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INTERVIEW WITH MRS. CHARLESON-SMITH

By Gabe Guo



Photo: Yilia Zhou

Where did you go to school? After graduating from Amherst High School, I studied speech pathology at UB. While at UB, I worked at a group home and as a teacher's assistant. Every step gave me more background and insight, and when the time came, I decided that I wanted to have my own classroom. So, I got my first master's degree in Special Education at D'Youville

College. Later on, I got my second master's degree in Educational Leadership and Policy at UB.

How did you get into educational administration? I used to be an alternative and special education teacher at Falk School, then Kensington High School in the City of Buffalo, until it closed down. I worked with kids who behaved and learned a little bit differently, to give

them that extra attention that they needed. I wanted to do more for these kids and have a bigger impact, but I didn't think that the program had enough administrative backing. So, I initially trained to be a Director of Special Education, but I ended up being the Assistant Principal at Frontier High School for 16 years. That being said, when I was younger, I wouldn't have known that I was going to

See **CHARLESON-SMITH** on A3

TOP 5 TIPS FOR GETTING BETTER SLEEP

By Mia Miller

We all already know that sleep is important. A good night's sleep leaves us feeling well rested and ready to tackle a brand new day. However, we're teenagers, and getting good sleep can be a challenge. Most of us have had that one night that we just felt too anxious or too restless to hit the hay. We've spent hours studying excessively for a stressful exam, running on caffeine

and adrenaline. We've even spent all-nighters texting our friends or trying to beat that one level in a video game, whether you want to admit it or not.

Not getting enough sleep is normal in moderation, and should even be expected from high school students. The teenage brain has been proven to produce melatonin, the hormone that regulates sleep, later at night than the brains of kids

and adults. Our brains naturally want to stay up later than we're supposed to. Unfortunately, this isn't an excuse to consistently stay up until four in the morning. Teens need more sleep than adults to function properly, but why are we getting less sleep?

I asked a variety of high school students about their sleeping habits. I found that

See **SLEEP TIPS** on A2

COMMENTARY

WHAT'S EATING YOU?

By Emma Kelsall

Imagine the scene. It's a Friday night and you've just gotten home from an exhausting week at school. All you want to do is kick your feet up and relax. You switch on the TV to Real Talk with Bill Maher and he's talking about something called 'fat shaming'. He rambles on, claiming, "fat shaming doesn't need to end, it needs to make a comeback." Maybe as the show continues you tire of it, scrolling mindlessly through your Instagram feed, littered with the perfect models and the muscular gym bros we all follow and love. Perhaps as all these factors come into play, you begin to regret those Cheetos that you devoured at lunch and start to feel like you're not good enough because of the way you look.

Perhaps some of you may relate to parts of that. Perhaps for some, it hits too close to home. Perhaps, and though you may not realise it, you or a loved one may have developed an eating disorder. But what are eating disorders? Why are they so serious? What can be done to help?

Eating disorders are an umbrella term for a range of conditions relat-

See **WHAT'S EATING YOU?** on A4

POLITICAL FORUM CLUB

By Seth Gellman

Political Forum is a club where members respectfully discuss their perspectives on a wide range of issues. The club is run by Dr. Redmond and meets on Thursdays. It meets biweekly and always has interesting topics. Some of these topics include gun control, the current situation in Venezuela, surveillance by the Chinese government, reparations, and Brexit. Each week the members vote on the topic that will be discussed in the next meeting. The first topic of the year was gun control, which was discussed on October 3rd.

At the club meetings, all opin-
See **POLITICAL FORUM** on A2

Film Appreciation Society Starts Off Year

By Leonardo Yana-Romero



Source: Wikipedia Commons

Film Appreciation Society kicked off the 2019-2020 school year with a viewing of *The Dark Knight* on Thursday October 3rd, in light of the highly anticipated release of *Joker*. The next screening is *Scream* and will be held on October 24th.

Film Appreciation Society is a club for students to relax and unwind with others in a community setting. The club is run by two co-advisors: Mrs. Pankow and Mr. Raskopf. The first meeting of the year, which took place in September, consists of members listing movies that they would like to watch this year. The movie line-up for

the year is then decided democratically through a vote.

Meetings normally consist of a talk beforehand about movie and a discussion after the movie if one is interested. The club encourages these kinds of interactions because it defines the environment which as mentioned before is that of a community with an interest that unifies it. Mr. Raskopf explains that, “It is a club that’s designed to try to get people to watch movies the way everybody used to watch movies — together in one room, hearing other people reacting as a community experience. It’s also an

excuse to eat popcorn.”

Mr. Raskopf is not only an advisor to the club, but also a passionate movie lover. He grew up watching movies with his brother and quoting movie lines. He would later go on to study Film and Television at Boston University with a concentration in screenwriting. His passion for movies still remains strong and he says that, “Even though I have kids now, I still try to get out to the movies as often as possible.”

The club’s goal for this year is to partner with more clubs for screenings. An example being the screening of *Spotlight*

which was done in collaboration with the East Side News last year. The partnerships with other clubs would help spread Film Appreciation Society’s name and message throughout the school.

To sum up what Film Appreciation Society is, it is a club for anyone and everyone who wants to relax a little through watching a movie and eating popcorn. Also, members are not required or pressured to go to every single screening. One may come on by whenever it works.

POLITICAL FORUM from A1

ions are welcome. Some people play the devil’s advocate to provide a different perspective to the discussion. It is recommended, but not necessary, to do research on the topic being discussed so that everybody is more informed

and there is little to no misinformation. Members are encouraged to participate in discussions as everybody can provide a different perspective that nobody else had thought of before. It is interesting to hear the perspectives of everybody, regardless of

age.

Last year at the gun control discussion, there were many people on both sides of the aisle. The discussion evolved into a debate on the morality of owning guns and whether a “good guy” with a gun would realistically stop a “bad

guy” with a gun. At that meeting, many people had very different viewpoints but nobody spoke over one another and the discussion was respectful. By the end of the discussion, some peoples’ opinion on the matter changed because of the fascinating points

and statistics that others were bringing up.

Political Forum is a place where students can safely discuss their opinions without the fear of backlash or hurtful comments. The next meeting on October 17th is certainly worth attending.

SLEEP TIPS from A1

freshmen are the absolute worst at getting a decent amount of sleep (or maybe they just exaggerate more than the upperclassmen). Most freshmen claimed to only get 4-6 hours of sleep a night, while many upperclassmen were getting 6-8 hours a night. “I think I get four hours of sleep on a good night,” says Williamsville East freshman, Gia Panesar. Maybe it’s the stress of being in a new building with

so many unfamiliar faces. It could be the pressure from all the honors classes many freshmen flood their schedules with. Perhaps they’re just not as experienced at getting decent sleep.

I used to be one of those restless freshmen, walking to and from classes like a brain-dead zombie after getting minimal sleep. I want you to know it is possible to change, and it’s not too late to start. I’m proud to say I went from being the

worst sleeper, to getting up to 8.5 hours a night. Now, I have some tips for you sleep-deprived freshies. Don’t be a brain-dead zombie every single day at school. Here are Mia’s Top 5 Tips For Staying On Top of Sleep.

1. Set a Routine. I know for high schoolers, routine can be a struggle. However, good sleep is set by having a solid routine that will benefit you later on. Try to go to bed at about the same time every night. This

will set a rhythm and pattern into your brain so sleeping earlier isn’t as big of an issue. Also, only get in your bed if you intend to sleep. I know it’s tempting to lay the warm covers as you do your homework or scroll through Instagram, but it’s better to do those on a couch or at a desk. Only going in bed to sleep creates a stronger connection in your brain between sleep and your bed. As soon as you lay your head on-

CHARLESON-SMITH from A1

work in education.

How did you end up at East? Although I loved my job at Frontier, I felt that I had met all the challenges there with the academics, behavior, families, and community, and I didn’t feel challenged anymore. So, I wanted to go to a different community that would give me new challenges.

What do you think of East so far? Having gone to Amherst High School, I had always heard different things about East’s lack of walls as a kid, and as an adult, I wondered how people worked at East. After I got hired, I found out that the reality is that these are the best and brightest teachers around. They’re on point, they always have to be ready to work, and give opportunities for their kids every minute. I was also in amazement that the kids can concentrate on tests while there’s noise in the next room. To be honest, though, nobody really understands East until they experience it, and before I knew it, I was immersed in the culture here. I won’t lie, I was a little bit nervous before I came here. But, the lack of walls was an eye-opening experience, because I saw how it led to this school spirit of collaboration and connection. There’s definitely a lot of school spirit here, and people are respectful, kind, and open with each other.

What’s your favorite part about your job? I love making connections with kids on all different levels, whether I see the

highest performing kids reach their goals, or I see the lowest performing kids learn how to make good choices. It’s really fulfilling to see them go from goofy freshmen to stellar seniors, and graduation is one of my favorite events of the year.

What’s your favorite memory from your job? It’s actually a recent one, from last Thanksgiving, my last year at Frontier. I was always in charge of their Thanksgiving holiday drive, and in 2018, we raised enough money from faculty, staff, and students to feed full Thanksgiving dinners to 100 families whose kids attended our school. I’m talking turkey, rolls, gravy, and vegetables. The best part of it was that the kids didn’t know that we had anything to do with their Thanksgiving dinners, and when I saw them in school the week after, they would talk about how awesome their Thanksgiving dinners were. It was nice to have that kind of relationship with families, like “let me help you out when you’re in need”, and to see that look of joy on the parents’ faces, especially when the kids had no idea.

Having been on both sides of education, what’s your favorite memory as a high school student? My favorite memory from high school was being vice president of student council and planning all the activities. Even the stress was more of a feeling of excitement. I really loved everything about high school.

I can definitely see the common thread

of wanting to help others in your life. So, what advice do you wish every high school student would live by? I’d say that it’s okay to be yourself, that it’s okay to be kind, that it’s okay to make mistakes as long as you learn and grow from these mistakes, and that one mistake doesn’t define who you are. And most of all, believe in yourself.

What’s your favorite food? Mashed potatoes.

What’s your favorite movie and TV show? My favorite movie is Coming to America, and my favorite show is Survivor.

What are your hobbies? Well, I do a lot of driving my kids from event to event, even though I’m not really sure if that counts as a hobby. I watch a lot of Notre Dame football and sports in general.

Speaking of sports, how do you think the Bills will finish the season? Being really optimistic, I’d like to say that they’ll finish 12-4 and make the playoffs.

Coffee or tea? I like tea, but it’s been my routine for many years to drink Diet Pepsi in the morning, because it’s quick and convenient.

Anything else you want the students of East to know about you? I really love the interactions with students, and I want to get to know them personally. So, stop by! Say hi! Don’t be afraid to have a conversation with me if you see me in the Commons.

SLEEP TIPS from A2

to your pillow at night,

2. Let There Be Dark.

There’s a good reason we sleep at night, and not during the day. Yes, it is easier to work in light, but it’s also because darkness triggers our brain to release more melatonin. Reduce the amount of light in your bedroom when you’re trying to sleep. This will let your brain know it’s about time for sleep. This means having curtains that can block out light from outside, putting away computers or phones, and shutting off any lamps or light sources that are blocking you from the wonderful sleep that awaits you.

3. Don’t Force It. There’s absolutely zero point in tossing and turning in bed for endless hours if it’s not getting you anywhere. That’s like trying to force yourself to eat when you’re completely stuffed: it won’t work and there’s no point. Lying awake in bed and watching the minutes tick by is only going to stress you out and increase your anxiety. It seems

counter productive, but you’re better off getting out of bed if you don’t feel any closer to sleep after 20 minutes of trying. Do a non-stimulating activity, such as reading a book, doodling, or writing an entry in a journal. You can also try deep breathing exercises or progressive muscle relaxation. These are meditative strategies proven to make you sleepier. YouTube has a large variety of videos that can help guide you through these techniques. These exercises are recommended by many professionals to those who are having trouble with sleep.

4. Spend Your Daytime Wisely. We do many activities every single day that you wouldn’t suspect would affect our ability to fall asleep hours later, but they do. Eating is a huge factor for sleep. You should never eat a large meal two hours before you intend to go to bed. Your body will be focused on digesting the food, and you may not be able to get a good quality of sleep. Don’t go to sleep on an empty stomach either. If you feel hungry,

it’s fine to eat a small snack before bed, such as a banana or yogurt. Never sleep on a full or an empty stomach; find a good balance. Exercising is also a factor. Exercise during the day helps you get better sleep at night, even if it’s just a relaxing walk around the neighborhood. Also, naps may be tempting if you’re exhausted, but don’t fall for them. Wake yourself up by engaging in household chores or homework. Naps will reduce your ability to fall asleep later on.

5. Believe In Yourself.

Cheesy, I know, but it’s true. If you just assume you could never possibly get more than five hours of sleep on a school night, you won’t even try. If you don’t bother to make an attempt, your sleep habits will never improve. Hey, everyone has to start somewhere. You should at least try to improve your sleep schedule, I can guarantee it’s worth it.

It’s also important to remember that too much sleep can be just as bad as too little sleep. Oversleeping may lead to

obesity, diabetes, heart disease, depression, and higher fatigue. Students should strive to get 7-9 hours of sleep each night.

You may be enticed into staying up to study for that test, but it’s not worth it if it means sacrificing sleep. Sleep deprivation leads to difficulty with thinking, concentrating, and memorizing facts. Those are all things necessary for taking a test, so you will probably do better if you get a healthy amount of sleep and study in the prior evening or the morning of the test.

A lot of getting good sleep is about time management. Get your homework done as soon as you can without stressing yourself out, study for tests in advance, and take technology out of your room so it isn’t distracting. You already know that sleep is important, and you’re probably tired of hearing it. Understanding why it’s important is half the battle. Get some sleep so you can ace that test, raise your grades, and become a more positive and healthy person.

WHAT'S EATING YOU? from A1

ing to abnormal or disturbed eating habits. There are many different types of eating disorders, commonly deriving from an obsession with food, weight or body shape. They can lead to serious and lifetime consequences, so it is important to spot and treat them as early as possible. Some of the most common eating disorders include:

Anorexia Nervosa - Perhaps the most well known of the eating disorders, sufferers of anorexia often view themselves as overweight, even if they are dangerously underweight. They will likely constantly monitor their weight, severely restrict their daily intake of calories and avoid eating certain types of food.

Bulimia Nervosa - Sufferers of bulimia will often eat large amounts of food in a short amount of time, a behaviour commonly referred to as ‘binging’. The sufferer tends to eat until they are painfully full and consume foods they would normally avoid. Binges are commonly followed by purging behaviours such as excessive exercise, diuretics, enemas, laxatives or forced vomiting.

Binge Eating Disorder - Only having been recognised as an eating disorder recently, sufferers tend to eat large amounts of food in a short period of time and tend to feel a loss of control during binges. However, they do not experience purging behaviours following these episodes.

EDNOS - This stands for “Eating Disorders Not Otherwise Specified.” One disorder that commonly falls under the EDNOS category, but is yet to be identified as a separate disorder is orthorexia, in which the sufferer is obsessed with having a healthy diet, meaning they may avoid foods containing artificial colours or flavourings, pesticides, GMO products, animal products and others.

The effects of these illnesses can be catastrophic. Many sufferers do not realize the damage such restriction or excessiveness does to their bodies. Electrolyte imbalances and breakdown of muscle tissue can result in heart failure and death. Severe dehydration can cause kidney failure. Periods of bingeing can cause gastric ruptures. Purging can cause inflammation and possible rupture of the esophagus. Peptic ulcers and pancreatitis are also possible. These effects may sound extreme and gruesome, but it is the unfortunate and very possible reality for those who live with these conditions.

Though these disorders are horrific things for the sufferers to go through they can be stopped early by identifying the symptoms. Here’s what to look out for:

- Obsessive behaviours around weight,

calories, carbohydrates, fat grams, or dieting

- Refusal to eat certain foods or entire categories of food (i.e. carbohydrates)
- Food rituals (such as excessive chewing, not letting food touch, eating alone, etc.)
- Appearing uncomfortable eating around others
- Skipping meals or eating very small portions at regular meals
- Withdrawal from usual people or activities
- Extreme concern with body size and shape and/or frequent checking of reflection for perceived flaws
- Extreme mood swings
- Noticeable weight fluctuations
- Gastrointestinal complaints (e.g. stomach cramps, constipation, acid reflux)
- Irregular menstruation patterns or not menstruating at all

The internet has become a breeding ground for pseudoscience and the impacts on those viewing it have been detrimental.

- Difficulty with concentration
- Dizziness or fainting especially when standing up
- Feeling cold all of the time
- Sleep problems
- Cuts or calluses across the top of finger joints (from bingeing/purging)
- Dental problems (e.g. enamel erosion, cavities, tooth sensitivity, discolouration)
- Dry skin and hair, brittle nails or bald patches
- Fine hair on body known as lanugo
- Muscle weakness
- Poor wound healing or impaired immune functioning

The Guardian claims that the current amount of hospital admissions for eating disorders are the highest in eight years. There were 7,260 recorded hospitalizations in relation to eating disorders in 2010. By April 2018, this number rose to 16,023 recorded cases, more than doubling the previous figure. But what caused these numbers to grow?

There are a multitude of reasons why there has been such an increase in these cases. Increased exam stress and societal and peer pressure could be causes, though perhaps the main one is the rise in usage of social media.

Social media has given platforms to many creators, who may themselves not even realize that their content is problematic, that enforce ideals which may encourage eating disorders. It is commonly known that everyone looks better on social media, through filters, angles and FaceTune, we can achieve our desired appearance. Despite this, it can be difficult to tell how much of the photograph is actually real, and can leave many with a warped perception of how their body should look, especially if posted on a large platform.

Furthermore, the rise of fitness blogs and fad diets has only been upheld by the rise of social media. While there is nothing wrong with working out and eating healthily, and many of these blogs encourage this in the right way, anyone and everyone can have a say. We’ve heard them all; keto this, paleo that, dairy is evil, carbs are a sin. However, the science behind these hardcore diets is difficult to prove. The internet has become a breeding ground for pseudoscience and the impacts on those viewing it have been detrimental. In fact, cutting out entire food groups has had lasting impacts even on those who push them. Early menopause and malnutrition have been the fate of many hardcore keto fitness bloggers and fans

alike. It can be difficult to distinguish the genuine scientists from the pseudoscientists when online. On the internet anyone can put out any information they want to, be it true or false, thus causing a multitude of problems and scams.

The overwhelming presence of the media only adds to the pressure upon young people. We consume media wherever we go. It’s on our phones, our televisions, our radios, plastered to the sides of buildings. The media is completely inescapable in our modern world, increasing the pressure to always look our best.

Though all is not lost. Early diagnosis is the best way to combat eating disorders. While these illnesses can be very complex and tough to deal with, the sooner someone gets help, the greater the chances of recovery. If you believe that you or a loved one is suffering, contact 1-800-931-2237 or go to www.nationaleatingdisorders.org for more information.

The Bidens and Ukraine: A Background

By Philip Baillargeon



Source: NPR

There are some stories that two people can read and they miraculously come to the polar opposite conclusion. This is such a story; therefore, the goal of this article is to lay out the actors, actions, and consequences of a story that Democrats have decided will be the backdrop to impeachment. Interpretation of these actions and the actions of President Trump will take place on the floor of Congress soon enough, so there is no need for any punditry here.

Hunter Biden is a lawyer and the middle son of former Vice President Joe Biden. His

early career focused on the founding of a venture capital firm, but it's his work in Ukraine that is under scrutiny today. In 2014, Hunter joined Burisma Holdings, a Ukrainian natural gas company founded by a man with ties to the Russian government. Vice President Joe Biden was leading an anti-corruption campaign in Ukraine at the time to strengthen the autonomy of the country, which included the withholding of \$1 billion in aid if Ukrainian prosecutor Viktor Shokin, the top prosecutor in Ukraine, wasn't removed promptly. The Ukrainian Parlia-

ment voted to remove Shokin on corruption charges shortly after a visit by Vice President Biden. Shokin had investigated Burisma throughout his time in office.

Burisma has been cleared of all wrongdoing by prosecutors in the United Kingdom, who temporarily froze the transfer of assets into the U.K., and the remaining investigations into the company taking place in Ukraine focus on years predating Hunter's involvement. The vice president's son's addition to the board was seen as a way to westernize the company to gain credibility after the oust-

ing of pro-Russian actors, which--although not an illegal act--is a questionable choice for the son of a prominent political figure. Former business partners of Hunter did not join Burisma because the company has such a history of corruption. Hunter himself maintains that it was his expertise in international affairs that got him the job, and the opportunity to reform the company through more transparency drew him in. Although critics accuse him of taking money and doing no work, effectively taking a bribe by Burisma, no evidence of

See **THE BIDENS** on B4

Nancy Pelosi's Impeachment Inquiry

By Anna Lin

Another day, another scandal. Yet it is not everyday our President is threatened to be impeached. Before getting into the meat of the article, one must be provided a backstory and, therefore, a cause to this nationwide drama.

Talk of the "Whistleblower Complaint", a scandal directly involving Trump as its main suspect, has filled every newspaper, radio broadcast, and political conversation for the past few weeks. This scandal involves a report filled out by an anonymous person, our whistleblower--who exposes secretive information or activity that

is deemed illegal, unethical, or not correct within a private or public organization that states concerns, or complaints--with a phone call made by President Trump to the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky.

Allegedly, Trump talks of suspicious activity from Presidential Candidate Joe Biden's son during his years working in Ukraine and asks Zelensky to find information on him and whether the former vice president had covered the information within the United States. In doing so, Trump raises corruption accusations against Biden while involving a

foreign power that might possibly derail the 2020 U.S presidential election. Despite having a reputation for getting away with things he probably shouldn't have, the president's hand was caught in the cookie jar this time around.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi announced the initiation of a formal impeachment inquiry regarding President Trump last Tuesday on the 24th of September, potentially making him the fourth president to face impeachment. She is charging on the basis that he is, "...betraying his oath of office and the nation's secu-

rity by seeking to enlist a foreign power to tarnish a rival for his own political gain." She states that Trump has severely violated the Constitution and must be held accountable, as no one is above the law.

Trump responded to this action via Twitter, posting a simple message of "PRESIDENTIAL HARASSMENT!" He continues to consider this inquiry a result of a Democratic witch hunt, believing that they are "out to get him" and eager to uproot his success and presidency, despite his past taunts for the Demo-

See **IMPEACHMENT** on B4

UB Slows PhD Recruitment

By Gabe Guo



Source: Wikimedia Commons

UB may soon see a decrease in the number of graduate students. UB’s College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) directed 23 out of its 29 doctoral programs to stop the recruitment of funded PhD students. The only departments within CAS that can continue to recruit funded PhD students in Fall 2020 are Biology, Communicative Disorders and Science, Communications, Chemistry, Geology, and Psychology. This information was relayed via email to the departments of CAS on Thursday, September 19th by David Johnson, the Associate Dean for Graduate Education and a professor in the Department of Comparative Literature.

The cut in PhD recruitment, ironically, is the result of UB’s PhD Excellence Initiative to raise the floor for graduate student stipends to \$20,000. Initially, this was supposed to “support the initiative and enhance efforts to recruit excellent PhD students,” according to a press release on grad.buffalo.edu from August 23, 2019. Yet, as Philip Glick, a professor in the Department of Surgery, states, “If you’re going to increase people’s wages, but not increase the amount of money allocated to them, you have to hire less people.” Indeed, this is an issue of limited funding.

The number of new PhD students is projected to decrease from 120 to around 60, potentially harming the reputation of UB. Yet, it should be noted that this halt in stipends for new PhD students will only be in effect for one year, subject to future reconsideration.

Members of the Living Stipend Movement, a coalition of graduate students who want “a living and competitive stipend for all graduate student workers”, are reportedly unhappy. Mike Montoro—the Student Representative for UB Council, a PhD student and Presidential Fellow in mathematics, a member of the Living Stipend Movement and teaching assistant for the Gifted Math Program—stated, “This is kind of a massive blow to the entire educational apparatus of the College of Arts and Sciences”. He lamented that UB’s administration is making the PhD programs “figure it out for themselves”. Furthermore, even the bridge funding for UB’s \$20,000 PhD stipends will only last for three years; at the rate of 100% this year, 100% next year, and 50% the third year.

Overall, there is much to be sorted out in this situation, and one can only hope that UB will take actions to encourage the growth of its PhD programs. As Montoro declares, “Unfunded Ph.D. students is not how a No. 1 research university runs, not how it ever ran, not how it will run ever in the future.”

Whistleblower Complaint on Trump-Ukraine Communications

By Sophie Zhu

On August 12, a whistleblower within the intelligence community submitted a complaint to the inspector general Michael Atkinson, describing concerns over recent Trump-Ukraine communications that possibly involved abuse of power. Although Trump denied all reports, deeming them as “Fake News stor[ies],” the consequences are clear, including the House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, launching an impeachment inquiry into Trump.

So what exactly is a whistleblower? According to Cornell Law School’s Legal Information Institute, a whistleblower is “an employee who alleges wrongdoing by his or her employer of the sort that violates public law or tends to injure a considerable number of people.” A federal whistleblower typically takes the complaint to the authority in their agency and goes under government investigation. Of course, a whistleblower would prefer to remain anonymous, in fear of any personal or political retribution.

To prevent any harm to the informant, the ICWPA (Intelligence Community Whistleblower Protection Act, passed and revised in 1998 and 2010) protects whistleblowers from any penalties such as prosecution or firing when reporting any potential wrongdoing within the community. The procedure detailed in the act comprises of the whistleblower reporting the possible concerns to the inspector general, who then determines whether or not the report is credible or important within fourteen days. If it is deemed reliable, the report will be sent to the director of national intelligence, who can release the documents to Congress within a week. If not, the whistleblower can attempt to reach Congress him/herself.

The key question is raised: what was so disturbing about the complaint that caused the entire nation to go into turmoil? The initial whistleblower complaint only describes a “troubling” phone call between Trump and the Ukrainian president, Zelensky, making some sort of promise that may interfere with foreign affairs and the 2020 elections. The complaint details, “In the course of my official duties, I have received information from multiple U.S. Government officials that the President of the United

COMMENTARY

Multiculturalism is a Free Idea

By: Skye Campo

The free circulation of ideas in modern society has been responsible for virtually every major political and social movement in US history; it is a cornerstone of American democracy, and must not be infringed. Indeed, Americans of all political affiliations are united that free speech is a fundamental virtue, and that to infringe upon it is tyranny, usually the right more adamant than the left on the matter. Nonetheless, the right frequently cries of foreign invasion whenever ideas and values enter the country from abroad. We, as a nation, must learn to welcome foreign ideas in the same way we have learned to welcome domestic views we might find threatening.

Foreign ways of life are often seen as inferior to our own, and this article will not make any argument to the contrary of this view. All humans are trapped in some variety of cultural prison, and are likely to always say such things, blinding us to who is actually in the right on that issue. More importantly, however, it is not needed to come to a conclusion on the ethics of multiculturalism. History has shown that no culture is always in the right, and it is inevitable that people in the future will look back on us and call us barbaric; we must conclude that whether our culture is superior or inferior to others that it is nonetheless flawed and things can be learned from foreign cultures.

The tolerance in which contemporary Western culture takes pride is taking over the world. It would seem that every year a new country legalizes same-sex marriage, like last year with India, or makes some great stride in women’s rights, like Saudi Arabia finally allowing women to drive. Democratic values similarly spread, as we see currently in Hong Kong. The best aspects of western culture are spreading, and that trend is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. Nonetheless, other aspects of Western culture are not spreading as prevalently, such as East Asia still valuing its elderly and the family unit seemingly just as much as they always have. This is evidence of the free marketplace of ideas at work, where the best ideas take over, and those issues that are less clear cut on ethics do not.

It is likely that a similar process will take place here at home. Some alarmists foretell of, for example, Muslim immigrants discriminating against LGBT+ persons. Strangely, one survey reported by Newsweek found that a majority of American Muslims now support gay marriage, with 9 percent more Muslim-Americans supporting it than Republicans. We can see a similar process at work in the US historically—cultures with little exposure to democracy and its values have adopted that aspect of US culture with fervor. If you were to ask a Polish-American whose ancestors came from tsarist Russia, one might suspect that the person in question wouldn’t defend autocracy, now or a century ago. This is not to say that Polish-Americans a century ago or Muslim-Americans now have assimilated fully; it is clear that aspects of both Polish and Muslim culture continue to exist in America, merely more favorable varieties.

Yet we have grown richer because of immigrants. It took the many cultures of the US coexisting to create Western tolerance; first the US needed to accept Northwest Europeans that weren’t English, then Catholics, then Southern and Eastern Europeans. We would not pride tolerance if these people conformed to the preexisting culture strictly, for there would be no one to tolerate but ourselves. It is from immigrants that the American Dream was born, the idea that no matter your circumstances, through hard work and determination, the lowliest can make it in this world. The American Dream is a concept so core to our identity that it is taught as early as elementary school and so deeply ingrained in each of us that it is used to evoke emotion in presidential speeches, brought to you not by the cultures of white, Anglo-Saxon Protestants but rather by the cultures of immigrant groups after they had already arrived.

We must allow immigrant groups to exist and retain their cultures (should they choose) so that all parties may benefit, so that the best culture may win. We must allow the free marketplace of ideas to operate freely, and not shut out foreign ideas before they even arrive.

Integration, Not Assimilation

By: Tina Serghany

The tale of a parent, grandparent, or even great-grandparent coming to America in search of a better life, be it for them or their future children, is all too representative of the average American's origins. This narrative is one that seems especially prominent here in Buffalo, chiefly at a school like East, which hosts a relatively diverse student body. Not one to shy away from the welcoming of immigrants, from 2003 to 2013, Erie County resettled a total of 9,723 refugees. Currently, Erie County receives slightly over one third of the total refugee flow into the state. In addition to these direct resettlements, many other refugees come to Buffalo as secondary migrants from other parts of the U.S.. Western New York is a place bustling with the songs, foods, and apparel of different cultures, blended into one semi-homogeneous mix of what it means to be American. Listed in this plethora of immigrants are my parents, both of whom immigrated to the United States from Lebanon in search of work, opportunity, and a chance to brush hands with Lady Liberty.

In interacting with my parents, and virtually every other immigrant in Williamsville, you will come away with an experience that is practically identical with the meeting of any American who is native to the country, save for the all-but-telling accent. Although Lebanese tradition is kept alive in my household, and we are filled with pride for our country of origin, my family has always seen integration, rather than assimilation, as a vital component in existing in a society outside of the one an individual is necessarily accustomed to. Oxford dictionary defines assimilation as “the process of becoming similar to something.” Integration, on the other hand, is defined as the process of “combining (one thing) with another so that they become a whole.” Integration is extremely imperative to the functioning of a society, and it is my belief that the relocation of one’s life must be coupled with an openness to the culture and ideals of the country one has chosen to move to. While assimilation implies a more structural sense of conformity, the term integration simply means that components of one’s culture, such as food, music, and traditional garments, shall not be forcibly forgotten in favor of those home to their country of choice. Rather, it means that immigrants and native inhabitants alike will work to find common ground, while immigrants adapt to the societal functions, such as differing laws and social cues, that characterize the country, all while maintaining their native identity if they so choose.

It is my belief that when you choose to come to a country, you choose to conform to that societies laws and customs, rather than separating the location from its culture. The current relationship much of Europe has with non-integrating immigrants is proof enough that multiculturalism simply is not a viable option when two cultures have wildly incompatible viewpoints. In the Middle East, for example, women are largely considered as inferior and often lack the rights held by their male counterparts. Under Sharia law, a legal system widely enforced in much of the Middle East, a woman can work and travel only with the written permission of her husband or male guardian, and cannot obtain a divorce unless her husband also consents (note: not wife, as the very act of identifying as gay qualifies an individual for the death penalty). In the West, however, women have the freedom to simply enjoy freedom. In America, 47% of the workforce is comprised of women, who are also now outpacing men in attaining higher education.

It is of the utmost absurdity to contest that these viewpoints on women are of equal merit, with neither being morally superior to the other. By attempting to pander to those immigrants with potentially dangerous viewpoints, countries not only put their own citizens in harm’s way, but usurp the trust and place in society that immigrants willing to don red, white, and blue have worked so hard to gain. By attempting to value backwards views in favor of seeming politically-correct, one is forced to refuse to discriminate against discrimination. Integration is a vital component of ensuring that the United States remains united.

THE BIDENS from B1

such an event has been presented. To reiterate, no crime has been committed by any member of the Biden family in Ukraine, according to the United States, United Kingdom, and Ukrainian intelligence agencies.

Concerning Prosecutor General Shokin, his investigation into Burisma was not necessarily an act of an anti-corruption arm of the law. The prosecutor was known worldwide for undermining corruption investi-

gations, leading to his eventual firing. Vice President Biden made the firing a point of emphasis in his dealings with Ukraine, seeing him as an example of systemic corruption that needed to be taken care of. Both the vice president and his son maintain that they did not discuss Hunter's business dealings and only spoke of Ukrainian politics briefly after the firing of the Prosecutor General.

Neither Hunter Biden nor Joe Biden have committed a crime in the eyes of multiple

foreign governments and, most importantly, Shokin's predecessor, Yuriy Lutsenko. Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, who himself is wanted by the Ukrainian government for alleged abuses of power, has advocated for an investigation, but his credibility is severely damaged due to his standing with the law. Azarov himself qualifies that, if Hunter Biden was doing work for the company, he is in perfect standing with the law.

It remains to be seen what

President Trump wishes to gain from further investigation, as years of work have turned up no crime. However, having both business and political dealings by the same family in a country infamous for corrupt, wealthy oligarchs is not a great image for a presidential candidate running an anti corruption campaign, regardless of the legality of it all.

This story is subject to development as more information surfaces in the impeachment inquiry.

IMPEACHMENT from B1

crats to impeach him if they thought he was truly doing anything wrong. He also called House Intelligence Chairman Adam Schiff a "lowlife" and someone who should be investigated for treason. He also called Pelosi "incapable", in addition to a few other profane word choices. According to Trump, it is Pelosi and Schiff

who should resign because of their incompetence and obvious bias.

Nevertheless, the Democrats are ruthless and determined. Pelosi and Schiff rebuked Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for his refusal to fully cooperate with the inquiry, and stated that "...any effort that tested Congress' ability to call

before it relevant witnesses will be considered as evidence of obstruction of the lawful functions of Congress." As for Biden's thoughts on the issue, he simply told reporters that Trump's reaction was, "...way beyond anything I frankly thought he would do."

The uncooperation in providing requested documents and uproars stirred by

the President himself have resulted in House Democrats issuing a subpoena this coming Friday.

According to CNN and the New York Times polls now show that the support for impeaching President Trump has reached an all time high at 47%, with 45% in opposition as Independents and Republicans begin to voice their opinions.

WHISTLEBLOWER from B2

States is using the power of his office to solicit interference from a foreign country in the 2020 U.S. election." It also described how Trump wished to investigate the Bidens, adding to the question of whether he was abusing his power in office for personal gain.

Trump and his lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, have pressed for an investigation into Joe Biden's son, Hunter Biden, who took a job in the Ukrainian natural gas company Burisma. They suspect that Hunter Biden had encouraged the dismissal of Ukraine's head prosecutor, Shokin, who was investigating Burisma during Biden's employment (and his father's term). But, many (including the Ukrainian government itself) argue that such an investigation is unnecessary as the Burisma investigation was only considering events that took place before Hunter Biden took the job.

The notes on the phone call, released September 25, see Trump (falsely) claiming that the US has done much more in economic aid than any of the European countries (he withheld US aid in September until European countries would contribute more), while Zelensky agreed, thanking Trump. Trump then asks for a "favor,"

asking Zelensky to look into CrowdStrike, the firm Democrats hired after their 2016 election server was hacked. Trump concludes his suspicions with a short note on Biden's son and possible corruption.

In this specific case, Atkinson deemed the report of "urgent concern," sending it off to the director of national intelligence Maguire, who ultimately disagreed with the level of concern Atkinson thought of it as. Here is where the problem comes in: the ICWPA did not specify the procedure for such a case. Many legal experts argue that thus the inspector general would have the final say. The acting DNI (Joseph Maguire) contacted the Office of Legal Counsel, which asserts that if the office deems the complaint not of urgent concern, the inspector general must follow through with the decision.

Three committees in the government have planned depositions to help investigate Trump over the complaint. Yet, Maguire refuses to hand over the complaint to Congress because it involves someone outside the spy agencies, but the chairman of the intelligence committee, Schiff, believes Maguire is keeping the complaint under covers to protect the President's interests. Schiff

took to the public to announce Maguire's incompilance with the law, stating that he had issued a subpoena for the complaint. Maguire defended his actions before Congress on September 26, stating that he believes the whistleblower's decision to report was "[doing] the right thing", but that he was not eager to reveal the complaint as it was an "unprecedented" situation. He claimed he acted on the advice of legal counsel in the Justice Department.

Nevertheless, Schiff announced on September 29 the anonymous whistleblower had agreed to testify before Congress "very soon."

On October 2, a spokesperson for Schiff admitted the whistleblower approached his panel before filing the complaint, while Schiff had stated that "we" (as members of the intelligence committee, not staff) have not spoken to to the whistleblower nor know the identity, making him seem like a deceptive liar. Republicans accuse Schiff of possibly orchestrating the complaint.

Trump has insisted on having the right to know the identity of the whistleblower and continues to attempt to discredit the whistleblower by attacking him/her, displaying, ultimately, the fact that ICWPA

only protects whistleblowers from 'official' punishment (such as being fired or criminally prosecuted), but not from vehement comments by the president. He even claimed that the whistleblower is a "spy" on September 25. He has chosen to not consider the inappropriateness of his actions, but instead stigmatize the person who has possibly exposed his ways. This creates an issue because any official meaning well for the country and its government will be intimidated into holding back the concern, defying the exact purpose of whistleblowers.

Where we are now: Trump stubbornly denying any accusations and attacking all his enemies (including the whistleblower), Schiff under fire for possibly setting up complaint, Maguire refusing to hand it over to Congress, Pelosi with an impeachment investigation under way. The chaos may have lasted for over two weeks already, the outcome we will soon witness. This whistleblower complaint does more than possibly expose the corruption in the government. It's not just about the laws and the legality, it also involves the ethics and the unforgettable mark it will have on our country's future governments.



Source: WFan

China Celebrates Its 70th Anniversary

By Henry Su

On October 1st, the People’s Republic of China celebrated its 70th anniversary with the largest military parade and celebration in its history. The main avenue of Beijing gathered a massive crowd as China showcased its military might and new technology to its people and the world. General Secretary Xi Jinping, the guest of honor, attended to tributes for fallen soldiers of the Chinese Civil War. Premier Li Keqiang,

Master of Celebrations, supervised the day-long performances and proceedings of over 15,000 soldiers and military vehicles down the streets.. The Chinese Civil War, spanning from 1927-1949, exiled the former Nationalist government to Taiwan and placed the Chinese Communist Party, headed by Mao Zedong, in control. The People’s Republic of China celebrates the anniversary of the party’s inaugura-

tion as National Day, which on this anniversary, took place as a historic show of nationalistic pride. This year’s celebrations were also deemed significant as it was the year the CPP surpassed the longevity of the other most significant Communist state in history, the USSR (1922-1991), which remained in power for 69 years (1922-1991). During the parade, the Chinese military showcased a range of all-new ballistic mis-

siles as well as stealth drones and long-range warheads. In previous celebrations, Chinese military showcases remained low-key, but the Party declared the latest parade as a paradigm shift for the country, the beginning of a new age of transparency and unabashed confidence. The pompous ceremony served to send a clear message to the world: in the new dec-

See CHINA on B7

Peru Protests

By Maler Suresh



Source: CNN

Peruvian President Martin Vizcarra’s decision to dissolve Congress has created a huge political upset in Peru, with numerous people currently protesting in the capital, Lima. On September 30, the President announced on national television his act to dissolve Congress. The President of Congress, Pedro Olaechea, responded to this by declaring President Vizcarra’s temporary removal and accusing him of "breaking the constitutional order." The Vice Presi-

dent, Mercedes Araoz, was subsequently sworn in, leaving the country uncertain how the conflict between their executive and legislative branches would ultimately resolve. They still do not know whether the President will allow Congress to suspend him, or whether Congress will comply with the President’s act to dissolve them. President Vizcarra’s attempt to dissolve Congress was due to his frustration with the way in which magistrates

(members of Peru’s top court) are elected. His goal was to make the election process more transparent and avoid corruption. This seems to be a valid concern, especially since six of the seven nominees for the tribunal (a governing body set up to enforce the Constitution) have come under scrutiny for links to criminally suspect judges. Peru has also had a rough political history. First a scandal surrounding former President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski who re-

signed after being accused of receiving 4 million dollars from the company Odebrecht. Then former President Alan Garcia who died via a self inflicted gunshot wound to the head before police could arrest him, and former President Alejandro Toledo who was arrested in California. Vizcarra has been pushing for reforms in favor of the people for some time, but he is always blocked by right-wing lawmakers in Congress. Ac-

See PERU on B7

COMMENTARY

Teens Worldwide Strike for Climate

By Mia Miller



Source: Wired

It is August 2018. Fifteen year old Swedish girl, Greta Thunberg, skips school to protest for a reduction in carbon emissions. She had been recently inspired by American students refusing to attend school after the tragic February school shooting in Parkland, Florida. After Sweden was hit by massive heat waves and an intense summer due to climate change, she felt she couldn't stay silent any longer. Now it was her turn to take action, as she sat alone outside the Swedish Parliament, demanding change on how the Earth is treated.

Only 15 months later, Thunberg's strike for climate has become an international movement. She has lead and inspired millions of people worldwide, from young children to adults, protesting for immediate change. Passionate people flood the streets of both large cities and small towns, carrying signs with phrases such as, "There is no Planet B," "How dare you?" and "Why should we study for a future we won't even have?"

These climate strikes have most notably been held on two Fridays, September 20th and September 27th, 2019. This has been inspired by Thunberg eventually skipping school every Friday to protest. These climate strikes aren't at all exclusive to the USA or Sweden. They have occurred in Canada, New Zealand, Uganda, Columbia, Germany, Japan, Indonesia, and over 100 more countries across the globe.

September 20th is estimated to have consisted of the largest climate strikes in world history. It is estimated that over 4 million people participated worldwide, skipping school and work to have their voice heard. Most of these protesters were from Germany, which alone had 1.4 million participants. On September 27th, over 2 million people participated.

Most strikers are teenagers and those of generation Z. The goal of the strikes are to grab the attention of world leaders and older generation, demanding reduction in carbon emissions to save the planet from a mass extinction. Protesters want the Earth to have a safe future where future generations can thrive. They believe our political leaders should be doing more, and they should be reducing emissions at a much quicker rate than they currently are. According to many global scientists, emissions must be reduced to net zero by 2050, at the very least.

There is a good reason protesters are so urgent. If global temperatures continue to rise rapidly, the planet will face many negative consequences. Sea levels will rise, impacting residents and wildlife along the coast. Coral reefs will die out. The Arctic could have no ice throughout the summers. Heat waves, flooding, and storms will rise in frequency and severity. Wildlife will lose habitats, putting many species at risk for being endangered.

Williamsville East sophomore,

Why Climate Change Strikes Won't Help

By Dan Purizhansky

Throughout September 2019, mainstream news outlets hyped up massive climate change walkouts in school throughout Europe and the United States. These strikes, scheduled for Friday, September 20th and Friday, September 27th, were led by Greta Thunberg, a 16 year old Swedish activist known for her blunt rhetoric that has influenced millions across Europe. The goal of these protests is to change government policy in Western countries to help reduce global warming. Policies proposed include carbon taxing, cap and trade policies, and the Green New Deal.

However, one key assumption that these protests are working on is completely wrong. If all the North American and Western European countries adopt emission control policies, the climate will continue to worsen and the environment will continue to deteriorate. Policies such as the Green New Deal would limit the United States' economic competitiveness while climate change would still occur and continue to worsen. This is due to the majority of carbon emissions now and in the future coming from developing countries, such as China, India, and Vietnam. These countries, whose economies are undergoing a rapid transformation through mass industrialization, are using more fossil fuels than ever before to hasten their economic development.

However, the United States is currently leading the world in the raw amount of reductions in carbon emissions according to World Bank data and a 2017 BP Statistical Review of World Energy. Since 2005, carbon emissions in the United States have reduced by more than 12% and per capita emissions have been reduced by almost 20%. Carbon emissions in Europe have decreased by even greater numbers. Simultaneously with this decline, Chinese emissions have increased by 50% and India's emissions have increased by 88%. It is naive to assume that a bunch of striking teenagers in Europe and the United States will influence economic policy in China and India when these policies would directly harm production in countries that are rapidly becoming wealthier. A country that condones slave child labor like China would not submit to fears of global warming propagated by a minority of teenagers in their geopolitical rivals.

The United States' and Europe's emissions have been declining for the last decade and governmental policies like those proposed in the Green New Deal would simply make it harder for Western nations to compete with Asian developing countries as our resources would go for ridiculous green energy solutions rather than solutions that would benefit workers. The best way to solve the problem of climate change is to promote free market research that would produce solutions that would make it more economical for corporations to use clean energy solutions than for them to use fossil fuels. Only then, out of economic self-interest, would the Chinese and Indians begin using environmentally-friendly solutions.

CHINA from B5

ade, China will be empowered and ready to assert its position on the world stage as a military superpower.

Online, Chinese citizens have proclaimed their love for their country on social media like Sina Weibo, a Chinese site closely monitored for “anti-party sentiment” by the CCP’s censorship bureaus. In the wake of the parade, this control has been exerted to its full force. State television boasts the overboiling nationalistic feelings of the people in China as having re-energized a patriotic generation of youth.

Although juxtaposed by an escalating trade war with the United States and a weakening domestic economy, the State drove home its message to the

people in a passionate address from Sec. Xi, proclaiming, “China’s tomorrow will be even more prosperous.” Tiananmen Square became a center of reverence and nationalistic fervor for the Party, which was declared as the governing body of China in the square by Chairman Mao on October 1st, 1949. In the midst of the square, the focal point of the celebrations, China also brushed aside its darker history alongside dissent. Bold imagery of Party leaders paid no heed to the memory of the violently quelled 1989 protests, of which many modern Chinese have no recollection of.

However, in Hong Kong, somewhat removed from the cloying censorship of the State, citizens possess a clear recollection of June 4th, 1989, which is

remembered citywide in a memorial on its anniversary. During the National Day celebrations that have taken place since 1997, there have been frequent protests by young Hong Kongers in parallel. However, this year’s, made more dramatic by the magnitude of the celebrations and amplified by the simultaneous unrest, erupted into violence. On the evening of the 1st, an 18-year old protester brandishing a metal pole was shot by a police officer in the city. While clashes between protesters and police have been ongoing for months, this incident marks the first injury by live ammunition. The young man survived and underwent stabilizing surgery in a hospital overnight. In the wake of the shooting, which was recorded by a nearby

smartphone, tensions in the city have escalated to a fever pitch while Hong Kong police gear up to maintain order and quell the protests in a delicate moment of importance to the Chinese. However, China remains unafraid to celebrate its own might even while foreign powers closely examine its policy in the crackdown against pro-democracy protesters. China has made their new policy clear to the world. In doing so, they will no longer shy away from the spotlight which has inevitably pivoted in their direction.

PERU from B5

According to the Peruvian Constitution, new Parliamentary elections can be held 4 months after Congress is dissolved. This would give the people the chance to choose their own Congress and magistrates, and hopefully reduce

corruption. Vizcarra has the support of the military, the police, and the protestors in Lima. By protesting, they hope to express their anger with Congress for suspending a President who is attempting to make reforms.

President Vizcarra’s opposition likens his attempt to dissolve Congress to that of a dictator, and they threaten to depose him (forcefully remove him from office) for violating the Constitution. This is ironic because Vizcarra sees the

dissolution of Congress as a “democratic solution” to a years long problem in the country. The current large-scale political protests in Peru not only express anger and frustration, but they express fear at the instability of their govern-

ment. But, in order for this uncertainty to be resolved, one of two extremely resistant political bodies will have to give in.

TEEN CLIMATE STRIKE COMMENTARY from B6

Waverly Wobschall, participated in these climate strikes on Friday, September 27th. Instead of coming to school dressed in red and gold, and finding out who our homecoming king and queen would be, she sat outside of City Hall to protest. She was inspired by Greta Thunberg, recreating an English translation of Thunberg’s sign from her earliest protests that read, “School strike for the climate.”

“It feels good to spread knowledge to people,” Wobschall describes, “I was a single party, but people occasionally sat beside me and asked me questions. I love educating others about a subject I’m so passionate about.”

She went on a strike again on Sunday, September 29th at Niagara Square. She continues

to spread her view on climate change and the planet on her Instagram. She states, “If you’re not part of the solution, you’re

make a positive impact on the world. Wobschall states that no one has ever talked her down for

especially leader Greta Thunberg. However, most are unphased by the hate. They block out those who call them brainwashed and other negative names, and continue to demand change. They plan to keep working until they see positive alterations in carbon emissions.

Generation Z is made up of bold and passionate young adults and teenagers who have been showing their elders just how determined they are to make a difference. They shout during their protests, “When adults act like children, children must act like adults.” They portray to every person in their path that you are never too young or too small to make a difference.

“If you’re not part of the solution, you’re part of the problem.”

part of the problem.” She posts a picture of her sign that reads, “Don’t be a climate bystander.” Wobschall would love to educate more on the subject during her climate strikes, and help

her protests. Everyone has been supportive of her during her journey to save the Earth. Unfortunately, not everyone is as fortunate as her. Many adults have given hate to protesters,

Tesla Lands in Lawsuit from SolarCity Merge

By Ryan Chou



Source: TechNation

Elon Musk is in hot water, and it's not for smoking marijuana on a Joe Rogan podcast or tweeting about privatizing Tesla this time.

Tesla shareholders are filing a lawsuit under accusations that information regarding the Tesla and SolarCity merge was hidden from them. Apparently, Elon Musk did not reveal to Tesla investors that SolarCity was practically insolvent when they agreed to the merge. And this event was not at a cheap cost. As a matter of fact, this was a \$2.6 billion combination.

According to investors, SolarCity hid information from their auditors, Ernst & Young, that could have changed the original financial evaluation of the company. More specifically, payments that were due to lenders. As a result, investors believe Tesla has overpaid for SolarCity while choosing not to reveal information that could

have altered views of SolarCity's financial status.

According to Tesla, "These allegations are based on the claims of plaintiff's lawyers looking for a payday, and are not representative of our shareholders who support our mission and ultimately voted in favor of the acquisition. The accusations made in the plaintiff's brief are false and misleading, as Tesla and SolarCity published all material information in its proxy and other public filings for all shareholders to consider before deciding on the transaction." Clearly, these are two very different stories from the investors and Tesla.

There are also some suspicious circumstances surrounding SolarCity and Elon Musk. For one, SolarCity was founded by Elon Musk's cousins. And on top of that, Musk's brother, Kimbal Musk, was on

the board of both SolarCity and Tesla. So there may have been some immoral nepotism that was in play that fueled the motivation for the merge.

And there are even more odd connections between SolarCity and Tesla. For example, Tesla board member Brad Buss was the SolarCity CFO (Chief Financial Officer) just before the merge.

Also, Musk seems to have used money from SpaceX, another one of his companies, for SolarCity to keep it from going bankrupt. Just how close was SolarCity to bankruptcy? In September 2015, Brad Buss is believed to have revealed to Musk that in order to avoid a bond default that would almost certainly lead to bankruptcy, SolarCity needed to consolidate as much as \$300 million, and the company did not look like it would be able to do this independently given

that its' consistent decline in profits. In fact, the projection was a 28% decline in installations for the company by the end of 2016, but this information was never revealed to the investors. And when the banks refused to subsidize the company with these funds? The merge happened.

So there is certainly a lot of shady circumstances that surrounded the consolidation of Tesla and SolarCity. Musk and his Board have consistently claimed innocence while investors claim a conflict of interest that warrants financial reimbursement for them. It will be very interesting to see where this lawsuit goes and what it will do to the multi-billion dollar tech empire that Elon Musk has built, as many of his companies seem to have played some role in this event.

Federal Interest Rate Cut

By Michael Ge

For the second time this year and for the second time in three months, the Federal Reserve is cutting interest rates. The interest rate was cut by 2 percent, an increase of .25 percent from the previous interest rate of 1.75 percent. The Federal Reserve hopes that by cutting interest rates, they can artificially stimulate the economy.

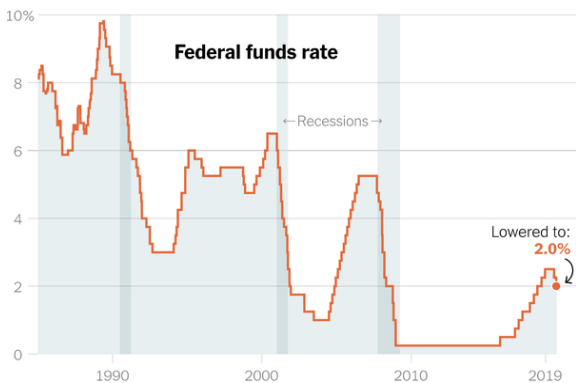
The economy is in a bull market, and the

Fed hopes that it can keep it this way by cutting interest rates. By lowering the interest rate, the Fed can encourage people to borrow and invest their money. It has been ten years since the last recession, and some economists are starting to fear that another recession is on the horizon. They are displaying a lack of faith in the economy remaining in a bull market.

Part of the reason as to why the Fed decided to cut interest rates was because of slowing economic growth in other nations and the ongoing trade war with China. The Fed has failed to get inflation up to its targeted 2 percent goal. This failure means that the Fed has less room to cut interest rates if the economy went into a bear market.

The Fed has faced criticism from President

Trump, who has pushed for the Fed to further lower the interest rates. Trump has also criticized the Fed, claiming that having high interest rates hurts American competitiveness against other nations economically. It remains to be seen whether cutting interest rates will successfully stimu-



Source: NYTimes

Mario Kart Tour Review

By Prabhnoor Singh



Nintendo’s mobile efforts have been interesting, to say the least. Since the launch of Super Mario Run in 2016, it has struggled to combine its traditional quality of gameplay with mobile’s monetization fairly and effectively. Few people seemed happy with Mario Run’s premium price of \$10. After racing through Mario Kart Tour, it seems Nintendo is still struggling with this difficult hurdle in this free-to-play version for iOS and Android. The numbers on the price tags next to Tour’s microtransactions are surprisingly big, but at least the actual driving works well and often feels impressively similar to a traditional Mario

Kart game. Similar, but definitely not equal to. The racing is more restrictive and simpler, making it an undeniable downgrade from Mario Kart 8, the most recent Mario Kart, but the transition to one-handed mobile devices is handled well. Classic tracks have been tweaked and redesigned to take advantage of the vertical perspective and the single-input touch controls work well. You can choose traditional turning controls, which are recommended for newcomers, but I went with the drift controls option which locks you into a drift as soon as you start turning. It took some getting

used to, but I felt comfortable sliding around wide turns to build up a boost after only a few races. Swiping up to launch weapons forward works well, as does swiping down to drop them behind. I did run into some trouble making my way down winding paths, but during those moments where I was speeding down the track expertly launching turtle shells at my opponents, I felt like I was playing a real Mario Kart game – an impressive feat on a phone. One of the smart elements of Tour that accounts for the mobile platform is the brief time commitment of each play ses-

See **MARIO KART** on C3

Album Review: *If You’re Not Afraid, I’m Not Afraid*, Queen of Jeans

By Noah Kotzin

Standing out in the Bandcamp tags for Philadelphia-based Queen of Jeans’ new album is ‘denimcore.’ While somewhat of a joke, lambasting the seemingly infinite genres of music to choose from (‘lowercase ambient,’ anyone?), the term certainly rings true. There’s no way to listen to the album (played by Miriam Devora, Matheson Glass, and Patrick Wall) and not think about denim: just shy of punk, ‘edgy’ but no overbearingly so. If You’re Not Afraid, I’m not Afraid (IYAIA for short) opens with one of the highlights of the album: “Get Lost.” Compositionally, the song is a feat: not only does it contain a great melody, its structure is very well put together. Near the end of the song, Devora sings over her

past self; in other words, what she sang at the beginning of the song is cut and pasted into its ending over a new melody, which you might expect to not work well but is done in such a way to create incredible catharsis. After this comes a guitar solo that sounds like nothing heard regularly in pop-rock: with its octave-jumping arpeggios, it briefly sounds as if Devora (who plays the guitar on the album as well as sings) is channeling Bach. This is not the only time Queen of Jeans seems to take influence from classical compositions. Queen of Jeans frequently uses melodic ornamentation, especially noticeable on “Rum Cheeks,” whose quiet and beautiful melody is made more interesting by grace notes and non-chord tones.



See **IYAIA REVIEW** on C3

Plants vs Zombies: Battle for Neighborville

By Arnav Sawant



EA’s footprint has been left behind on the game, microtransactions littering the game, although helpful.

Plants vs Zombies has always been a game that has been marveled at since its release in 2009. Its creators, Popcap, were already raking in big profits because of their unparalleled successes in *Bejeweled* and *Peggle*. When *Plants vs Zombies* was released in 2009, players were exposed to a completely different genre of gaming that had never been seen before, tower defense. In *Plants vs Zombies*, the main objective was to stop incoming hordes of relentless zombies from eating your brains, or to be precise, Crazy Dave’s brains. Plants would cost sun, that would either fall from the sky (only in the Day, Pool and Roof levels) and from Sunflowers and Sunshrooms. There would be either 5 lanes (Day, Night, Roof) or 6 (Pool, Fog) depending on the stage you were on. As the player, placing plants and different fungi to save Crazy Dave would be your ultimate goal, while the man with the pan (on his head) would deliver crazy anecdotes and possibly even tips to help beat the dozens of levels awaiting you.

Of course, beating the

game would not be that simple. Popcap had made sure of that. While progressing through each level, different zombies with varying strengths would be making themselves part of the level, with your flimsy Peashooters doing absolutely nothing to stop them. Take for example the simple yet rigid Buckethead Zombie.

This regular zombie with a bucket and a jacket would cut through your defenses like a hot knife through butter. However, there is always a bright side. As each level is completed, you would be awarded with a new plant, with different functions, that also coincidentally defeats the new zombies that you would encounter. Going back to the Buckethead Zombie, you would unlock the Repeater and the Frozen Peashooter. Combining these plants would result in ultimate destruction, and you could bet Crazy Dave’s tacos that not even one zombie would eat your plants.

Looking back at the hidden history of *Plants vs Zombies* is quite fascinating. The game appeared to only be made by three peo-

ple, George Fan, Rich Werner and Laura Shighihara. For a game of such utter complexity (yet simplicity), a game made by three people in 2009 was something to admire. Fan worked as the game’s designer, with Werner being the main artist. Shighihara was the third piece to the puzzle, and provided soundtracks to the game that kept you playing and maybe even humming along. Their astounding work on *Plants vs Zombies* continued to receive award after award, even winning “Best Game” in the Game Developers Choice awards. Popcap was at their prime, and it seemed like a sequel was inevitable.

The sequel was inevitable, but not before a horrifying series of unfortunate events unfolded. Popcap continued to update their top grossing game and bring it to various platforms, but fired people in the process. Creator George Fan eventually succumbed to these continuous discharges. Popcap eventually did announce that a sequel would be coming, but after 3 years since the original came out.

See **PLANTS VS ZOMBIES** on C4

FASHION ON PARADISE

Wear What You Wanna Wear

By Annabel Paradise

If you have ever met me, or seen me in the halls, then you would know that I tend to dress a little odd. Some days I leave the house and think, “Should I really have put this outfit together? Is this even stylish?” I’m sure you have thought the same thing too, if only once or twice. The answer to both of these questions, however, is yes. And I’m gonna tell you why this is the only correct answer.

First off, let me explain to you the difference between fashion and style. Fashion is a popular trend; whatever is currently in season or being shown on New York Fashion Week. Style, however, is much more fluid, as it is relative to each person. This is why the phrase “I love your sense of style” makes so much more sense than the phrase “I love your sense of fashion.”

I do not consider myself a fashionable person by any means. I think I wear quite unique pieces that not many others would pick in the store. I don’t keep up with trends or popular pieces to wear. However, I do think of myself as stylish, as I like the way I dress, and it suits me. I think this way of thinking can actually make quite a difference in your confidence in what you’re wearing.

If you like how you dress and you like what you’re wearing, then you’re stylish. End of story. Wearing what you feel is right over what everyone else tells you is right is so important. Fashion is a form of self-expression, and it should be freeing, not confining. Wearing what you believe you look good in will make you feel taller and seem more confident, which is what makes you stand out, not necessarily what you’re wearing.

A lot of people care about their appearance, as it is how people first perceive you before they meet you. But it is also important to consider how you perceive yourself when you dress. Do you like what you wear? Do you wear it because you feel comfortable, or because a fashion blog told you it was trendy this season? Honestly, there is no wrong answer or choice when it comes to fashion because it is all relative to what you enjoy wearing. If you think you look nice in this season’s trendy shirt, or a pattern that is popular at the time, then you go for it. If reaching for pieces that are a little more on the unique side is how you like to dress (like me), then you do you. And if not necessarily caring how you appear and maybe just wearing jeans and a t-

See **FASHION ON PARADISE** on C4

MARIO KART from C1

sion. Tracks are short and races are only two laps, as opposed to the typical three, and I liked getting through a race in just a few minutes. Likewise, a full cup is only three races, capped off with a unique mission involving hitting a certain number of jumps or racing through a certain number of rings, as a pair of examples. I like these special bonus races at the end of each cup because they let me use racers and karts I had not yet unlocked, and they also teach specific mechanics like how to take full advantage of the boosts awarded for hitting

a jump. They’re also quicker than driving a full race, which again helps the pick-up-and-play nature of Mario Kart Tour.

Given the history of the Mario Kart series, it’s kind of crazy that Tour has launched as a single-player-only game. Despite having an icon on the main menu for multiplayer, it’s currently grayed out with a note saying it’s coming soon. Even so, Mario Kart Tour seems to want you to think you’re racing against other people, which is very strange. As you’re racing through the assorted cups, the other racers on the tracks have what ap-

pears to be people’s screen names over their heads, but all evidence points to those just being A.I. characters. You can flip on airplane mode in the middle of a race, completely cutting your phone off from the internet, and you’ll keep on going. You can even skip all the perfunctory track-introducing cutscenes and jump right into the race. If other players were present, you would think at least one of them would let the whole scene play and prevent you from skipping.

My verdict is, the actual gameplay and racing of Mario Kart Tour are well done: con-

trolling the karts feels good, the courses and characters look and sound great, and playing simplified one-handed Mario can be a lot of fun. But the road to a mobile version of Mario Kart is a bumpy one. On top of multiplayer not currently being available at all, Nintendo continues to struggle with how to comfortably monetize a mobile game without hamstringing its gameplay. Tour’s prices are prohibitively high and not getting top honors in a race despite winning first place just because you don’t have the right racer or kart feels unfair.

IYAIA REVIEW from C1

Lyrically, IYAIA makes some wonderful and experimental choices. One technique they use is to repeat a line but with a single word changed, for example in “Centuries” (“been alive for centuries/been a lie for centuries”). This goes against the grain of most pop-rock, where it’s expected that words that rhyme will be different words, but Queen of Jeans make it work. Most of the lyrics create imagery without being specific: suggesting a story without telling it, allowing the listener to use their imagination to interpret the song for themselves. The songs do seem to be related in some way, at least thematically. As a whole, the

album can be seen as the progress of a single protagonist (Devora) as she loses touch with people, or perhaps one person, then deals with understanding the other, and eventually grows from the experience, but in vague enough terms that there is no specific story being told. If one views it as a concept album telling one story, then the album could mirror someone’s experience with losing touch, from sadness on “All the Same” to anger on “Only Obvious to You” to melancholy on “Bloomed” to, finally, acceptance on “Take it all Away.”

While taken individually most songs are quite well made, as a cohesive whole,

IYAIA is a little bit repetitive. With the exception of “Rum Cheeks,” most of the songs follow similar patterns with similar melodies. And the formula Queen of Jeans seems to have found is good: again, the songs when seen individually are quite well-done. However, listening to the album in a single sitting, there’s definitely the feeling that you’re listening to only a few songs, just with slight variation. I don’t know if this completely detracts from the album (not all albums are to be listened to in a single sitting), but Queen of Jeans are certainly able to break out of such a formula, “Get Lost” and “Rum Cheeks” in particular show both compositional prowess and creativity without

breaking from Queen of Jeans’ ‘denimcore’ aesthetic, and it would’ve been nice to see more of that on the album.

While not fully working as a ‘one sitting’ album experience, Queen of Jeans’ If You’re not Afraid, I’m not Afraid is a well-made and oftentimes beautiful album. With the compositional prowess of its songwriter Miriam Devora, Queen of Jeans is able to craft great melodies and tie them up with well-designed structures.

Rating: 4/5 Flames
(Recommended)

Highlights: “Get Lost,” “All the Same,”
“Rum Cheeks.”
Released 23 August 2019,
Topshelf Records.

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PLANTS V. ZOMBIES from C2

At last, Popcap revealed *Plants vs Zombies 2: It's About Time*, a similar tower defense game but with brand new broad levels, and even more crazier plants. Crazy Dave still was Crazy Dave but with an arch nemesis, Dr. Edgar Zomboss, who made a return from the final bossfight of *Plants vs Zombies*. This campaign and the storyline immersed players even deeper into the fanatical universe that was *Plants vs Zombies*, as it was exclusive to mobile devices. The theme was traveling back into the past and into the future, hence It's About Time. However, Popcap also admitted the painful amount of time it took to release the sequel, making the title a hilarious nod to their laziness.

What seemed like another rocket launch, turned out to be a crash landing for Popcap. With even better games coming out and more genres to explore, the company eventually sold all publisher copyrights and trademarks of *Plants vs Zombies* to Electronic Arts for a hefty

amount of money. This was the final farewell by Popcap and players around the world continue to reminisce about the times when it was simpler when Popcap held the rights to the franchise.

Under new ownership, EA held the game with an iron grip. They released updates frequently, included microtransactions for a boost the game needed severely (the game was getting harder by the minute), and new levels faster than ever before. Then came the shocker, EA announced a shooter style *Plants vs Zombies* game coming soon to all consoles. Critics heavily anticipated a bigger failure than a burnt turkey on Thanksgiving. However, instead of being served burnt turkey, EA delivered strawberries and whipped cream.

Plants vs Zombies: Garden Warfare was released in 2014, during November. The game turned out to be one of the greatest animated shooters of all time, breaking bigger records than Popcap ever did. EA had delivered the popular

shooter genre, while sticking true to the game's origins, with characters being Peashooter, Sunflower and new characters such as the Engineer and Scientist. Like the original, each character had special abilities, that could also be used to directly counter other characters. The difference was that you, the player, took control of a singular character and could construct strategies to defeat the other team. There were also a plethora of different game modes, with the most popular being Backyard Battleground. EA had done the unexpected, and had actually created a fantastic game.

The sequel to *Plants vs Zombies: Garden Warfare* was released two years later, and was called (guess what) *Plants vs Zombies: Garden Warfare 2*. Other games such as *Plants vs Zombies: Heroes*, a match three game, also was released in the space between the two aforementioned titles. The sequel presented better graphics, more game modes, and completely different characters. It was now

available on next-generation consoles, and players were able to play at a constant framerate. However, developers were now in fierce competition to develop the best game, as gaming turned out to be a multibillion dollar industry by 2016. Updates didn't seem to help and the game's popularity died out, and *Garden Warfare 2* was in the shadows for the next three years. Until now, that is.

EA has just recently announced *Plants vs Zombies: Battle for Neighborville*, the sequel to the sequel of the original Garden warfare. And guess what? It's not another battle royale game (Woohoo!). It has enhanced graphics, a better social hub and even more features to party up with your friends. The game was announced on EA's official Youtube channel. It has announced a completely different mode, Battle, which has already seen thousands of positive reactions. So far, I like the game's trajectory, and it could bring back the decade-old *Plants vs Zombies* fandom that we all have been familiar with.

FASHION ON PARADISE from C2

shirt is what makes you feel the most comfortable, then wear it and rock it!

Let me give you an example. Homecoming was on the 28th, so not too long ago to forget what you wore. Think about what you picked out. Did you wear it because it was what everyone else would wear, did you wear it because it was what no one else would wear, or did you wear it because you loved the way you

looked? People tend to wear short dresses to homecoming. Did you stick to this theme because you didn't want to be ostracized, or did you maybe bend the rules because you saw a maxi dress you fell in love with?

Wear what you want, not what everyone tells you to wear. Not what Instagram models are being paid to wear, not what the Kardashians are caught wearing on the street, not what any fashion

magazine tells you to wear. You know what you like and what you don't. Embrace your style. Own it. Love it.

Now, taking the steps to dress as you please is not as easy of a task as it may sound. People are quick to judge based off of appearance. I can't tell you how many looks and comments I get for dressing the way I do. Most are positive, which really amps me up! Some, however, are not, which can be hard and

make me uncomfortable. And either way, the attention is sometimes almost embarrassing, whether it be good or bad. But those positive comments I receive really do help to reassure me, even if the compliment is from a friend. While it is important for you to like what you wear, we all need a little validation sometimes.

I'll say it again, though. Wear what you want. Even if you don't get the validation. Even if no one else would ev-

er think of wearing it. Even if everyone else is thinking of wearing it. Wearing what you want will help you be more confident and self-assured. And confidence looks so good on everyone!

So, when you look in the mirror and think to yourself, "Should I really have put this outfit together?" You should have! It's what you felt was right! As long as you like it, that's all that matters! It is stylish, because it's you!

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The East Side Newspaper

Twice As
Interesting



Bills 1st Quarter of Season Grade

By Neel Cheruvu



Photo: Brett Carlsen

The NFL season is 16 games and can be divided into 4 quarters. I will take a look at the state of the Bills and at the end of each quarter and assign a grade based on their performance.

The first quarter of the season consisted of back-to-back away games at MetLife Stadium against the Jets and Giants followed by back-to-back home games at New Era Field against the Bengals and Patriots. The Buffalo Bills went 3-1 in this stretch, beating the Jets, Giants, and Bengals. Following the release of the schedule, many Bills fans hoped for a 3-1 start and it certainly seemed attainable. The Jets had some optimism coming into the season with the progression of Sam Darnold and

the addition of Le'veon Bell, but they were never really looked at as a real threat. The Giants were expected to be terrible and the Bengals were also projected to be a basement team in the AFC. The Patriots were expected to be the Patriots.

The first game of the season was a very messy one. Josh Allen threw 2 INT's and fumbled twice early in the game and the Jets jumped out to a 16-3 lead. Allen and the Bills' offense slowly started to come together and put drives together, eventually scoring 14 straight points to secure the 17-16 win. Bills fans were ecstatic after his comeback win as it showed the team's resilience and character. They were also a little worried, however, as you can't win

many games turning the ball over 4 times.

Allen and the Bills clearly learned from the mistakes in the first game, as their performance was much better in the game against the Giants. Allen went 19/30 for 253 yards and 1 TD, with no INT's or fumbles. After giving an early lead to the Giants, the Bills once again played the role of the Comeback Kids and stormed past the Giants. The offense was fully in sync and the defense was stout. The new offseason additions of Cole Beasley and John Brown combined for over 150 receiving yards and the Bills' rushing attack scored 3 TDs. The Bills were flying high after this win and were excited for 3-0 prospects.

See **BILLS** on D2

Recap and Review of Grand Slam Results 2019

By Owen Lewis

2019 was an exciting year of tennis that saw many epic matches and dramatic moments. Let's take a look:

Australian Open Winners: Novak Djokovic and Naomi Osaka

The first slam of the year offered up the same winners as the 2018 U.S. Open. Osaka impressively backed up her win in New York, winning her second slam, while Djokovic continued his dominance from the tail end of 2018. Osaka, seeded fourth, battled to the final, beating sixth seed Elina Svitolina in the quarterfinals and seventh seed Karolina Pliskova in the semis. Pliskova had made a remarkable comeback against Serena Williams in the quarterfinals, erasing a 5-1 deficit in the third set and saving four match points.

Osaka faced off against Petra Kvitova, the eighth seed, in the final. She came out strong, winning a high-quality opening set in a tiebreak. In the second set, Osaka held three championship points with her opponent serving at 3-5 and 0-40 down. The drama heightened as Kvitova saved all three match points with nerveless tennis, including an inside-out forehand winner. Riding the momentum, Kvitova broke Osaka when she was serving for the match and ended up winning the set 7-5. After missing championship points, it seemed that Osaka might fold at the start of the deciding set, but she regrouped admirably and took the third



Source: The Telegraph

set 6-4. Unlike the 2018 U.S. Open final, (when Osaka's opponent, Serena Williams, had an argument with the chair umpire that robbed Osaka much of the joy of her victory), there was nothing to detract from the happiness of the moment.

The men's final wasn't nearly as competitive. The top two seeds, Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal, stormed through their respective draws. Djokovic dropped two sets, and Nadal didn't

See **GRAND SLAM** on D2

BILLS from D1

The Bills got off to an early lead in the game against the Bengals, going ahead 14-0 at the half. They were clicking on all cylinders and it was looking like a blowout was about to ensue. However, the Bills fell flat in the 3rd quarter and into the 4th. After giving up 17 straight points, the Bills found themselves with one last chance to drive down the field and get a win down 17-14. After coming back in the first 2 games, they did it once again on a strong drive from Allen,

finished off by Frank Gore. The Bengals started driving down the field, but Tre'Davious White ended their hopes with his second INT of the day. The Bills were 3-0 for the first time since 2001 and all was well.

The Patriots came to town and the Bills let a massive one slip away. The Bills were plagued by turnovers, as Allen could not stop throwing interceptions. He ended up with a less than 50% completion rate and 3 INT's. He looked shaky in the pocket and was seemingly intimidated by the team on

the other side. The Bills defense played outstanding and limited the Patriots offense to only 1 TD. Tom Brady has a subpar game with only 150 passing yards, but the Bills offense didn't do enough to win this game, losing 16-10. It was truly a heartbreak and handed the Bills their first loss of the season.

Grade: B+

The Bills would've received an A had they found a way to pull out a win against the Patriots. However, in all 4 games they are depending on their

offense to catch up and that is not a formula for long-term success. The defense is elite and Super-Bowl caliber, but the offense is going to need to hold its end down if the Bills want to be competitive. Overall, the Bills still sit 3rd in the entire AFC and primed for a playoff berth after the first quarter of the season. If they tighten up the offense and continue playing lights-out defense, they should be in the thick of the playoff discussion after the next quarter.

GRAND SLAM from D1

lose one. Many expected a fierce battle akin to their 5 hour, 53 minute marathon in the 2012 Australian Open final (Djokovic won 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, 6-7 (5), 7-5), but Djokovic, in one of his best performances ever, crushed Nadal in straight sets. Nadal had just one break point (that he was unable to take, netting a routine backhand) in the 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 loss. Djokovic was imperious throughout the match, hitting cleanly and consistently from both wings and serving well. Nadal, on the other hand, was strangely unable to find the form that had carried him to the final. He didn't win a point on the Djokovic serve until the ninth game of the match, and made many uncharacteristic errors. His opponent never looked back after breaking in Nadal's first service game and claimed his 15th Grand Slam, moving

up to 3rd on the all-time men's list.

French Open Winners: Ash Barty and Rafael Nadal

The women's draw at this French Open fell apart almost immediately. Osaka lost in straight sets in the third round, as did second seed Pliskova. No top-five player made the semifinals, and the unseeded 19-year-old Marketa Vondrousova made the final. Barty, for her part, played a fantastic tournament, beating Vondrousova 6-1, 6-3 in the final.

Nadal is, unquestionably, the greatest clay-court player ever, and had won 11 French Open titles even before the 2019 tournament. He has only lost twice at the event—in 2009 and 2015—and his dominance on clay is virtually unparalleled in sport. 2019 was no exception, and Nadal claimed his

12th title in Paris with a four-set win over Dominic Thiem in the final: 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1. Djokovic, who was trying for his fourth straight slam title, lost to Thiem in the semifinals. Over two days, Thiem won 6-2, 3-6, 7-5, 5-7, 7-5 in arguably the biggest win of his career. Unfortunately for him, a second tennis titan was waiting for him in the final. Nadal played brilliantly for the final two sets of the match and claimed his 18th Grand Slam title.

Wimbledon Winners: Novak Djokovic and Simona Halep

The two Wimbledon finals could not have been more different. In the women's final, Simona Halep played the match of her life. She was a clear underdog against six-time champion Serena Williams, but won 6-2,

6-2 in an absolutely flawless performance. Halep hit just three unforced errors across the match, and even Williams (regarded as the best female player ever) was helpless against the onslaught. Halep, previously seen as a hard/clay court specialist who would be less competitive on grass, dispelled this notion thoroughly in the 56 minutes it took to beat Williams.

In comparison, the men's final between Djokovic and Roger Federer lasted 4 hours and 57 minutes- the longest Wimbledon final ever. The newly instituted 12-all deciding set tiebreak came into play for the first time (previously, the deciding set at Wimbledon extended until a player led by two games. This once extended to 70-68 in the fifth set of a first-round match between Nicolas

See GRAND SLAM on D3

EAST SIDE NEWS PRESENTS

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A man with short brown hair, wearing a maroon t-shirt and blue jeans, is seated 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 music stand with sheet music and another microphone on a stand. In the background, a red amplifier is visible. The setting appears to be a dimly lit stage or performance space.

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GRAND SLAM from D2

Mahut and John Isner) at the end of Djokovic’s 7-6 (5), 1-6, 7-6 (4), 4-6, 13-12 (3) victory. Djokovic was a clear favorite, and took the first set in a tie-break. Federer had many chances to take the set, though—seven times, he was two points away from winning the set, but lost the point each time. His best chance came at 5-3 up in the tiebreak. Federer virtually handed Djokovic the set with back-to-back-to-back forehand misses followed by a backhand error. Djokovic played an oddly flat second set, and Federer took full advantage, taking the set comfortably by a score of 6-1.

Djokovic regrouped well in the third set, staving off a set point at 4-5 with a great serve. He opened up a 5-1 lead in the tiebreak despite it seeming that the set had been under Federer’s control for most of the time. Djokovic took the tie-break 7-4, earning a two-sets-to-one lead. Remarkably, he hadn’t had a break point in the entire match, yet led comfortably because he played better tie-breaks.

Federer didn’t fold in the fourth set, breaking his opponent twice and winning the set 6-4, sealing it with a swing volley winner. The fifth set was the most enthralling, bizarre, and entertaining set of the match. Djokovic got the first break, going up 4-2, and it appeared that he would run away with the set, but Federer broke back immediately and held serve for 4-4. Djokovic was two points away from the title with Federer serving at 4-5 and 5-6, but his 38-year-old opponent held him off. With Djokovic serving at 7-7, a Federer forehand winner and two unforced errors from the racket of Djokovic brought up a break point, which Federer took with a forehand passing shot.

Serving for his 21st Grand Slam title, Federer missed a forehand, but Djokovic returned the favor to make it 15-all. Federer then slammed a 125 mph ace down the tee to move within two points of the trophy. His next serve was another ace, this one 120 mph and perfectly placed. At 40-15, Djokovic hit a deep return off a

second serve, and Federer sent a forehand wide. At 40-30, the second match point, Federer approached the net and Djokovic rolled a classic crosscourt forehand past him. At deuce, Federer netted a weak forehand. On break point, he did the same. Just like that, it was 8-8, and the championship points were gone. At 11-11, Djokovic saved two break points to hold serve for the last time. Federer held to love with an ace to push the match into a deciding tiebreak.

It was fairly anticlimactic. Djokovic went ahead 4-1 early on and sealed the match with a 7-3 win in the breaker. It was his 16th slam, and he further

serving to stay in the championship, her opponent earned a championship point at 30-40, and took the opportunity with an inside-in forehand return winner. There will surely be more majors for the young star. She may even be ranked #1 by the end of the season.

Roger Federer and his ailing back lost in the quarterfinals to Grigor Dimitrov, and Stan Wawrinka’s one-handed backhand sent Djokovic and his injured shoulder out of the tournament in the fourth round. Nadal’s draw was left relatively open, and his opponent in the final was Daniil Medvedev, a 23-year-old Russian who had dominated the North American hard court swing. Medvedev

was visibly tired in his earlier matches, and he was the heavy underdog against Nadal,

one of the all time greats.

It looked like Nadal was on course for an easy win when he won the first two sets and went up a break in the third. But Medvedev was given a lifeline when Nadal missed an easy overhead volley at 3-2 up and deuce in the third set, and the Russian broke back. He later played an exceptional return game with Nadal serving at 5-6, and took the set with an inside-out backhand winner. In the fourth set, Medvedev pounced with Nadal serving to stay in the fourth set at 4-5, and tied the match with a majestic backhand return winner struck from way outside the court. Suddenly it seemed that a huge upset could be afoot. With all the momentum behind Medvedev, Nadal had to save a couple crucial break points early in the set with some strong attacking tennis. In the fifth game, Nadal broke after a long rally, then broke again for 5-2. Medvedev, however, refused to lie down and clawed back to 5-4, saving two championship points along the way. He man-

aged to force a break point with Nadal trying to serve out the match for a second time, but it was saved with a vicious inside-out forehand. Nadal reached championship point with a drop shot winner and took his chance with a 124 mph serve down the middle. Nadal had managed to hang on, but Medvedev pushed him to the brink and will surely be in contention for some big titles next year.

Assessments

Women’s tennis is wide open. We had four different slam winners this year, and any player can upset another at any time, as demonstrated by many top players’ early losses in slams this year. However, Andreescu has been playing incredibly well, and assuming she continues her fine form, I predict she will win two slams next year. I don’t think Serena will win another slam. She made two finals this year, losing in straight sets both times. She can still compete at a high level, but when she comes up against a quality opponent in a final she’s been unable to produce her best tennis. It may well be a mental block, and at 38 years old, time isn’t on the 23-time slam champion’s side. That said, it will be a surprise to few if she manages to win another slam or more.

On the men’s side, the struggle between the Big Three (Federer, Djokovic, Nadal) continues. Federer has the most slams (20), but he is 38 years old and I think that this year’s Wimbledon final may serve as a huge mental barrier in the way of winning future slams. Federer’s chances of winning the French Open (if he decides to play) are very low—Nadal, Thiem, and Djokovic would all be heavily favored in a match against Federer. Djokovic will be a solid favorite at the Australian Open next year, as a seven-time champion. Federer’s best chance will be at Wimbledon. Again, I won’t be surprised if he wins another slam, but I don’t expect him to. Next year, I think three out of the four slams will be won by Djokovic and Nadal, and the fourth will go to a younger player like Medvedev.

Women’s tennis is wide open. We had four different slam winners this year...

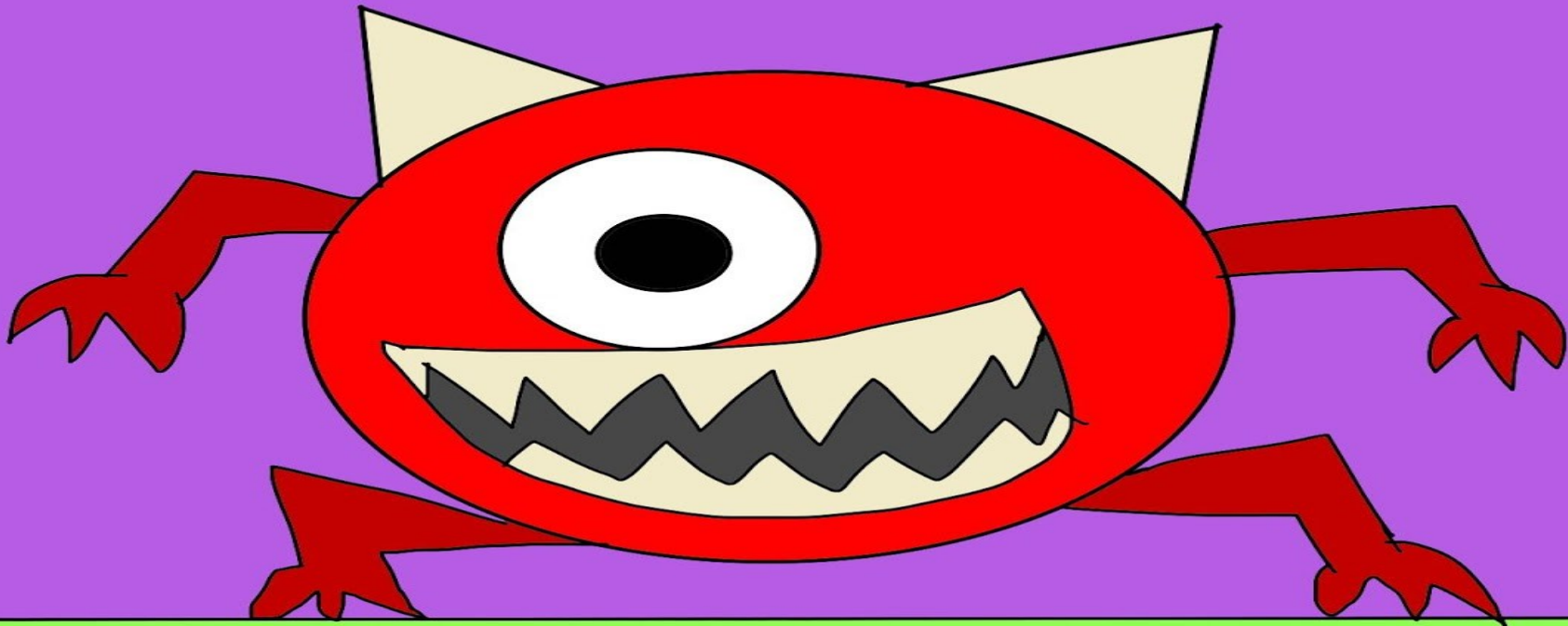
On the men’s side, the struggle between the Big Three (Federer, Djokovic, Nadal) continues.

decreased Federer’s lead on him in the all-time men’s rankings.

U.S. Open Winners: Bianca Andreescu and Rafael Nadal

Bianca Andreescu is a fantastic player. As a 19-year-old, she won Indian Wells, one of the biggest non-major tournaments, earlier this year before injuries felled her for a few months. She hasn’t lost a match outright (not because of injury) since early March. She even remarked recently that she’s kind of forgotten the feeling of losing. At the U.S. Open, Andreescu played brilliantly. She was pushed to a third set several times, but always held her nerve. Her opponent in the final? Serena Williams. Williams was the pre-match favorite, but Andreescu took the first set comfortably and went up 5-1 in the second. She had a match point when serving at 5-1, but Williams showed exceptional grit to claw back to 5-5. Many felt that a miracle Serena comeback was on the cards, but Andreescu stopped the rot and held for 6-5. With Williams

it is i, michael bazinga from
hit pixar movie spookers co.
i am here to scare the childs.



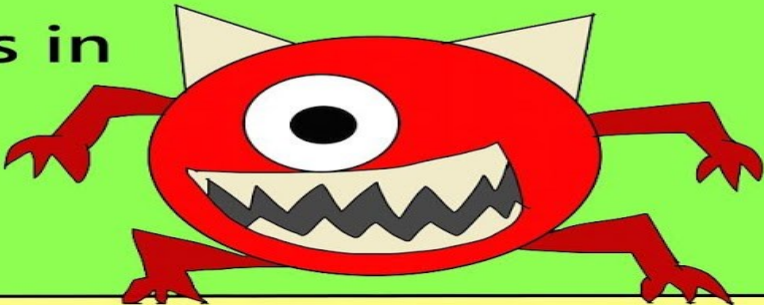
ketchup water
dogs that
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frebby fatbear
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