B1: McConnell and Warren Filibuster



B2: Medical Deferred Action



C4: East Meme Digest Episode 1



E1: US in FIBA World Cup

SECTIONS:

A: East

B: News

C: Entertainment

D: Sci-Tech

E: Sports

F: Comics

GAMES ON PARADISE: HOMECOMING 2019



Juniors banded together during the tug-o-war competition (Photo: Y. Zhou).

It's that time of year again, Homecoming!

The week started off with the Kick-off Homecoming Assembly. The gym was divided by grade level and was overwhelmed by the amount of spirit in each section. The freshman section was decorated in blue, sophomore section was green, junior section was yellow, and the senior section was decorated in red and gold. At the kick-off assembly, the nominees for Homecoming King and Queen were announced. For Homecoming King, Jacob Ward,

Joshua Weissert, Parker Venator, Nicky Lazarov, and Majd Ayoub were nominated. For Homecoming Queen, Tina Serghany, Gemma Petrulla, Sabrina Sebastian-San Miguel, Victoria Balazs, and Emma Ulatowski were nominated.

The week continued with a new Homecoming tradition, Meme Day. From 3:00-4:00, the Care Walk took place on the track, collecting \$5 donations to participate in the walk. Seniors earned government hours

See **HOMECOMING** on A2

CARRY THE TORCH: MRS. ZELASKO

By Mrs. Fanara-Mauro



I thank Mrs. Faracca so much for handing me the torch back in June. I've had it way too long and will be passing it on, this was a very difficult decision because there are so many wonderful, dedicated teachers here at East. I am passing the

See **TORCH** on A2

COMMENTARY

DEATH OF CLASS RANK

Class rank ... is ... officially ... dead. (Insert cheering and whooping and whatever you people do to celebrate). Yup, the class of 2021, and all future cohorts, will officially be class rank-free.

I, as a graduating senior (class of 2020), am a member of the last class to experience this ordeal. Indeed, it's been a ride, if that isn't too mild of a noun. Rather, it's been like a one-way trip on a rocket-powered roller coaster hurtling across the track at speeds not suitable for humans, without the protection of a functional seatbelt or even your mommy. And everybody pukes on this ride. Everybody.

Class rank, above all, was anxiety-inducing. Days spent sitting in class, unable to concentrate, as you think about the ten pages of homework you're going to get tonight; afternoons spent refusing to give your friends homework help, for fear that their success means your failure; late nights spent making outlines of College Board-approved textbooks that you aren't even interested in; weekend hangouts with your friends devolving into discussions of next year's course selection

See **CLASS RANK** on A2

NEW YOUNG AMERICANS FOR FREEDOM CLUB

By Gabe Guo and Henry Su

Young Americans for Freedom, or YAF for short, is a new club at East, advised by Mr. Hurley. YAF at East is a chapter of the nationwide parent organization, Young Americans for Freedom, which espouses and advocates for Conservative and Libertarian viewpoints. At East, YAF takes on a political forum format, where people discuss their perspectives on such pressing issues as Constitutional

See **YAF** on A2



Seniors displaying teamwork during the mummy competition (Photo: Y. Zhou).

HOOMECOMING from A1

for participating and an individual action for donating. This walk raised funds for Cancer Awareness. On Wednesday, the long standing tradition of - Er Day happened. At least four people dressed as Mr. Huber. Other notable costumes included “Loser”, “Amoeba Sister”, “Future Landowner”, and “Lavender”. Luckily, no-

body dressed as a “doctor”. Thursday was Theme Day. Each grade level dressed up as characters from different board games. Freshmen were Candyland, Sophomores were Operation, Juniors were Battleship, and Seniors were Life. At 5:00, the ever-exciting Powderpuff game took place on the football field. The Powderpuff game was an opportunity for junior and senior girls to go head to head, and compete in a friendly game of football. They played with the support of the junior and senior guys, cheering for them on the sidelines. Following Powderpuff was the Taste of East. The Taste of East gave students the opportunity to support different clubs, who sold food. Different food trucks also made appearances. Towards the end of Taste of East, there was an immense bonfire, to

See **HOMECOMING** on A3

YAF from A1

rights. The most recent meeting was on September 17th after school in the library, with 35 students in attendance. This meeting focused on First Amendment rights to freedom of speech and expression, specifically the right to refuse to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. There was a consensus that every student has the right not to stand, and the discussion moved to whether or not this abstinence would be moral. At this meeting, there were many contrasting viewpoints from students of many different backgrounds. Simon Li, a freshman, does not stand for the pledge. His reasons for not standing for the pledge include: the wars in Iraq and Af-

ghanistan which America has engaged in; the perpetual segregation of minorities; and the perceived religious overtones in the Pledge, which he believes violates separation of church and state. Yet, others opined that everybody should stand at least on such days as 9/11 to honor the victims of national tragedies. They believed that showing respect to victims was not mutually exclusive with protesting against injustice. The discussion then delved into the topic of race relations, specifically the US-Mexico border wall. After much great discussion, the meeting was dissolved. The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 1. It will surely be worth attending.

CLASS RANK from A1

COMMENTARY

and gossip about who’s taking how many APs. As Anirhudda Nrushima, valedictorian of the class of 2017 and our former webmaster, said, “It is the definition of a zero sum game”. And you’d think that at the end of this ride, there would be some sweet relief. Nope. Inevitably, there are students who are disappointed in their ranks, with this discontent pervading the Commons on Friday the 13th, the day after ranks were announced (coincidence? I think not). Then again, it’s just a number, right? Surely you have more value beyond that bold-faced integer at the bottom of your graduation requirements WITS page? Indeed, you do. Unfortunately, there was a culture at East for the past Lord-knows-how-many years that tied one’s sense of self-worth to this one arbitrary metric. Yet, there are things in life beyond class rank. As I noted in my official “Tips for Freshmen”, high school is about finding your “thing” and dedicating yourself to it. Although that article was targeted for freshmen, the advice applies just as much, if not more, to seniors. Instead of moping about the mere difference of decimal points that separated you and the person above you, celebrate all the things you learned and created over your high school experience (tie-dye clothing in Chemistry, anybody?). Celebrate the friends you made. Celebrate the fun times you had, from Homecoming to JDD to the football games. You have your whole life ahead of you, and ultimately, class rank is just one three-digit number in life’s infinite sequence of numbers. Now is the time to look ahead. And, to the freshmen, sophomores, and juniors that are reading this: be happy that you don’t have class rank. You have the freedom to pursue what you want without worrying about how it’ll affect your number. So do it. Learn how to write a jazz tune. Learn how to shoot a one-legged fadeaway three-pointer. Learn how to code a website. Learn how to make scented candles. Learn how to knit striped sweaters. Learn how to cook ramen noodles. And most of all, learn how to be happy. Indeed, class rank may have motivated students to challenge themselves, but in the end, it caused much undue anxiety and detracted focus from the important things. I think I speak for most of us when I say that the death of class rank, at least at East High School, is for the betterment of our school community. It will not be missed.



Can you pick out the real Mr. Huber?

HOMECOMING from A1

bring an end to a very eventful night.
On Friday, it is Senior Dress Up Day, and for the rest of the school, it is Flames spirit day.

Then at 1:30, the Homecoming King and Queen Assembly begins. Each nominee will have a teacher of their choosing read their speech, and will be escorted by their parents or close friends. Then at the end of the

assembly, our Homecoming Court will be announced. At 5:00, the annual Homecoming parade will be taking place at Paradise Park. Then at 7:00, the East football team will be going up against Kenmore West.

Go support East at the Football game!
The exciting week ends with the Homecoming dance from 7:00-10:00 at East on Saturday night!

CARRY THE TORCH from A1

torch to Mrs. Zelasko because she is very dedicated to enlightening her students by making Earth Science and Biolo-

gy so much fun for them. She is very approachable and always has a smile on her face. She's kind, funny, easy and fun to talk to

and has a great sense of humor. Mrs. Zelasko devotes many free periods to helping students in need of extra help and has been there for

both my children, who enjoyed learning from her. Mrs. Zelasko is a great example of what each letter of the torch stands for and that is

why I feel she deserves this honor. Congratulations Mrs. Zelasko !

National News

Mitch McConnell and Elizabeth Warren Filibuster

By Anna Lin



Source: Washington Post

If you follow the news or tune in on your local radio station, you probably would have heard the word “filibuster” thrown around recently, especially from the past two months. Most simplistically, the filibuster is described as by Google, “An action such as a prolonged speech that obstructs progress in a legislative assembly while not technically contravening the required procedures.” Currently, it is often used as a way to block a vote on a bill. A ratio of 60:40 must be needed in order to advance said bill.

Recently, there has been a great debate regarding the

passing ratio which is based on the even larger argument on the existence of universal background check—something that is believed to be best for the safety of America. Two important people have rose as the figureheads for this flaming subject: Senator and Presidential Candidate Elizabeth Warren and Senator Mitch McConnell.

Senator Elizabeth Warren (Democrat) strongly supports the idea of a universal background check. She voiced her reasons for thinking this during the debate on Thursday night, the twelfth, by stating that we have a, “...Congress

that is beholden to the gun industry... And unless we're willing to address that head-on and roll back the filibuster, we're not going to get anything done on guns.” She is supported by mostly Democrats. Even though the Democrats had the majority at 54 votes, they were still six short of getting the bill passed. As a result of this failure, they believe that the ratio should be pushed down to 51:49 to be able to move quickly from not only the bill on universal background checks, but also different bills.

The opposing side, represented by Senator Mitch McConnell and composed of

mostly Republicans, argues against this as it would be compromising towards both tradition and the rights of the minority. This side believes that to simply reduce the ratio down to winning just the majority would destroy the very foundation America stood upon: the foundation in which no majority could take advantage of the minority. McConnell writes in his article published in the New York Times, “If future Democrats shortsightedly decide to reduce the Senate to majority rule, we’ll have lost a key safeguard of American government.”

Special Election in North Carolina District 9

By Henry Su



Source: The Atlantic

On the 10th, the small 9th Congressional District of south-central North Carolina made national headlines when a special election was held to fill the vacant seat for their House representative. While decidedly an unusual situation, it was the circumstances surrounding the election that made it nationally significant.

In November 2018, the 9th district election finished in a narrow margin of 49.25% to 48.93%, with Republican Mark Harris set to serve in the 116th House of Representatives. During his campaign, Harris, an

evangelical minister turned politician, received support from the President and vice-President, while his opponent, Dan McCready, also enjoyed wide support from the strengthening Democratic Party in North Carolina. Harris’s victory over McCready by only 905 votes was a significant challenge to a traditionally Republican seat. However, when the district election managers were asked to recertify the tally of the close election, they refused.

The district’s denial of fur-

Government to End Medical Deferred Action

By Leonardo Yana-Romero



Source: Elise Amendola/AP

A story with life-threatening consequences has been developing since August 7, 2019, and has caused great concern among Americans. The series of events that make up this story starts with the sudden end of the government program called Medical Deferred Action. Although the program isn't very big, it is responsible for saving the lives of immigrant children with fetal diseases. The program works through an application process in which immigrants who are receiving treatment for life threatening illnesses make their cases for staying in the country.

In August, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) sent out letters to those families who were in the program saying that they will no longer be offering Medical Deferred Action. The letter threatened to take legal action if the recipient and their family did not leave the country within 33 days. After the news broke of the letters being sent, the USCIS released a statement saying that the medical deferred action requests are now being submitted to ICE. This switch in policy was not announced by the government, nor was it explained in the letters sent. ICE, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, addressed the statement by explaining that ICE will review the cases and determine the status of the applicants. Even after the explanation given by two agencies, legal experts find the situation peculi-

ar, with normally qualified applicants being turned down and still told that the medical deferred action is not being considered.

It was later noted that an internal memo had been circulated from a top Trump immigration official saying that the USCIS should no longer delay deportations of undocumented immigrants who are receiving medical treatments. The memo suggests that in actuality, ICE will not accept any requests for deferred action. The deferred action for medical reasons is available for cases made through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for military members and their families.

Responses to the new policy came from families who are affected by it, concerned citizens, legal advocates, and U.S. senators. Many of those who spoke out make the argument that the change in policy is inhumane and cruel. Sending back children and their families with fatal illnesses has been called a "death sentence", since many of the children who were under medical deferred action do not have the kind of treatment necessary to keep them alive in their home countries.

One organization called the Irish International Immigrant Center (IIIC), which is dedicated to serving Irish immigrants and others from around the world, has clients who are under the medical deferred action program. One client who is affected by the change in policy is the Sanchez family. Sixteen-

year old Johnathan Sanchez, son of Gary and Mariela Sanchez, was born in Honduras and was born with cystic fibrosis. He was diagnosed when blood samples were sent to the U.S. The family had already lost their daughter to cystic fibrosis at the age of 18. Since there are no specialists in cystic fibrosis in Honduras, the Sanchez family entered the United States in 2016 under a tourist visa. At first they were able to extend their stay, but the treatment was going to last longer than the six month extension, which then led to them applying for medical deferred action. He has been receiving treatments at Boston Children's Hospital. Now, Johnathan Sanchez worries that he may have to go back to Honduras, where he is destined to die.

Massachusetts Senator Edward Markey took a strong position on the issue, calling the policy change by the Trump Administration "the most inhumane of all of Donald Trump's policies." The Mayor of Boston, Marty Walsh, also spoke out about the situation on Twitter, saying, "Disregarding immigrants' requests to temporarily remain in the US for life-saving treatment is absurd and inhumane. We stand in support of our health and legal professionals who work tirelessly to eliminate barriers to care."

After weeks of painfully waiting for news on whether the program will be restored, families can now breathe easy because Acting Homeland Se-

curity Department Secretary Kevin McAleenan has directed that the USCIS resume the program of medical deferred action for non-military families. Democrats and other activists are the ones who have pushed for the end of this inhumane policy.

A House Oversight committee held a hearing on September 11 on the issue of medical deferred action. The hearing included testimonies from recipients of medical deferred action including Johnathan Sanchez. The committee has taken the task of answering questions that are still left to be answered. In his opening statement, Chairman Jamie Raskin said, "But there are still crucial questions left unanswered. Will anyone who applied after August 7th be eligible for relief? Does actually plan to grant who have reopened applications? What will happen to families that are currently receiving deferred action, but will need to reapply once their two-year stay expires?" He makes the point that the sudden restoring of the program was done solely for appearance and to avoid further criticism. Maryland Rep. Elijah Cummings also points out that, "It should not take an emergency hearing by Congress — and threats for more — to force the Trump Administration to do the right thing." Although this story is still has not reached its conclusion, one can now sleep better knowing that actions are being taken to solve this nightmare.

New York Plastic Bag Ban Effective 2020

By Mia Miller



Source: The Cornell Daily Sun

Plastic bags have become a well known threat to the environment. They’re found nearly everywhere nowadays. Plastic bags float on the surfaces of streams and lakes. They soar through the wind across quiet streets. They dangle from the branches of trees, waiting to be freed. Plastic bags even hide in places you can’t see them, such as the stomachs of unsuspecting, hungry animals.

It is estimated that about a trillion plastic bags are used annually across the globe. In New York State alone, 23 billion are used a year. New York has the fourth largest population in the United States, home to about 20 million residents as of 2018. That’s a lot of people to contribute to this environmental problem.

New York State Governor, Andrew M Cuomo, signed a

legislation on Earth Day 2019 to ban single-use plastic bags. Starting in March 2020, plastic bags that are non-biodegradable cannot be sold by retailers. This is a big step to help the environment, ending greenhouse emissions released in the production of plastic bags, and protecting marine life from an unpleasant death.

Stores, restaurants, and any other retailer will not be permitted to provide customers with plastic bags. However, New York counties can opt to sell paper bags instead for a 0.05 cent fee. The fee will go toward the Environment Protection Fund, which will use the money to make reusable bags more accessible. While paper bags tear easily and aren’t easy to reuse, they have a much less significant effect on the environment.

Not all plastic bags will be banned. Trash bags, bags for holding specific foods, and garment bags are exempt from the ban.

Although many praise the idea of banning plastic bags, there are also many critics. Plenty of retailers across the state are unhappy with the future changes. Plastic is convenient and cheap, making plastic bags the go-to option for those looking for a profit.

Many also claim the law is too vague, especially with the edits and changes it has had. Critics have stated that the definition of a plastic bag is too general. Retailers are unsure of what is considered to be reusable. Retailers are unsure how to apply the upcoming law while still making customers happy.

Some customers themselves

aren’t excited about the news. Many believe plastic bags have many uses, including being used as trash bags. Some say they never put plastic bags to waste, and that not all New Yorkers should be punished for the bad deeds of a few. Some New Yorkers are really attached to their plastic bags.

Whether or not you agree with the ban, it is a well known fact that plastic bags have plagued our environment. As of now, only 1 in 20 plastic bags are recycled properly worldwide. Reduction of plastic bags helps to lead New York towards saving marine life and cleaning up the Earth. Switching to reusable bags may be more expensive for retailers, but a planet covered in plastic bags would be more costly.

NC9 from B1

ther counts prompted an investigation by the North Carolina Board of Elections into the campaign. They alleged an elaborate scheme of tampering with absentee ballots carried out by Leslie Dowless, a Harris campaign-affiliated official. Dowless was indicted on several counts for tampering with mail-in ballots (votes not taken at a polling center and mailed in by those unwilling or unable to vote at the location) to favor Harris. In the midst of this controversy, the Board voted to hold another election to fill the seat, now vacant, while Harris announced the cession of his position as a candidate.

This scandal set the stage for the late 2019 special election closing the 2018 midterms. Dan McCready ran again as the

Democratic candidate, while state senator Dan Bishop filled Harris’s spot as the Republican nominee. The opposite positions of these two candidates also attracted national attention as a microcosm of partisan policy disagreements.

Dan McCready notably showed strong opposition to gerrymandering. On the 13th, new NC Senate and House district lines were approved to replace some old ones, which were ruled in a court case to be unconstitutionally drawn. “Gerrymandered” districts are said to be drawn to favor one party over another via exploiting regional political majorities. This practice fails to acknowledge the mixed political beliefs of larger communities within a state as a whole.

Republican state senator Dan Bishop

was known before the election as the lead writer of a North Carolina anti-LGBT rights bill in 2016 that was later passed into law. HB 2, known as the “bathroom bill”, required public bathrooms to only be available to a single “birth certificate gender”, disallowing some transitioned individuals from using the restroom of their choice.

The Republican Party and President Trump celebrated Bishop’s victory in the election on the 10th over McCready, by a margin of 96,103 to 92,199 (50.73% to 48.67%). Dan Bishop will assume his role as the 9th District’s House representative in the 116th session amidst major reforms nationwide and in his own state.

Brexit Turmoil Continues in Britain

By Michael Ge and Seth Gellman



Source: Euronews

Since the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union three years ago, Britain has been in political turmoil and is on its third prime minister. Britain is no closer to leaving the European Union than at the time of the vote. But due to new developments, including the actions of Britain's new prime minister, Boris Johnson, Britain may finally leave the European Union on October 31st.

After months of extensions on the date that Britain is officially going to leave the European Union under former

Prime Minister Theresa May, Johnson wants to leave the European Union on October 31, with or without a deal. On the other hand, Parliament disagrees. In a close vote, Parliament voted to reject a no deal Brexit under any circumstances.

In order to stop any opposition, Johnson suspended Parliament between September 11 and October 14. This has caused a backlash amongst the people of Britain. Lawsuits have ensued as a result. As of September 18, the British Supreme Court will be hearing a

case about the legality of Parliament's suspension by the Prime Minister.

Johnson is committed to a withdrawal from the European Union on October 31, but opposition leaders are working to make sure a no deal Brexit does not happen. Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the opposition Labour Party, wants to make sure a no deal Brexit is off of the negotiating table.

Corbyn then wants to call a general election to try and boost his party's standing in Parliament. Corbyn hopes that Labour will be able to repeat

their success in the 2017 general election. But Labour MPs are split over the issue of following through on Brexit or holding a second referendum. Johnson is calling for general elections but refuses to agree to abide by the law passed by Parliament that says a no deal Brexit will not happen, prompting a rejection of elections by Corbyn.

After three long years, there is still no end to Brexit and it remains to be seen whether Britain will indeed exit the European Union on October 31st.

Saudi Arabia Faces Oil Crisis

By Maler Suresh

On September 14th, huge fires broke out at the largest oil processing facility in the world as the Abqaiq oil processing facility and Khurais oil field fell victim to drone strikes in the hours before dawn. Now, the US is deploying military defense forces to Saudi Arabia as well as accelerating the shipment of military hardware to the kingdom. The Houthi rebels from Yemen first claimed responsibility for the attacks, but it later became clear that a country that supports them, Iran, is also involved. Saudi Arabia is in conflict in Yemen as

they try to reinstate the original Yemeni government against the will of the Houthi rebels. The drones were found to have originated from Iran, not Yemen, and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said Saudi Arabia should see the attack as a warning to end the war in Yemen, while insisting the attack came from Yemeni forces.

The greatest fear after the strike was the effect on the global oil market. About five million barrels a day of production was affected for a few days immediately after the strike, and production of oil will be re-

duced by a couple million barrels a day for the future, but overall the oil market will be able to recover quickly because of the vast amounts of oil stored by each country. So if it seems to be an attack targeted at Saudi Arabia, why is the US getting involved? Saudi Arabia requested what the United States Secretary of Defense, Mark Esper, described as "extra defensive support," that will "send a clear message that the United States supports our partners in the region."

Another reason comes from Treasury Secretary Steve

Mnuchin, who told reporters, "We are continuing the maximum pressure campaign." In May, the US withdrew from a 2015 nuclear accord with Iran and implemented sanctions that would sharply accelerate its goal of driving Iran's oil exports to zero. By trying to reduce Iran's oil exports, the US effectively puts a lot of strain on the economy. The Trump administration's hope is to manipulate Iran into agreeing to 12 demands that they must meet before the US lifts sanctions. The list asks Iran to accept new limits on its nuclear program, end ballistic mis-

sile tests, cut off support for US designated terror groups and free US citizens held in detention. But, Iran is not having it. Iran's leader, Ali Khameni, tweeted that the US should return to the nuclear deal if they want to negotiate, otherwise, "no negotiation will take place between Islamic Republic and US officials at any level." After the national security meeting on Monday, there is no news of an imminent military attack, and it appears that the US is trying to avoid larger scale border conflict with Iran.

New Bill Affects Uber, Lyft drivers

By Gabe Guo



Source: Paste Magazine

Dara Khosrowashahi and Logan Green may soon have to rethink their business models. California’s Assembly Bill 5 is slated to re-classify “gig economy” workers as employees, potentially affecting the state’s 400,000 “gig economy” workers at companies like Uber, Doordash, and Lyft. California Governor Gavin Newsom is expected to sign this bill, which would take effect on New Year’s Day of 2020.

Notably, the bill states, “A person providing labor or services for remuneration shall be considered an employee rather than an independent contractor unless the hiring entity demonstrates that the person is free from the control and direction of the hiring entity in connection with the performance of the work, the person performs work that is outside the usual

course of the hiring entity’s business, and the person is customarily engaged in an independently established trade, occupation or business.” This section is known as the ABC test.

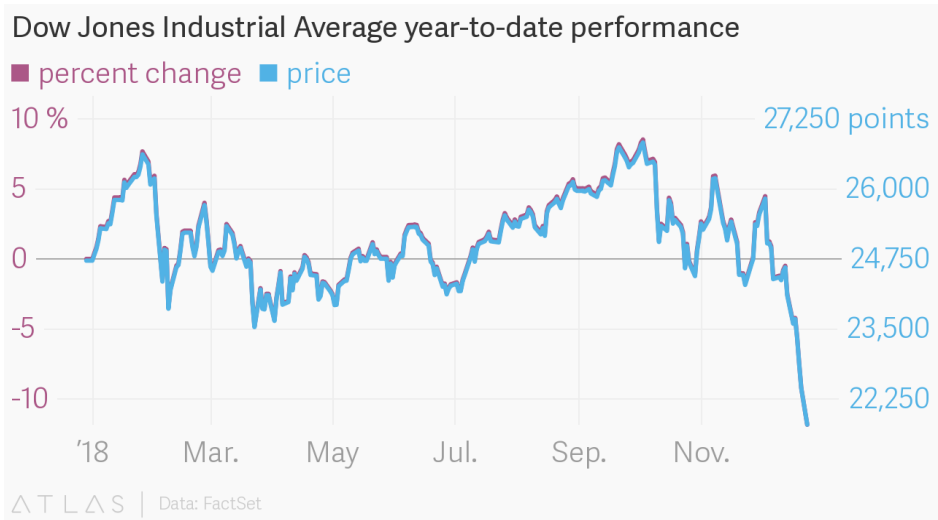
Predictably, management at Doordash, Uber, and Lyft are pledging \$90 million for the purpose of a statewide ballot initiative to exempt their companies from this future law. Yet, this may be to no avail, as the companies would have to demonstrate that the work done by their drivers is not essential to their business model, despite the fact that these companies were basically built on the idea of independent contracting. However, Newsom is willing to compromise with these companies, so as to keep the prices of ride hailing apps down for the general public.

Under this current business model, Uber and other companies do not have to pay their contractors minimum wage or overtime; additionally, there is no requirement to give health care or retirement plans, and payroll taxes do not need to be paid by companies for their contractors. The responsibility for expenses such as the automobile and gas falls on the contractors, cutting costs for these tech companies. This business model can cut operation costs by as much as 20%. This is particularly important for companies like Uber, which has still not become profitable.

Overall, Assembly Bill 5 is sure to create some changes in the economy which could potentially change the future of ride-hailing apps as we know them.

Is the DOW Jones Going to Get Out of Limbo?

By Ryan Chou



Source: The Atlas

The DOW Jones stock is a measure of the 30 largest companies in the United States’s stocks. Whether there is a recession or recovery going on, the DOW performance often follows the economic state of the United States. For example, during the most recent Great Recession, the DOW lost more than half of its value, or about 53%, from October 2007 to March 2009. From that point to February 2018, a period

that is commonly associated with economic recovery, the DOW went up almost 19,000 points, which is an increase of about 285%.

But now, it has been 19 months since February 2018. And how much has the DOW grown since that time? The increase, over this almost two year stretch of time, is only 7% at a net growth of about 1,700 points. But this displacement makes it sound

DOW JONES from B4

like the DOW has been stagnant the entirety of these 19 months. The reality is that the stocks have been more tumultuous than ever before.

Between December 3rd and December 24th of 2018, the DOW fell by about 4,000 points, or a 16% drop. This pushed the DOW back to 22,445 points, the lowest point it was about a year and a half before that point. It would seem logical that the DOW would then either continue dropping or slowly recover from the drop, but that is not at all what happened. In fact, it took just under two months to completely recover these losses, with the DOW growing 17% by early February.

But this growth did not last either. It proceeded to stagnate for three more months until early May when it dropped 1,600 points, or about 7%, over the course of a month. And then what happened? It recovered the losses and then some within a month and a half, with a growth of about 10% at 2,500 points being added.

But of course, this didn't last either. Within another month, the DOW dropped another 1,600 points with a decrease of 7%. And now, with federal interest rates being cut, the DOW is in the process of recovering again, with a

growth of about 5% since then of 1,500 points.

And if we go back earlier to late January 2018, when the DOW had reached a high at the time of 26,616 points, it dropped 2,400 points by 9%

between September and October 2018.

What is causing this back and forth shifting? Well, there is certainly a correlation between the US vs China trade war events and the DOW.

There is certainly a correlation between the US vs China trade war events and the DOW. Whenever tariffs are increased or tensions between the two countries appear to escalate, the DOW tends to take a nosedive even if it is in the process of gaining.

over the course of two weeks. And then it stagnated with no end in sight for five months before rallying 1,700 points between July and September 2018, which was when it dropped 2,000 points by 8%

Whenever tariffs are increased or tensions between the two countries appear to escalate, the DOW tends to take a nosedive even if it is in the process of gaining. But whenever there are reports of talks

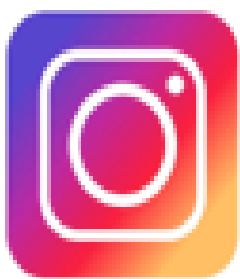
or negotiations of easing tensions, the DOW will often rally. For example, recently in August this year it was announced that there would be a 15% tariff on Chinese goods. Subsequently, the DOW stagnated during the entirety of the month rather than recover its prior losses from July.

Another factor is US economic reports. Whenever the report or outlook seems to be positive, the DOW tends to rally while a negative report often results in investors pulling out their investments, decreasing the DOW. For example, in late August last year, it was announced that the US economy had yielded a GDP growth of 4.2% in the second quarter, the fastest rate since the third quarter of 2014. And in the following month of September,

the DOW had a positive month where the immediate fallout was a growth of almost 3% with 800 points being added over the course of three weeks.

There are a variety of factors contributing to this DOW stagnation, with no obvious singular factor contributing to most of these drops and rises. It will be very interesting to see how the DOW will perform in the near future.

Follow the East Side News



[theeastsidenewspaper](https://www.theeastsidenewspaper.com)



[eastsidenews.org](https://www.eastsidenews.org)



[@TheEastSideNews](https://twitter.com/TheEastSideNews)

Charles Mingus—a 40 Year Retrospective

By David Chung



Source: Jazziz

Forty years ago, on January 5th, the world lost one of it’s most transcendent, enigmatic, and charismatic musicians, jazz bassist, composer, and bandleader, Charles Mingus. With a career spanning from the early 1940s up until his death in 1979, he has cemented himself in in the development of mid to late 20th century jazz and showed what it could become while being present in numerous corners of the world, from the underground nightclubs in Europe to his apartment in New York City to the stages of Japan, Canada, South America, and numerous other spots of the world.

Born on April 22, 1922, in a military base in Nogales Arizona, Mingus was the son of a mixed father, who was generally half black and half white. This would later

conflict his identity later in his life, making him both black and white (Which at the time meant two distinctly different things), one time stating that he’s “Too black to be white, but too white to be black.” Mingus grew up his entire youth surrounded by music, primarily gospel music from the church he attended to and mainly the works of jazz giant Duke Ellington. In his early teens, Mingus picked up the cello and learned the instrument for a few years until he came across the bass. Captivated, Mingus dropped cello and picked up the bass and would later get lessons from state orchestral players across the country. Mingus’s musical career would soon begin by touring with popular bands with Kid Ory, Lionel Hampton, and the immortal Louis Armstrong.

Mingus would soon find himself in New York City, where he founded the Jazz Workshop, a place where young and inspired musicians can record, learn, and perform their own works alongside with some classics with some of the leading musicians of the 50s. Throughout his career, Mingus would release numerous albums and perform in the productions of many others. Some of his most popular albums are “Pithecanthropus Erectus” (1956), “The Black Saint and the Sinner Lady” (1963), “Mingus At the Bohemia” (1955), and his most popular and notable album, “Mingus Ah Um” (1959).

Like most musicians then and now, his

See **MINGUS** on C7

K-12 Album Review

By Sophie Zhu

Bi-colored hair, dolly eyes, gapped front teeth. Filmography embellished in vibrant colors, queer styles and storylines, and peculiar but enchanting costuming. The keywords for 24-year-old Queens artist Melanie Martinez, who is back at her Crybaby persona four years later with her latest album *K-12*, dropped September 6. Known for her aesthetic and dark fantasy world, created first in her debut single “Dollhouse” in 2014, she does not disappoint with all the tracks embedded in a 96-minute self-written and directed film. Now a schoolgirl, *Crybaby* from her 2015 debut studio album escapes her controlling and dictating school through an elaborate storyline.

Unique and distinctive in so many facets, Martinez expands on her eerie and enticing style that traces back to her top 6 The Voice appearance in 2012. While her debut album, *Crybaby*, was an inner monologue to her own vulnerable and disturbing childhood and the problems that tagged along with it, this sophomore album is an open door to the outside world. She paints a world where important societal issues are conveyed perfectly in her mysterious lyrics, hitting all the marks of present-day issues in only thirteen tracks, from bullying in “Wheels On the Bus” to openness and un-



Source: Forbes

fairness in “Show & Tell” to self-consciousness and mental health in “Nurse’s Office”. The album finishes with oversexualization of women in “Strawberry Shortcake” and the unfair use of power in “Detention” and “Teacher’s Pet”.

See **K-12** on C5

Borderlands 3 Review

By Prabhnoor Singh



Source: CNET

Stubbornly refusing to reinvent itself after a five-year absence, *Borderlands 3* sticks to its guns and manages to outdo itself. Refined movement and shooting, a legion of enjoyably challenging enemies, and the single largest arsenal of mechanically distinct firearms I’ve ever seen in a video game easily make this the best in a great series of co-op shooters.

Its trademark stylized art, on-the-nose humor, and tattoo-fueled storyline are all enjoyable enough in their own right, but what really makes *Borderlands 3* excellent is the addicting item chase that unfolds over the course of 30 hours’ worth of lovingly crafted main and side missions. What’s more, this is an adventure I could see myself happily undertaking again, from scratch, with a new character and a fresh group of friends.

You’ll arrive on the familiar planet of

Pandora to find it overrun by bandits and on the verge of total collapse... so, normal. But this time around you aren’t stuck on Pandora. You’ll venture to several varied and jaw-droppingly beautiful planets, from the grimy neon metropolis of Promethea to the cherry-blossom-speckled peaks of Athenas; each stands out visually in a way the series rarely has before.

Though few have mechanical differences that distinguish them from the rest, every nook and cranny is generously littered with chests, collectibles, and amusing Easter eggs that make exploration and looting almost as much fun as the combat. I made frequent use of vehicles to get from one place to another on these large maps, but as with the previous games, vehicular combat is still so clumsy and relatively dull that I only fought in one when a mission required it.

See **BORDERLANDS 3** on C6

Fashion On Paradise

By Annabel Paradise

Hey East, welcome back to school! And welcome to a new addition to the East Side News: Fashion on Paradise! This fashion column, named because East is on Paradise Road, and because my last name is Paradise, will look into the deeper meaning of fashion, rather than discussing this season’s trends or what not to wear. So, without further ado, let’s get started!

We are officially back into the swing of school, which means less time doing the things we love, and more time doing the things we might not like as much. It also means less time we’re able to work and get money. So now we’re trying to dress to keep up with the trends, or our own personal vision of fashion, with way less of a budget. So how do you dress to impress without breaking the bank?

First, let’s start with where to shop. Most people our age would run to Forever 21 to fulfill their shopping needs, as it is inexpensive, and has lots of options. However, you get what you pay for. The reason the price of items is so low is because they are cheaply made with low quality fabrics. Also, since it is a trendy store, items may go out of style before you can wear them more than once or twice. You will cycle through the products faster and will end up spending more. Instead, try

See **FASHION** on C5

Flying Gorilla Review

By Eric Yang

Never before has mankind seen a better source of entertainment than the mobile app, *Flying Gorilla*. The app was made by Japanese developers, Pinbit, and released on the iOS and Android platforms. As of August 8, 2019, the app unbelievably had a 5.0 out of 5-star rating on the Apple App Store, even with 4,174 ratings. Scrolling through the reviews on the app store page, one can view many comments about how *Flying Gorilla* changed its players’ lives and just how high quality this game is. But in order to get an idea of just how good this game is, I downloaded it onto my Android phone.

The first thing I saw upon opening the app was a very detailed image of a

gorilla peacefully chewing on a piece of grass. I instinctively recoiled in amazement at how terribly great this image was. The developer clearly spent a good amount of time just choosing the perfect image to use. This picture perfectly portrays the daily life of an average gorilla, which eats varied plants by using its teeth to break them down.

After the image went away (to my despair), I was presented with an alert telling me that I had installed the app and therefore, received 3000 complementary coins (thank you!) and a menu screen. Very simple, yet eye-catching, nonetheless. The background depicted a gorilla beating its chest while a flying chicken and pig rested nearby. Since



Flying Gorillas App

See **FLYING GORILLAS** on C5

Roblox’s New User Generated Content

By James Liu



Recently, new hats appeared in the Roblox catalog that wasn’t created by the ROBLOX account. Rather, an all-purpose admin account was the only account to upload hats, excluding a few extremely old ones that were never sold. This is the start of Roblox’s new User Generated Content, or UGC for short. Roblox is planning to have a 100% catalog in the near future, and with the release of a few hats from their top developers, that future will be here soon. While the only people to create hats so far are top developers, Roblox plans to let anyone create hats in the future.

For multiple reasons, Roblox has decided to only let top developers make hats at the moment. Because the process is very new and hats are much more complex to make than 2D shirts and pants that are simply images, requiring meshes and textures rather than a blank template you can draw over, only good developers who have experience in other fields of digital design could make complex models for these hats and the textures that give them color. Not only that but with anyone able to make hats so

quickly without well-established guidelines, there’d be inappropriate hats everywhere.

While I enjoy the update and potential for new and interesting hats designed by users, there’s a lot of other things that I believe need to be fixed first. There are few items available for free in the catalog, just a few simple hats, hairs, and clothing items. On a platform that prides itself on creativity, giving few customization options for free players isn’t helping. While free items are given out occasionally, they’re usually meant to celebrate a certain event or sponsor. Recent examples that come to mind include a Stranger Things season 3 sponsor and Roblox’s 13th birthday, which both featured items that were meant to promote that one event. Usually, they don’t fit very well with other items and are oftentimes not very interesting. There’s also the rampant issue of bots in the catalog, accounts set up to post the exact same shirt over and over again for profit. Usually, the shirts are unoriginal and have simple names designed to exploit the system and show up once you search a vague. Finally, almost everything in the catalog is stolen content. The system to check for stolen content in the catalog is hilariously bad. This will most likely also be an issue for UGC, assuming that it’s possible to use the same parts as others to create a hat that’s “inspired” by someone else.

While I’m excited to see what hats can be created by users instead of the admins of Roblox, I believe there are some big issues that need to be addressed first before it can really take off. Creating bot accounts to profit off of hundreds of copies of hats simultaneously and managing the amount of stolen content in the already existing amount of player-created shirts and pants is already a big issue, and if it isn’t fixed or improved, new UGC items will most surely fall to the same fate as the shirts and pants sections.

!Purple Purple By Blazing Bowl... 1,000	PURPLE PURPLE By Sean'sSquad 1,000	PURPLE PURPLE By xbox fighters 299	!!!Purple Purple By BABOS ORI... 160	!!Purple Purple By Cryptid/Phe... 299	Purple Purple By Bionimo 299
!!Purple Purple By Coolcat83835 299	!Purple Purple By Air cool 299	Purple Purple By The cool jacks 299	!!!Purple Purple By The Cool'# 299	!!!Purple Purple By Football is a... 299	PURPLE PURPLE By Rich People ... 299
!!!Purple Purple By AER2002 Fa... 299	Purple Purple By DSP - Depart... 299	PURPLE PURPLE By DSP - Depart... 299	Purple Purple By Sean'sSquad 299	!Purple Purple By Cryptid/Phe... 299	Purple Purple By cool latios a... 299

Results of searching for “purple” under the shirts tab

Purple Purple By Eden Clothin... 5	!!!Purple Purple By Nightsky fas... 5	!!!Purple Purple By ***Cheap C... 5	!!!Purple Purple By Zulu Clothing 5	Purple Purple By Flowerly L... 5	!!Purple Purple By ***Cheap Cl... 5
!!!Purple Purple By MiniMen Fans 5	!!Purple Purple By Cilonia Trans... 5	!!Purple Purple By DEKERS SR3 5	!!!Purple Purple By The Anti ... 5	!Purple Purple By Glorious Clot... 5	!!!Purple Purple By ***Cheap C... 5
!!Purple Purple	!!Purple Purple	PURPLE PURPLE	PURPLE PURPLE	PURPLE PURPLE	!!!Purple Purple

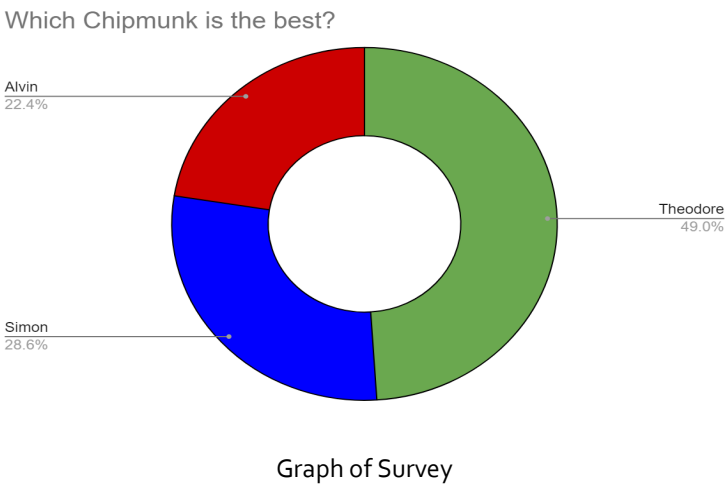
Results of searching for “purple” under the shirts tab

You can see exactly three different shirts in total, and at the lowest cost pictured at 299 Robux, translated into real money at the best rate possible (11,000 Robux for 99.99 USD), these shirts are worth about \$2.71. Different groups use the exact same stolen shirts and charge whatever they want, hoping you’re not smart enough to use the price sorting tool. You can set the maximum price you’re looking for to 5 robux, the lowest you can charge for a single shirt, and see... the exact same issues, but now you’re not spending anything upwards of close to 1000 extra Robux (\$9.09 USD) for the same product. At a glance, you might not even be able to see the key difference of the costs being different.

East Meme Digest: Episode 1

Chipmunk Debunk

By Vivek Sinha



When God created the world, he blessed us with three deities: Alvin, Simon, and Theodore. Such great minds such as Aristotle, Plato, Voltaire, and John Locke have all debated which of the three monks are the most powerful. For those of you that don't know, Alvin and the Chipmunks are the greatest band of our generation. They debuted in the late 1950s as a television cartoon, but recently had a revival in the mid-2000s filmographic masterpiece, *Alvin and the Chipmunks* and the subsequent four films. Each of the sequels has music that combines the greatness of Mozart's eloquent notes, Elvis Presley's catchy beats, and Playboi Carti's use of undecipherable language. Simon, the tall nerdy one with glasses, able to do quick maths in his big-big brain. He is the bassist of the band. Theodore, able to consume the masses with his big-big belly. He plays the drums. Alvin wears a red hoodie. The greatest debate of all time, I am here to give the final answer. Although the mainstream media may try to convince you that Alvin is most popular, according to my own independent survey conducted from 9/18/19 to 9/19/19, only 33 of 147 people voted for Alvin as the superior squirrel. Theodore consumed 72 votes, an immense 49% of the population. Simon stands in the middle with 38.6% of the votes. I am personally very biased for Theodore, as he reps DBlock gang with his green hoodie, but the Simon viewpoint is also

See **CHIPMUNK DEBATE** on C5

History's Biggest Mystery: The Obama Controversy

By Owen Ivancic



What is my purpose? Why am I here? These are some of the most asked questions throughout time. One has surfaced in recent years: What is Obama's last name? This question has confused many, even shocked scholars. At first glance it may seem like a simple question, his last name is obviously Oba- wait. How can Obama's last name... be Obama? This question has flourished in recent months, with many people on social media sites like Facebook and Twitter asking this humorous statement. Whether or not people are being serious or joking, this topic has been shared on the likes of Reddit and Instagram.

Recently this inquiry has had a revival, with a new format on YouTube. This format shows people doing funny acts that defy the laws of time, science, and even space, with captions similar to "This is how the person who knows Obama's last name ____." Lots of different types of media with this kind of format are being created and spread (like one for Dr. Phil), where people do unrealistic things and are labeled as people who can do/know unrealistic things. These pictures and videos set out to show that people who know answers to simple, yet intriguing questions like the Obama one are somehow otherworldly.

It is said that humans only use 10% of their true brainpower. Maybe 90% has the secret to these questions, and maybe unlocking those questions will show us how to do these acts that the people who know the answers already learned.

Mortal Kombat 11 DLC Reveals Characters, Old and New

By Arnav Sawant

Mortal Kombat 11 was released in April of this year with no hints of additional content. Last seen since *Mortal Kombat 2011*, characters from the first *Mortal Kombat* game make their return to play, or analyze, for further lore. However, guest characters continue to make their way into the franchise, such as Alien and Predator in *Mortal Kombat X*. This year, out of nowhere, Ed Boon, an employee at Netherrealm Studios, revealed Shang Tsung, the first character in this year's first Kombat Pack.

Shang Tsung is a sorcerer who dabbles

in dark magic and the otherworldly. In the *Mortal Kombat* universe, there are four major realms: Outworld, Earthrealm, Netherrealm, and Edenia. Shang Tsung is believed to be from Earthrealm but has spent most of his years in Outworld serving the now deceased emperor, Shao Kahn (who is also a playable character, available free, by pre-ordering the game). Shang Tsung was also the boss of the very first *Mortal Kombat* game, so this character reveal excited most long-time fans. At the end of the reveal video, three other major characters were announced, along with

two anonymous guest characters. This tease was the push the game needed, and popularity soared exponentially.

The other three characters, Nightwolf, Sindel, and Spawn, were announced but with no reveal date. Nightwolf was just a normal man, living a casual life in the Matokan Tribe. He was a historian before Shao Kahn attacked Earthrealm during the events of *Mortal Kombat 3*. He saw the people of Earthrealm get murdered without mercy, helpless. However, he had known of this invasion. The natural spirits of his

See **MORTAL KOMBAT** on C7

FLYING GORILLAS from C2

there was no other option, I pressed the button labeled “1”. A yellow screen appeared showing me the rules. I read them and pressed the red play button. This initiated the game-play.

I took one look at the screen and was instantly blown away by the sheer quality of the graphics. They, in my opinion, surpass even the graphics of the latest 3D games like GTA V. The next thing I noticed was the very good sprite choice. The gorilla appeared to really be flying; its arms were out-

stretched and it was steadily going forward while hovering over a very colorful river. The controls were very responsive and did not hesitate at all when I dragged my finger across the screen to rotate the gorilla left and right.

When I finished deftly dodging the obstacles presented to me in the level, a “spin” wheel popped up. I pressed the wheel twice to claim my prize, which was a whopping 2G. I felt very thankful that the developer gave me the chance to win G (the game’s currency) for free.

Look at how much I won!

After playing a few more levels (137), I decided to check out the other things this great application has to offer. There is, inevitably, an infinite mode, where you can even compete with the top professional Flying Gorilla players in the world!

I also discovered a sort of bingo machine which dispenses colored balls. Each ball has a different meaning associated with it - blue balls increase the value of your coin, while green ones increase your chances of getting colored balls and so on. Through this machine, I obtained golden eggs, which I

found you can trade for skins. This was great news for me as I was getting tired of seeing the same old gorilla sprite in the game (not that it was bad or anything). I eventually obtained all of the available skins.

All in all, this game is extremely high quality. The gameplay is terrific, the bingo minigame is also top tier fun, the storyline is immersive, and the skins are very intriguing. I want to see this app reach #1 on both the Play Store and the App Store.

K-12 from C1

Martinez began working on the album after the release of *Cry-baby* in 2015 and finished it in 2017. The first teaser released in May of 2019 with 20-second snippets of each track accompanied with short animations that were released throughout June and July. The official trailer came out on July 23, revealed that the album would be released September 6 and that the film would premiere in select theaters on the fifth.

A breakthrough album for the 24-year-old Queens artist as an international film, at last, portrays the most impactful issues today in under an hour of music. Decorating the ugly truth in pastel and sweet colors, she prioritizes her art and beliefs over monetary success as she released the film on YouTube for free on Sep-

tember 6. She takes her delicate, airy voice to a new level in this bitter treat. No villains punished and no heroes honored in the film, she strives for a world of only no inequality.

Although reviewed well by critics overall, the film has been criticized to consist of cheesy acting and little substance. But Martinez succeeds in her ultimate goal: a tart pill decorated in unique choreography, rich colors, and eccentric hair, make-up, and costumes. Never has her distinctive artistic voice shone in such a way. Overall, the film is truly captivating and the album full of styles, from ballads to odd ornaments, is a worthy 45 minutes to listen to and 96 minutes to watch.

FASHION from C2

shopping at H&M, as their products are of much better quality, while still being fairly priced.

Next, think about what your closet can use while shopping. If you’re looking for something specific while out, try to only buy that item instead of impulse buying things you may not need. Go through your cart before checking out and think to yourself, “Do I really need this? Don’t I already have something like this? How much wear can I really get out of this?” If you find yourself questioning how much you like a piece, then it’s not for you. Avoid buying those random items you just sort of like, and instead, save up for items you fall in love with or could really use in your wardrobe.

Think about the cost of items when shopping, too. Sure, this shirt might only be five dollars. But if you use that excuse ten times, haven’t you just spent fifty dollars on items you may not really want? The money adds up! And there’s a difference between being blown away by how inexpensive an item that you really

want is verses just throwing something into your cart because it’s cheap.

If you are, however, looking to go on a large inexpensive shopping spree to fill some holes in your closet, then check out those second hand shops! Stores and sites like Goodwill, Salvation Army, Depop, Plato’s Closet, and Second Chic are all

Avoid buying those random items you just sort of like, and instead, save up for items you fall in love with or could really use in your wardrobe.

great places to spend a lot to get a lot. Plus, buying second hand is so great for the environment!

Don’t be afraid to check out those discount stores, either. The price cuts at TJ

Maxx and Marshalls can sometimes be too big to believe! They often have a large assortment from many different brands, so it’s a great way to explore other companies that you may have never thought to purchase from. Check out Target while you’re at it, too! Over the past few years, they’ve really worked on making an inclusive and fashionable selection to choose from at their stores. It’s always great to support inclusivity!

Finally, look out for those sales! Big sales normally happen around holidays and long weekends, as companies know people will have the time to shop. This way, you can buy more without having as much remorse. Save up for these dates so you can be prepared to shop! The less often you shop, the more you will have in your pocket to spend on those big shopping excursions. RIP my wallet during long weekends.

So that’s it! It’s easier than ever to serve looks on a low budget now with so many different means of buying clothes. And although your budget may be lacking as of lately, your fashion sense doesn’t have to!

CHIPMUNK DEBATE from C4

very valid and a close second. People also like Alvin. The reasons for Theodore being the best Chipmunk is due to his very cushiony soft cheeks, his ability to down corn dogs very quickly, and

his personality. By using stats, facts, and logic, Theodore is the most loved choice for the best chipmunk, with Simon being a close second. Alvin also is a chipmunk in the band.

BORDERLANDS 3 from C2

You’re going to venture to several varied and beautiful planets, each standing out visually in a way the series rarely has before. This time around, you and your team of up to four will take control of Moze the Gunner, Zane the Operative, Amara the Siren, or FL4K the Beastmaster. They’re a personable bunch: FL4K’s backhanded compliments are always good for a laugh and Moze’s mid-combat pop-culture references are pulled from refreshingly eclectic sources like Ariana Grande and John Wick. They’re fairly standard fare for a *Borderlands* game at this point, but unlike the previous games’ casts, every class has their versatility boosted by a choice between three different action skills selectable at the top of each notably beefed-up skill tree – except for Moze who gets to customize her mech’s loadout.

The cast of supporting characters found in these cosmic backwaters candidly edge out the generic but somewhat amusingly villainous Calypso Twins when it comes to delivering a compelling story. Interacting with Rhys Strongfork (of Tales from the *Borderlands* fame), Katagawa Jr, and Wainwright Jakobs (the figureheads of the Atlas, Maliwan, and Jakob's megacorporations, respectively) provided interesting insight into the ideological differences between my favorite gun manufacturers. It’s a wonderful marriage of storytelling and gameplay that gives extra depth to the weaponry you collect.

Similarly, I love that *Borderlands* continues to put player characters from the previous games into major roles. Lilith, the original playable Siren,

shines in her role as the leader of the Crimson Raiders. But not everyone is doing as well when she hits home. For example, visiting the memorial for Roland, who was my very first Vault Hunter back in the day, and finding it littered with heartfelt graffiti certainly struck a sentimental nerve.

There will always be something you like in this game. Even optional missions are creative and enjoyable. This meaningful weapon variance is further helped along by a greater emphasis on what differentiates each manufacturer. For instance, all Vladof weapons can switch between two firing modes, like a Gatlin gun that toggles to an under-slung grenade launcher, while the Children of the Vault weapons don’t need to be reloaded at all, but can overheat and need to cool off if you hold down the trigger too long.

But what's most impressive about *Borderlands 3*’s arsenal is how these in-game weapons look and feel when you use them. It’s the delightful little touches – like cocking the hammer on a revolver, the red-hot smoking barrel of a shotgun, or a bolt chattering away on an assault rifle – that are the types of details I'd expect to see on handcrafted models, not these procedurally assembled ones. In the same vein, many of the game’s weapons feel fantastic with a mouse and keyboard on PC, thanks to pronounced recoil and crisp sound design.

My only minor criticism of the game’s gunplay is that the sight picture (the parts of your gun that appear on the screen when you raise it to your eye) on many weapons too often obscure your target, somewhat defeating the purpose of including the ability to aim

down sights in the first place.

Then comes the best of all loot: legendaries. Like in *Borderlands 2*, these guns and gadgets fill out the upper echelon of the loot table with handcrafted effects that are, in many cases, a celebration of how far *Borderlands 3* is willing to go to be absurd and surprising. My favorites so far are the Laser-Sploder that spits out rockets and a laser at the same time, the Cloud Kill (Maya, anyone?) which leaves enemies choking on corrosive fumes, and (through what must be the result of a backroom handshake deal between Texas-based developers) the Hellwalker, which is a dead ringer for the Super Shotgun from Doom.

It should come as no surprise that you’ll be getting plenty of use out of these guns thanks to a varied and creative horde of enemies. While the familiar menagerie of foes like bandits, skags, spiderants, and more all return with fresh coats of paint, you’ll also encounter a handful of new archetypes like the monstrous tink-topped hag or a long shot sniper.

Without giving too much away, you’ll also square up against several new enemy types. *Borderlands 3* is at its most hit-or-miss in the quality of its boss encounters, which, frankly, are all over the place. The bulk of them (especially toward the end of the campaign) are particularly good. There’s the exemplary Agonizer 9000, who comes complete with crit spots, flaming vents to dodge, a massive saw blade to jump over or slide under, and even a second phase which mixes things up further. And the good news is that every other boss with major plot significance follows this great formula: precise telegraphs,

challenging mechanics, and mostly avoidable damage.

Your adventure doesn’t end when the credits roll. *Borderlands 3* has several new ways to play, most notably Mayhem Mode, which incrementally ups the difficulty and adds random effects (like Double Whammy which doubles projectiles fired) to some enemies for greater rewards. After unlocking Mayhem Mode you’ll also start earning all-new Guardian Ranks which provide further stat increases like gun damage and cool effects like increased loot luck after scoring a kill. Couple this with True Vault Hunter (AKA new game plus), the Circle of Slaughter (horde mode by any other name still smells as sweet), and the all-new Proving Grounds (sort of like a non-randomized Diablo 3 rift) and there are many enjoyable ways to skin the endgame cat – more than we’ve seen in any previous *Borderlands* game.

My Verdict: If *Borderlands 3* is what happens when a modern looter shooter doesn’t concern itself with the longevity of its item economy and daily quests, then you can sign me up for *Borderlands 4* right now. Being untethered from persistent servers and able to trade loot at will is a refreshing change of pace, but that’s hardly the only reason why this such an amazing co-op FPS. The sheer magnitude and diversity of its arsenal of fun and surprising weaponry is unmatched, and the striking amount of loving detail and variety packed into its energetic and replayable 30-hour campaign is what makes *Borderlands 3* a high-point for the series – and the genre as a whole.

Available on



The East Side Newspaper

Twice As
Interesting



MINGUS from C1

career was fueled with struggle. At one point, in 1962, Mingus faced a tremendous disaster. He held a concert of his jazz band but with a twist, they would perform as if they were in the process of recording a new track. But this wasn’t any ordinary track, this was a composition full of virtuosity, a chaotic and captivating piece of music that nobody was prepared for. This was, as Mingus said, his “master symphony,” which would later become one of his most famous works. Overall, the concert was a failure, the audience left, none of the musician’s were prepared for Mingus’s virtuosic and strange parts, and it all crumbled as the performance went on. This devastated Mingus, and would be one of the multiple times that drove him into a depressed state. Mingus wouldn’t perform, nor write for many years, in one instance he gave up on music and became a wedding photographer in New York. In another instance in 1966, Mingus was evicted from his New York apartment and later arrested for suspected drug use after a hypodermic needle was found in his possession. On the day of his arrest, while being escorted out by police, Mingus responded to an interviewer who asked if he believed he was persecuted because he was a jazz musician. Mingus responded, “No, I really think I’m being helped... I don’t know, I think that maybe they just didn’t get to see what’s going on the so-called ‘jazz addition in life.’ So maybe this is the police really helping me I don’t know.”

Nearing the end of his life, Mingus was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as ALS or Lou Gherig’s Disease. As the condition ate away at his body, Mingus lost the virtuosic bass playing you would hear in his earlier tracks. By the time he lost any physical ability in his legs and arms, he would sing and whistle melodies and ideas into a tape recorder that his last of many wives, Sue Mingus, would help record. Charles Mingus succumbed to ALS and passed away peacefully on January 5th, 1979, in Cuernavaca Mexico, his death shocked the world and the musicians that have worked with him for decades.

But what makes Charles Mingus stand out from the crowd besides his associated acts and his life? Well most commonly associated with Mingus is his temper and personality. Most people know Mingus as a hot-headed and incredibly dynamic character. In the words of Mingus’s close friend, Gunther Schuller “He could be as calm and as sweet as a two month old baby, and two hours later he could explode like Vesuvius, you know and everything in between.” In an eyewitness account, Mingus was performing at a small nightclub in New York City and got into an argument with the pianist and later other players. Mingus reportedly got so furious he put his hand into the piano and ripped out its strings and left the club and performed with another group.

Mingus was on the forefront of jazz, avant-garde, and American music all together

Mingus, asides from his volatile temperament, was also known to have periods of severe depression, from the deaths of his close friends to his previously mentioned failure of a concert, but also very charismatic. His first wife, Celia Mingus Zaentz, spoke about Mingus reading her poetry when they first met. He also wrote compositions for his two separate wives, “Celia” and “Sue’s Changes.”

But what’s mostly overlooked about Mingus is his music and style. Mingus was on the forefront of jazz, avant-garde, and American music all together. His music churns a visceral struggle with limited release, like a bomb that is about to explode, with the only problems being that you cannot disable the bomb, and that the bomb is increasingly getting bigger without any signs of it stopping its growth. World renowned jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis describes what Mingus did with music in probably the

most easily understandable way in the documentary “Charles Mingus Triumph of the Underdog,” “I feel that he’s doing what all the musicians try to do and that is to always reexamine the basic elements, the things that give whatever the particular art form is its greatest power.” And its greatest power he gave. During the Civil Rights Movement, two notable compositions of Mingus invoke the emotions of the movement. “It Was a

Lonely Day in Selma Alabama” is a repeated sung chant that is followed by a speedy solo section that returns to the previous melancholy chant. “Fables of Faubus” is a composition in mockery of the governor of Arkansas, Orval Faubus with some of the spoken lyrics being “Oh, Lord, don't let 'em shoot us! Oh, Lord, don't let 'em stab us! Oh, Lord, no more swastikas! Oh, Lord, no more Ku Klux Klan!” Those lyrics can still be heard in some recordings, such as the recording from the Mingus Big Band album “Gunslinging Birds.”

Charles Mingus is one of the very few musicians who have made themselves incomparable in any way, in composition, in personality, in appearance, in performance, and in finesse. Charles Mingus was many things, a composer, a band leader, a writer, a lover, a fighter, a caring human, and a volatile one, and a charismatic and enigmatic one as well. At rest, but strained. In your face, but laid back. Sweet, but explosive. Beyond this world, but human. Decades after his peaceful death, after his ashes were spread across the Ganges River in India, his music still lives and breathes. Through various bands such as the Mingus Big Band, Mingus Dynasty, and other large jazz bands that perform his music multiple times. Mingus wrote an autobiography called “Beneath the Underdog” (1971), and in there reads a quote that perfectly sums up Mingus’s relationship between himself and music as this year approaches Mingus’s 98th birthday this year. “My music is evidence of my soul’s will to live.”

MORTAL COMBAT from C4

lands chose him as the protector of the Matoka. He adopted the name, Nightwolf, and swore to protect Earthrealm with his life. He has contact with the Elder Gods and Raiden, a demi-god of lightning in case of severe emergency.

Sindel was the ruler of Edenia, ruling with her daughter Kitana until her realm lost 10 consecutive Mortal Kombat tournaments. As a consequence, her realm was forced to merge with Outworld, with the ruler of that time being the one and only Shao Kahn. Rather than succumbing to him, she killed herself. Sindel is rather a mixed character, as she exists in multiple timelines with different results. In one timeline, she is alive with no memory of her suicide, as she was revived by Shang

Tsung. In another she is revived by a different sorcerer, pledging complete loyalty to him and stopping Earthrealm. However, in any timeline that she is revived, she possesses extreme vocal powers. This makes her a formidable opponent.

Finally, the last non-guest character is Spawn. Spawn is a very mysterious character, also being significant as the first character to come in any DLC from the comic book series. He was a human that served for the US Marine Corps before being employed in the CIA. When Al Simmons (Spawn) wanted to retire, his boss ordered Simmon’s partner to kill him. He succeeded and, because Al was an assassin, he was sent to hell for his crimes. Simmons pleaded to see his wife once more to

the devil. He was restored, but with no memory of his previous life. He now roams Earthrealm with a bloodlust that is insatiable.

And saving the best for last, Joker and the Terminator T-800. Both these characters were announced and revealed in the full Kombat Pack Trailer. The Terminator T-800 is the newest model and is the same one as in the upcoming *Terminator* movie. As for the Joker... He’s the Joker. Both these guest characters were extremely hyped up and well worth the wait. Now it’s time for the real wait. I can’t wait to see Joker performing some fatalities without the boundaries of the DC fighting games!

Trump and Cuomo Vape Ban

By Dan Purizhansky

Throughout the last three months, as reports of illness related to vaping have been dominating news headlines, public health advocates have called upon the government to take direct action to curb the vaping epidemic. Although most vaping-related illnesses have been tied to the consumption of vaporized cannabis oils (aka dabs), much of the public discourse around this topic has been focused on nicotine e-cigarettes, the use of which has exploded among the teen and young adult populations over the past few years.

On September 11, 2019, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, Alex Azar, announced the Trump administration’s intention to ban flavored e-cigarettes and nicotine pods in the coming weeks. In relation to the vaping epidemic, President Trump said “We can’t allow people to get sick. And we can’t have our kids be so affected.” Although tobacco-flavored vape juice would be allowed to remain on

the market, the Trump administration followed the lead of the state of Michigan and the City of San Francisco to remove sugary flavors like Creme Brulee or Cotton Candy that have especially attracted the youth to nicotine.

On Sunday, September 15th, following the lead of the federal government, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced an emergency executive order that would prohibit the sale of e-cigarettes in the state for a period of 90 days after a two week period. This move comes after the New York Legislature raised the nicotine purchase age from 18 to 21.

Although advocates of this policies applaud the Cuomo and Trump administrations for taking action to curb underage vaping, critics claim that this ban will only lead to greater amounts of bootleg vape juice and will cause previous smokers to go back to smoking tobacco which is far more harmful.

iPhone 11 Review

By Vedant Ombase



Source: Apple.com

If you are already part of the iOS ecosystem and you want to get an upgrade, the bottom line of this review is this: you should get an iPhone 11. The rest of this article will get into the reasons why.

The iPhone 11 is already seen by many critics as an excellent phone with amazing battery life and a price drop of \$50 from previous year’s iPhone XR (\$749). This phone does not have all of the bleeding edge technology that is found on the iPhone 11 Pro, but it manages to cut close to the chase and also would save you a \$300-sized hole in your wallet. Starting off with the display, the iPhone 11 has a 6.1 inch 720p LCD that is almost identical to last year’s XR. From the front, the phone looks exactly like an iPhone XR, but the back looks fairly different, which leads us to the upgraded cameras. The camera bump is now milled directly into the glass body and sports two separate cameras that support ultra wide lens, allowing for a greater viewing angle from a vantage point. Battery life has been juiced up only by an hour, as compared to the iPhone XR, which for most if not all people, should be enough to last an entire day. This new phone also ships with the A13 Bionic chip, with should be able to give you an edge over other phones like the iPhone X and below (the difference in speed is unnoticeable from the 10 and up). These are the things that people care about the most and what really matters in a smartphone. I believe that the iPhone 11 has nailed these areas and is therefore a great buy.

Scared of Death?

By Allison Li

It may seem morbid, but the fear of death may affect much of our decision making, regardless of if we are aware of it or not. A group of three psychologists - Sheldon Solomon, Tom Pyszczynski and Jeff Greenberg - have developed the theory of terror management, inspired by cultural anthropologist Ernest Becker. They’ve elaborated on the idea that people form mental defenses to avoid the fear of death. To cope with this fear, we usually turn to our culture and belief systems to validate our purpose.

In order to build more evidence for this theory, Solomon, Pyszczynski and Greenberg

have conducted multiple studies, one of which involved a group of municipal court judges. One group acted as a control and the other group filled out a questionnaire asking about their thoughts on their own mortality. Then, they were shown a court case of an alleged prostitute and asked how much bail they would set. The control group gave a standard amount of around \$50, but surprisingly, the other group had set a bail of roughly \$455.

Another study had people think about mortality or something unpleasant. When they were shown a newspaper article of a citizen stopping a bank

robbery, the control group suggested that the citizen should receive a monetary reward of around \$1,000, while the experimental group averaged over \$3,000. Essentially, when people are confronted with thoughts of mortality, they turn to their beliefs and cultural influences, support those who share similar beliefs, and serve justice on those who differ.

Fear of death also influences our self esteem. A study on Israeli soldiers found that when placed in a driving simulation, while the control group drove at a standard pace, the group that was reminded of death, those whose self esteem

was based on their driving skills ended up driving more recklessly. Another study involved individuals who value basketball, and when reminded of death, they would shoot better at the foul line. And yet another study directed at those who had pride in their strength showed that when they were given something to squeeze and reminded of death, they tended to squeeze harder.

As dark as it may seem, recognizing the concept of mortality may increase your self awareness and help you navigate life with more maturity.

Sophomore Goalkeeper Shines in Start of Schiappa Soccer Era

By Matt Small

The new boys’ varsity soccer coach, Tony Schiappa, values three pillars of team culture: Competition is King, Energy is Everything, and Bringing a Professional Approach.

Sophomore goalkeeper Jack Root embodies these values, which has led him to be the team’s starter.

“We didn’t know if we were gonna take him, we didn’t know if we were gonna be put him on JV,” said senior captain Evan Olszewski, “but he stepped up right away.”

Root’s dedication to the team began much earlier than tryouts, according to Schiappa, who praises his professionalism, which he says is rare for a varsity athlete his age.

“In April, he’s texting me, giving me updates on his club team. That means his mind’s always thinking,” Schiappa said, “This summer [the players] had to send their day-by-



Photo: Amherst Bee

day workouts to me. Jack’s was significantly more thorough than the rest of the group. Right there you saw the commitment.”

Entering training camp in mid-July, two upperclassmen stood ahead of Root on the position depth chart. Although the competition was stiff, Root remained focused.

“I was just gonna take

what’s mine,” Root said, “I thought that I was the best keeper and that I was gonna start.”

Root’s on-field performance and strong communication skills drew attention from his coaches and teammates. Although it’s common for goalies to be strong communicators, it’s rare for a young goalie to have that confidence so early.

Root owes that confidence to his teammates.

“It’s my teammates’ trust in me,” Root said, “it’s nice to have teammates backing you up no matter whatever happens.”

That confidence showed in back-to-back shutouts for Root in victories over Maryvale and City Honors in the Williamsville South Labor Day Tournament. It also boiled over to league play, where Root had strong performances in wins over Amherst, Sweet Home, and Starpoint.

“He’s loud, he’s commanding, he’s what this program wanted as a goalie,” said Olszewski.

The team looks to continue their strong start to the season in quest of another sectional championship. And with a strong backbone at keeper, they should have a great chance at doing so.

Team USA Finishes 7th in FIBA World Cup

By Neel Cheruvu



Marcus Smart (40), Jaylen Brown (33), Jayson Tatum (34), and Kemba Walker (26) all participated in the 2019 FIBA World Cup in China.

After many notable NBA stars decided to opt out of Team USA for the 2019 FIBA World Cup, there were low expectations. But even for these low expectations, Team USA may have performed even worse than pundits thought. Led by Kemba Walker and young talent in Donovan Mitchell and Jayson Tatum, this year’s team was expected to compete for the gold medal

and bring the USA back to its glory days of dominating basketball.

However, they completely and utterly underachieved, finishing 7th, their worst ever. There were no superstars on the roster, and Kemba Walker and Khris Middleton were the only All-Stars. After looking good in their first game against the Czech Republic, they somehow squeezed out a 1-point

win against Turkey in the next game. They went on to beat Japan, Greece, and Brazil before losing to Rudy Gobert and France. They still had the chance for a high-place finish, but they dropped the subsequent game to Serbia. They ended it off with a win against Poland, but Team USA fans were quick to chastise them for the poor performance and low-place finish.

This team is arguably the worst FIBA team the USA has ever put out, but hopefully they return to glory in the 2020 Olympics. NBA superstar Stephen Curry has already committed to next year’s Olympics, and we are expecting to see a lot more stars join him on their quest for US glory.

HOMECOMING





Y. Zhou



Y. Zhou

COMICS



EAST SIDE NEWS PRESENTS

**OPEN MIC
NIGHT AT THE
COFFEE HOUSE!**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH
7-9 IN THE COMMONS

Student musicians, poets, etc. are welcome. Join us for cheap and delicious food and drinks!

A photograph of a man with short brown hair, wearing a dark red t-shirt and blue jeans, sitting on a black stool and playing an acoustic guitar. He is positioned in front of a microphone on a stand. To his right, there is a black music stand and a black amplifier. The background is dark, and the lighting is focused on the performer.

HOMECOMING 2019

It's gonna be a sweet victory for us! Freshmen are the best!



I'll extract the competition and leave only us, the Sophomores as the winners!



You're all getting sunk today! Juniors, man your stations!



You know, life isn't fair sometimes. Having to face us Seniors is one example of that.



2019-2020 East Side News Editorial Board

Advisors:

Mr. Huber, Mrs. Lanzone

Managing Editors:

Nikitha Kamath, Jaiha Lee

Editor-in-Chief:

Gabe Guo

Business Manager:

Vikki Kang

Photography Editor:

Yilia Zhou

Web Master:

Henry Su

Features/East Editor:

Dan Krieger

National Editor:

Elise Yu

International Editor

Maler Suresh

Entertainment Editor:

Prabhnoor Singh

Sci-Tech Editor:

Daniel Purizhansky

Sports Editor:

Neel Cheruvu

Finance/Business Editor:

Ryan Chou

Comic Editor:

James Liu

Video Editor:

Leo Yana-Romero

Marketing:

Olivia Rooks

Join us Wednesdays after school in Computer Lab Room 204