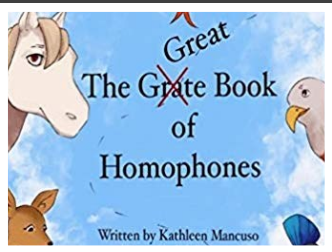


November 2019
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EAST SCHOLAR-ATHLETES SIGN THEIR NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT

By Nikitha Kamath



On Wednesday, November 13th, five of Williamsville East’s Scholar-Athletes signed their National Letter of Intent to play at the Division I or II levels for the school year of 2020-21. The signing of the Letter of Intent is indicative of a student athlete’s commitment to participate in colleges and universities that have ties with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). This event on Wednesday was held in the Commons, where the athletes were recognized for their accomplishments and congratulated for their commitments. These five seniors and members of the Williamsville East Athletic Department are Joseph Amici, Gretchen Beyer, Mia Wendell, Lyla Mili-

tello, and Anna Miller. Joseph Amici has decided to play lacrosse at North Greenville University next year. Along with being on the Varsity Lacrosse team since his freshman year, Joe has been the captain of the team for two years. In this position, he has earned First Team Class B honors twice, Character Athlete of Section VI two times, first team All-WNY Bee Newspaper team and second team All-WNY. Joe has also received the United States Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award.

Gretchen Beyer will be playing
See LETTER OF INTENT on A3

COMMENTARY

REMEMBERING KRISTALLNACHT ON ITS 81ST ANNIVERSARY

By Sophie Zhu

This past weekend was the eighty-first anniversary of Kristallnacht, the famed Night of Broken Glass. This nationwide pogrom against the Jewish occurred on November 9-10, 1938. The murder of a Hitler-backed diplomat Ernst von Rath by a Polish-Jewish teenager had angered Hitler and caused a chief SS jurist (Walter Buch) to launch a series of pogroms. The Stormabteilung (the Nazi military) and Hitler Youth had cooperated to wreck over 7500 Jewish businesses, thus the name Kristallnacht, which means “crystal night.” Moreover, they had held torches to burn down synagogues, stores, and anything related to the Jewish community. German police and emergency services were ordered to do nothing other than extinguish fires that had affected non-Jewish property. Over 91 Jews had died in the incident, and over 30,000 Jewish men were sent to concentration camps such as Dachau and Buchenwald.

This event is a harsh reminder of the inhumane anti-Semitism that plagued not only the Aryans, but even other Europeans and Americans. Kristallnacht was only a precursor to the seven years of the hor-

See KRISTALLNACHT COMMENTARY on B5

FREE MARKET CAFETERIA

By Gabe Guo

Cafeteria lunches are a staple of Williamsville East High School’s culture. Over these lunches in the Commons, friendships are made and strengthened, as students take breaks from their busy days to refuel and recharge. The red and blue plastic trays of our cafeteria have borne witness to the many jokes, laughter, and last-minute discussions of homework assignments that take place on the first floor of our school. Indeed, the Commons can be described as a combination of three things: students, noise, and cafeteria food. With its open atmosphere and free exchange of ideas, it is undoubtedly one of the most free student areas a public high school could possibly have.

Current State of Lunches in East’s Commons

Yet, even with this culture of freedom and choice, why is there a limited choice as to what lunches can be

purchased in the Commons? Currently, students have three options: buy food from the cafeteria, buy food from FBLA’s Commons Cafe, or bring lunch from home. Note that students are currently not allowed to order takeout food to the school, nor are private vendors allowed to sell food in the Commons.

Pros of Current Lunch System

To be fair to the current system, the current food served in the cafeteria is already of a decent quality, and does provide some degree of choice. Many students enjoy the chicken wraps and salad bar, two relatively new additions to East’s cafeteria. Students can choose what to put in such wraps and salads, whether that is cheese, chickpeas, or sour cream. In line with East’s free spirit, this is a deviation from the standard

See FREE MARKET on A3

East Student Illustrates Children’s Book

By Nikitha Kamath

Kathleen Mancuso, a teacher aide in the Williamsville Central School District, recently published her fourth children’s book, *The Great (Grate) Book of Homophones*, which was illustrated by Williamsville East Senior Isabella Krawczyk. Looking for a new illustrator for her latest book, Mancuso decided to hold a contest for art students in the district with the best submission being given the opportunity to collaborate with her. Among all the entrants for the illustration contest, Bella’s artwork stood out the most to Mancuso, as she shared, “[The entries] were all really good, but I just loved Bella’s so much. I saw it and said, ‘Oh my gosh, that’s what I want, exactly.’ I wanted whimsical looking artwork, and I love the expressions she has on people’s faces ... It’s just amazing.”

Bella enjoys working with digital art and has taught herself the ways of Procreate, a digital art application for iOS and iPadOS. Although the beginnings of her journey in art consisted mainly of drawing characters from her favorite books and TV shows, Bella has since branched out and applies her skills to create original artwork. “Bella has always had a sketchbook and pencil in her hand for as long as I’ve known her, so it’s really wonderful to see all of the hard work she’s put in through the years to pan out for her,”



said her friend and fellow Senior Puja Shah when she heard about the publication of the book.

The Great (Grate) Book of Homophones is Bella’s first published work, and she shared that this project took up a major part of her summer. This book was written to teach children about homophones, and accordingly, plays on words in amusing ways to deliver this complex idea to young readers. For instance, “I went to the sea, and what did I see? A big old catfish, waving at me,” the first page reads. *The Great (Grate) Book of Homophones* and Mancuso’s other works are available for purchase on Amazon as well as at local bookstores such as Dog Ears Bookstore in South Buffalo, Monkey See

Monkey Do Children’s Bookstore in Clarence, and The Bookworm in East Aurora. Additionally, Mancuso has expressed that she would love for this talented senior to collaborate on several of her future publications.

In order to learn more about Bella’s thoughts, we sat down with her for a couple questions about the project:

What were your first thoughts upon hearing that you won the contest? When I first heard that I won the contest, I was both incredibly excited and also surprised, I didn’t think she would choose me.

Working on art as a hobby is understandably different from participating in a professional project. What are some of your takeaways from the experience? Collaborating with someone definitely made me more aware of what I was drawing, since the art wasn’t just for me this time, it was for her and everyone else that would read the book. It was kind of intimidating.

How does it feel to see your work being published? Seeing my work in an actual published book makes me feel really accomplished. It makes me feel like I’m finally starting to go somewhere.

Although it may be hard to choose, what is your favorite part of the project

See **BOOK ILLUSTRATION** on A3

The Sibling Dynamic

By Colleen Meosky

There’s no doubt that siblings can make life harder. I can fully attest to this fact with six siblings of my own (seven with my brother-in-law). I surveyed 12 East students, and here’s what they had to say.

Has a sibling ever taken your stuff?

This is a very common issue, with 100% of the surveyed students saying that this has happened to them.

Is it worse when a sibling steals leftovers or clothing?

83% (10 of 12) of people voted that they’d rather have clothing taken. Nobody wants to open the fridge and experience the complete devastation of not seeing their leftovers that they’ve been looking forward to eating all day.

“My sister always eats my leftover chicken. I don’t mind if she takes my

sweaters, but when she takes my chicken, my protein source for my mid-afternoon snack is gone,” Gabe Guo, our editor-in-chief says.

Is it harder to be the oldest, youngest, or a middle child?

Students had strong opinions on this question. Three people answered oldest, two people said middle, and two claimed that the youngest is most difficult. People tended to believe that the youngest children face the most sibling grief, while the oldest has the most responsibilities. Middle children tend to receive less attention. However, one youngest child believed that she was forgotten more than her older siblings. Overall, each position seems to have equal hardships, varying based on a family’s dynamic.

Do you ever wish you had more sib-

lings?

Vihaan Mujumdar, a freshman, said, “No, my crazy little sister is enough”. This was most peoples’ reaction. However, Mandi Mu, another freshman, said that she would really like to have an older sister, and another girl wants to have a brother.

Leo Yana-Romero, an only child, states, “I do wish that I had siblings. When I find myself thinking about the brother or sister I never had, I also think about how it would affect my lifestyle. I wonder if my siblings would have been companions or detractors. I obviously wouldn’t have any say as to what their personalities may have been like, but I believe that they could have spiced up my family life.”

FREE MARKET from A1

district-mandated school lunch menu.

Even in regards to the menu lunches, students find them to be satisfactory. Calvin Lee, a senior, says, “School lunch is a subsidized option that gives kids an affordable meal conveniently during the school day that is served fresh with decent options to choose from. Although the taste can be improved upon, it is understandable that a high school public lunch is on a lower tier than a five star gourmet restau-

rant. We are grateful for what we have.” As he notes, school lunch plays an important role in guaranteeing that the high school students of East Amherst are well-fed. Aditya Goyal, treasurer of the junior class, concurs, saying, “It is not bad.”

Cons of Current Lunch System

Yet, as Calvin Lee alluded, even with the positive impact cafeteria lunch has on our school and many others nationwide, many students believe that there are areas in which it could be improved.

Owen Lewis, a senior, states, “I don’t get school lunch, but it doesn’t look great.” Jaiha Lee, a senior and our managing editor, has never eaten school lunch, stating, “The stuff I bring from home tends to be healthier.” In agreement with Jaiha, Hannah Yi, another senior, concisely says, “It’s terrible.” Additionally, Anna Lin and Emily Xu, two juniors, opine that the portions are too small and expensive, and the food has an aftertaste.

There is also the concern that school lunches may not

provide adequate nutrition, even under the current federal guidelines. According to williamsville12.org, “The Williamsville School Nutrition Program provides meals with a variety of healthy foods that are appealing to students and meet USDA nutrition standards as well as the criteria for the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. Our menus feature appetizing and nutritious food choices including fresh fruits and vegetables, lower fat meat and dairy, plus many whole

See **FREE MARKET** on A4

BOOK ILLUSTRATION from A2

and what did you find the most challenging? My favorite part was the drawing, of course. It was also the most challenging.

How did you become interested in art and what are some of your favorite things to draw? My interest in art bloomed after some friends and I had the temporary idea to make a comic together back in middle school. I was appointed the artist despite not being very good, so I bought an art book to help me. I

fell in love with it, and even though the comic never happened, I kept drawing.

Looking ahead, what are your plans after graduation and do they include art? I definitely want to go to college for art, it’s something I could see myself doing for the rest of my life.

I believe I speak for everyone at East when I say that we are proud of Bella’s achievement and wish her the very best in her future endeavors!

LETTER OF INTENT from A1

soccer and enrolling in the Physicians Assistant program at Daemen College next year. Gretchen has been on the Varsity Soccer team for four years and has assumed captaincy of the team for two years. In addition, she is the recipient of the Air Force Scholar Athlete Award.

Mia Wendell has committed to play women’s ice hockey at Yale University next fall. Mia has been playing goalie on the Buffalo Regals team for the past five

years. She also helped lead her team to the USA Hockey Nationals in Anaheim, CA last year.

Lyla Militello will be playing lacrosse at The University of Akron next fall. Lyla has been on the Varsity Lacrosse team since her freshman year. Despite an injury cutting her season short during her sophomore year, she has scored an impressive total of 106 goals till date. Lyla has also made first team All ECIC last year and has received an honorable mention for All-

WNY.

Anna Miller will be playing soccer at Loyola University Maryland next year. Anna is a two-year captain and has earned first team All-WNY. She currently holds the school record for most saves as a goalie.

Everyone at East congratulates these dedicated Scholar-Athletes and wishes them the best as they continue their journey with sports at the collegiate level.



East High students joined Mr. Swatland in celebrating their recognition by the staff for having tried their best. ‘Trying your best’ represents the ‘T’ in the “Carry the TORCH” program which promotes values and character development within the East High community. This is one in a series of events that will continue throughout the year to represent the other elements of the program which are; O – Others are important, R – Respect for self and others, C – Caring for self and others and H-Honesty in the classroom and on the field. The Carry the Torch program is an initiative begun by the Shared Decision Making Team at East High.

FREE MARKET from A3

grain enriched options.” Yet, the tomato sauce on pizza counts towards these government-mandated servings of vegetables in school lunches, as do french fries in some cases. Specifically, according to the Washington Post, Congress ruled that an eighth of a cup of tomato paste counts as half a cup of vegetables. Currently, williamsvillek12.org states, “Students must select a minimum of ½ cup of fruit or vegetable on their tray at lunch.” It should be noted that this half cup is considered by Congress to be equivalent to the amount of tomato paste on a school pizza lunch! It is also stated on williamsvillek12.org that “Three types of pizzas offered on [Williamsville] school menus contain whole grain flour.” Even though dishes like pizza and french fries have high fat content and are possibly pre-processed in unhealthy ways, they are still being used to satisfy federal nutrition guidelines.

Thus, it seems that there are two main areas in which school lunches can be improved: taste and nutrition.

It should be noted, however, that the staff of the cafeteria has little say in the content of school lunches. Any changes to school lunches would likely have to start at the administrative or governmental level.

Free Market Cafeteria: An Immodest Proposal

So, why is the system currently this way? Why can’t there be a free market cafeteria, with multiple choices for school lunches? Under this free market system, students would be allowed to order food to the school, and private vendors would be allowed to sell food in the Commons, ala the UB food court.

Some students are in totally in favor of a free market cafeteria system. Skye Campo elaborates, “The school cafeteria doesn’t provide the highest quality of food. There’s no reason not to allow students to get food from other vendors. More options could not possibly be worse. If a student wants to order Panera, there’s absolutely no reason why they shouldn’t be able to. For example, if I would like to buy food ninth period, I’m not able to, as it’s shut down.” Owen Lewis states of a free market cafeteria system, “I’m absolutely in favor. I think if quality can go up, it definitely should.”

This is the classic statement of the benefits of the free market: quality goes up, prices go down. The idea is that a free market system would allow students to order food that tastes better and provides better nutrition, while choosing the prices that are most affordable for them. Theoretically, this competition would also pressure the school vendors to produce better food at lower prices. Even if less people bought school lunch, the same budget could potentially be used to buy lower

quantities of higher quality food for the school cafeteria, which would be a better outcome for the students who do still choose to purchase school lunch.

Potential Pitfalls of Free Market Cafeteria, According to Administration

Yet, some hurdles to the free market cafeteria system are the current regulations on food sales in the cafeteria. “The food service is governed by state and federal regulations for school meals. We do not allow anything to compete with this. Therefore, no outside food delivery is permitted,” says Mrs. DeSantis.

There are also unintended consequences of allowing students to order food. Mrs. Charleson-Smith remembers, “A lot of students at the school I used to work at would order in food. While it was nice, it caused problems. Students would disrupt classes to get their delivered food. They would expect the secretaries to take care of the payments, then call them when the food came. Some students would even leave class to go get the food. Also, the school cafeteria still has to break even; allowing students to order food could potentially disrupt that.”

Mrs. Charleson-Smith brings up two critical points here: the disruption to the learning environment and the disruption to the district’s finances. The concern with delivered lunches is that the school would become much more chaotic, both in terms of the vehicular traffic to the building, and the unnecessary movement and noise among the classrooms (even though we don’t really have classrooms per se). There would also be safety concerns, due to the increased traffic. Perhaps even more concerning is the problem of the budget. Even though they are subsidized, school lunches are still supposed to make a profit, or at least break even, as money is a limited resource. If students were allowed to order food, this could lead to supply of standard school lunches exceeding demand. On a large enough scale, this could mean that the school district loses money, due to low numbers of purchases. This could potentially impact other areas of the budget, as the district still has the responsibility to pay for the food. This is presumably the rationale behind the regulations Mrs. DeSantis mentioned.

Potential Pitfalls of Free Market Cafeteria, According to Students

Additionally, other students have voiced concerns with the implementation of laissez-faire capitalism in the school cafeteria. Philip Baillargeon, host of The Bonfire (the best high school talk show to ever be produced in East Amherst), says, “Divert more funding to school lunch. Any outside food would probably be healthier than school lunch as is. I don't know whether increasing costs is the answer to improving quality, but adding fast food to schools is increasing childhood

obesity in the south. Look up what's happening with Pizza Hut and all that in southern high schools. Privatization is not the answer.” James Liu, our cartoonist, agrees with Philip’s concerns of increased potential opportunities for poor decision making: “If kids are going to vape in the bathrooms after 27 presentations about why it’s bad, I think a good majority are going to just eat junk food for lunch every day if we just hand the option to them.”

Solutions From Students

Yet, many students are receptive to the idea of more choices in the cafeteria, albeit with a slightly more moderate implementation.

Ryan Chou, our Business and Finance editor and FBLA District 12 secretary, opines, “I believe a free market type system in the cafeteria could work out as long as there is some form of regulation. People should be able to have a larger variety of hot food that they can eat at school and shouldn’t be limited to food they bring in from home or the cafeteria. But, I can see a security concern being that inappropriate goods could be brought into the school more easily, meaning that every single delivery or order would need to be checked. So, I see it as a working system but one that would need to be regulated to some extent.”

Kevin Wang, president of YAF and FBLA, moves away from the free market system altogether: “I say we need microwaves before private vendors. If we can spend ten million dollars on the football field and five million dollars on the orchestra wing, we can afford an \$80 microwave that will allow kids to bring in nutritious meals.” Indeed, this could potentially be a cost-effective solution, without the need for much bureaucratic oversight.

Leo Yana-Romero, the producer of The Bonfire, states that school lunches are “not currently proper nutrition”. He continues, “Schools should strive for nutritional and affordable lunches, and if it can be done through a public system, I think it should. If that’s not possible, school clubs should be encouraged to start more lunch stands.” This could potentially expand upon FBLA’s Commons Cafe, allowing other clubs to sell their own food. This way, all the profits would be used to fund the betterment of the student body in some capacity or another.

Looking Forward

Overall, although a free market system in the Commons may not be a practical solution at the moment, students agree that the quality of the food needs to be improved. This is an issue with many viable solutions, and going forward, the best way to solve this problem seems to be to create dialogue among students, parents, staff, and administrators so that we can all work towards a solution that benefits every member of our school community.

National News

A Kentucky Fried ReCanvass: Former Governor Bevin Refuses to Concede

By Philip Baillargeon



Source: WOUB Public Media

On Election Day 2019, an apparent shift in power was viewed nationwide with bated breath. Republican Governor Matt Bevin, one of the lowest approved governors in the nation, had apparently lost to Democrat Andy Beshear, son of former Kentucky governor Steve Beshear. However, the younger Beshear has yet to be declared governor, as Bevin has called for a recanvass. Therefore, the election is unable to be certified.

A recanvass, for those who are unfamiliar with the term, does not mean the same thing as a recount. Kentucky law actually prohibits direct recounts in gubernatorial elections. A recanvass is the process of reprinting receipts from voting machines that tally the results, sending them to be verified by the Secretary of State. The only possible change that could occur would be some clerical errors, which in all likelihood would not grant him the 5,000 votes he would need to win re-election. The results must be certified by November 25th.

However, the process could continue further after that. If Bevin submits a written notice contesting the results within thirty days of the certification, a committee will be formed by the Kentucky General Assembly to assess the complaint. This composite group of state representatives will review depositions and make a decision as to whether any wrongdoing has taken place. The committee is formed by lottery, but in all likelihood this committee will have a majority of Republicans, as they control the state House by a margin of 61-39 and the state Senate by a margin of 29-9.

The details of what fraud Bevin wishes to bring to light are unclear. In the days after the election, in front of the governor’s mansion, he alleged that “thousands” of absentee ballots were cast illegally. However, no evidence has been presented by any personel in the Kentucky government. Critics warn of the dangers of questioning the legitimacy of elections without evidence, with several members of the GOP, like Kentucky’s Republican Senate President Robert Stivers, encouraging Bevin to accept his loss or provide substantial evidence.

The parallels to President Trump’s claims of widespread fraud in the 2016 Presidential Election are clear, which makes sense, considering President Trump held a rally in Kentucky the night before the election in support of Governor Bevin. Trump formed a committee to investigate election fraud in his administration, however, they disbanded after less than a year when they turned up no evidence of wrongdoing. The situation in Kentucky could be a small-scale test of how institutions react to claims of fraud in elections when the results are unfavorable. For, in the year 2020, there may be a similar situation, and its outcome could spell trouble for democracy. It all depends on how far Bevin wishes to take this. Beshear is confident, forming a transition team and preparing to take control over the governorship.

Only time will tell if Bevin will ever be ready to take defeat with grace.

Results of Virginia Off-year Elections

Michael Ge

In the 2019 elections, Democrats achieved a major victory over Republicans in the Virginia House of Delegates and Virginia Senate. Democrats flipped six seats in the House of Delegates and two seats in the Senate. Democrats now have 55/100 seats in the House of Delegates and 21/40 seats in the Senate. With their victories, Virginia Democrats now have a trifecta, meaning that one party controls both chambers of the state legislature and the governor’s mansion. This is the first time since 1993 that Democrats have a trifecta. Now, Demo-

crats have full control over redistricting after the 2020 Census. Furthermore, they can push through progressive agendas such as gun control and Medicaid expansion.

Given the results of the election, the political scandal in early 2019 that rocked Virginia Democrats seems to have subsided. The once embattled Governor Ralph Northam, who allegedly wore blackface in medical school, now has a positive approval rating, and Virginia voters supported his goals when they went to the polls on Tuesday. Lieutenant Governor

Justin Fairfax and Attorney General Mark Herring who were also caught up in the scandal also have positive approval ratings.

The results of the election is further proof of Virginia’s trend towards the Democratic Party and the Democrats making gains in the suburbs. Virginia’s trend towards the Democrats makes it appear that it is no longer competitive for Republicans on the state and Federal level. Democrats control both of Virginia’s Senate seats and have a 7-4 majority on its House delegation.

YouTuber Initiates Large Scale Project to Plant Trees

By Mia Miller



Source: Metro News

By now, everyone is very well aware of global warming and other environmental issues. Greenhouse gases are warming the atmosphere at alarming rates, causing catastrophic effects. Deforestation has resulted in a higher buildup of CO2. An American YouTuber, Mr. Beast (Jimmy Donaldson), has recently created the ambitious project, Team Trees, in hopes of having a positive effect on the crisis.

Mr. Beast is a popular YouTuber with more than 25 million subscribers. He is known for his impressive and unique videos and challenges. Some of his videos include donating thousands of dollars to strangers, buying a house for a homeless man, and giving away expensive items such as cars and electronics for free. His videos also include more trivial stuff such as reading every word in the dictionary in one sitting, spending 24 hours in various locations, and counting to 100,000 in a single video.

Many of Donaldson’s fans have spammed him on social media with memes and requests for him to plant 20 million trees after reaching 20 million subscribers to help fight global warming. On October 25th, Mr. Beast uploaded a video titled *Planting 20,000,000 Trees, My Biggest*

Project Ever. The video announced the initiative titled Team Trees, and explained that for each dollar donated, one tree would be planted. Team Trees is a collaboration between Donaldson and fellow YouTuber Mark Rober, who have partnered with the Arbor Day Foundation to create the project. The goal is to raise enough money to plant 20 million trees before 2020, providing only two months to reach the goal. “We want to show that YouTube isn’t just a drama fest, that we actually have real influence and can make real change,” says Donaldson.

Team Trees has received lots of support around the globe. Only a few days following the announcement, CEO of Tesla Elon Musk donated \$1,000,000. Shortly after the CEO of Shopify, Tobi Lütke, donated \$1,000,001. Even the CEO of YouTube, Susan Wojcicki, supported the cause and donated \$200,000. It only took six days to raise \$10,000,000, quickly reaching the halfway point. At the time of writing, nearly \$15,000,000 have been donated.

The plan is for the Arbor Day Foundation to plant the trees in January, after all the donations had been collected. The planting will start in areas with warmer

climates and will expand to areas of every continent except Antarctica.

Despite the positivity and support Team Trees has received, many are stating the project isn’t as easy as Donaldson and other YouTubers are making it seem. Scientists respond to Team Trees by saying most of the trees will die quickly if they are planted carelessly and not given proper care. They say it may be more effective in the long run to plant a few trees and give them lots of care. The Arbor Day Foundation is aware of this, but they predict only 3% of the trees won’t make it. Many also accuse Donaldson of using the project as a way to seem like a better person by using big numbers. They claim it is easy to make yourself look like an amazing person by showing off how many trees you have planted to help the environment.

Regardless of these accusations, Donaldson continues to advertise Team Trees in hopes of a positive change regarding the environment. He says in his announcement video, “We only have one Earth, and it’s important we take care of it”. He is determined to prove to people that YouTubers are capable of using their influence for good, even if it’s just spreading a good message in the end.

Available on



The East Side Newspaper

Twice As
Interesting



COMMENTARY

The ERA Helped Turn Virginia Blue; It Could Do the Same for the Presidency

By Philip Baillargeon



Source: Time Magazine

The 2019 elections had a few surprising highlights, but none of them top the formation of a Democratic Virginia State Legislature, which seems odd at first glance. Why should this make national headlines? Besides the fact that this is the first time Democrats have held the Virginia state government in decades, in large part due to the failure of Democrats to organize locally, Virginia could be the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. Yes, that Equal Rights Amendment, the one that guarantees equal rights under law, regardless of sex. Yes, the discrimination of women in terms of divorce, property, and employment is still legal according to the United States Constitution — which is unequivocally disgusting. Virginia, however, could change this by ratifying the amendment and passing the ball to the Congress.

Then arises a legal quandary that has puzzled legal experts for years; the deadline to pass the ERA, as designated by Congress in the 1970's, has expired, but can such a deadline be set? The Constitution itself only states that the amendment must be ratified in a "reasonable amount of time". Most point to the Madison Amendment, also known as the 27th Amendment, passed by Congress nearly 200 years after its inception. Alice Paul first proposed this amendment in 1923, a mere 100 years ago, so, if this logic holds, the ERA is still valid. Then again, other legal scholars claim Congress could just extend the deadline to ratify as far into the future as they would like, allowing the amendment to take effect, as the piece of legislation itself was passed by both the

House and the Senate in the early 70's.

This used to be a bipartisan issue, until inflammatory campaigns claimed the amendment would enter women into the draft, eliminate alimony, and decrease the tendencies for women to receive custody of children in divorce cases. Which, in an increasingly less constrictive society based on gender, becomes less and less of an issue. Yes, there are still people like Phyllis Schlafly, masking the submission of women to the role of housewife by glorifying Americana. But the widespread opinion of Americans has greatly changed. One of the cruxes the Stop-ERA campaign was built upon was the possible elimination of single-sex bathrooms, a catcall of homophobia, as it preys upon an image of homosexuality that is innately criminal or immoral. Approval for same-sex marriage has around a 70% approval rating in 2019. Socially, as a nation, we're a lot more progressive than we used to be.

Speaking of the present day, the most controversial in our time is impeachment. Should Democrats impeach, should they not impeach, should they both impeach and not impeach at the same time? However, outside of impeachment, there are limited measures the Democrats can accomplish without holding the White House. Except the Equal Rights Amendment. It's the perfect storm; progressive reform that doesn't need to pass a Republican Senate. The Equal Rights Amendment is a golden goose in terms of polling; a whopping 94%, according to a study conducted by the ERA Coalition/ Fund for Women's Equality support the amendment. That's polling only matched by uni-

versal background checks on those wishing to purchase firearms, another winning issue for Democrats. Virginia didn't turn blue because they want to impeach Trump and that's all; gun control legislation and the Equal Rights Amendment delivered the state to Democrats because a majority of Americans believe that dangerous individuals should not have weapons of war and gender discrimination should be illegal. According to that same poll, 80% of Americans already think it is illegal.

"Running on Impeachment" is a terrible idea. Any campaign focused on negating the opposition is generally unsuccessful. Running as the party who guarantee women's rights, who uphold public safety, and who improve access to medicine is a winning combination, as shown in the 2018 and 2019 elections. Flipping Kentucky's governorship blue and Virginia's state government blue didn't happen purely out of hatred of Trump (however, he does play a role in it). It happened because Americans believe in life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, through and through. The Equal Rights Amendment advances this cause. This is a fight the Republican Party knows it can't win, and I would be shocked to see it try to block women's rights legislation in such a brazen manner.

I am confident in few things in national politics, but I am certain that Democrats will win in a debate concerning the rights of women because it's about time we get this done, and the American public knows it.

International News

Turkey to Deport Foreign Terrorists

By Maler Suresh

Last we left Turkey, they had launched an operation into Syria to drive back Kurdish forces. The Kurds, an ethnic group of people who reside within Middle Eastern countries, makeup one of the largest stateless nations in the world. In Northern Syria, they have served as U.S. allies in the fight against the Islamic State (ISIS). Turkey now owns a border zone that was previously held by the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) who are rebelling against the current Syrian government. Through their invasion, Turkey now has a tenuous alliance with the Syrian government. Turkey's operation benefitted Syrian President Bashaar al-Assad the most, allowing him to take back more territory from the SDF in weeks than he had in years. During this operation, Turkey not only gained control of land, but they captured many foreign ISIS terrorists that were in the custody of the Kurds. These foreign terrorists were mostly Westerners and Europeans who relocated to Syria to be closer to a government that would shelter them. Now, Turkey is threatening to send these foreign terrorists back to their country of origin, with an Ameri-

can already expelled and more than 20 Europeans in the process of deportation.

Ankara, Turkey's capital, has become increasingly frustrated with Western nations for not taking back any of the 1,200 foreign nationals who are being held in Turkish prisons for supposed links to terror organizations. The U.S. and other European nations have attempted to disown these terrorists by stripping them of their citizenship, making them legally stateless, but Turkey is willing to repatriate them anyways. "There is no need to try to escape from it, we will send them back to you. Deal with them how you want," Turkish minister Suleyman Soylu said, stating that "Turkey is not a hotel for foreign terrorists" The exact logistics of how Turkey is planning to repatriate these terrorists is unclear, especially since their countries are technically no longer responsible for them. But, tensions will undoubtedly continue to mount as Ankara becomes increasingly frustrated with the number of terrorists that foreign countries refuse to take back from Turkey.

India's Tiger Population Doubles

Mia Miller



Photographer: Shivang Mehta

The Bengal tiger, also well known as India's national animal, has experienced a significant decrease in population since 1900. The population was once 100,000, but that number was reported to only be 1,411 in 2006. The species that once ruled over India and the rest of southeastern Asia had earned itself a spot on the endangered animals list due to habitat destruction and poaching by humans.

However, within the past decade, India has put forward their best efforts to help conserve the wild Bengal tiger population as it grew aware of the dwindling number of the species. In 2006, India, along with other world leaders, pledged to double the tiger population by 2022. Since then, the population has increased to nearly 3,000 as of the 2018 estimate. The

population has more than doubled four years earlier than planned.

How has India managed to achieve this? There are now over 50 tiger reserves scattered throughout the country dedicated to protecting the habitats and lives of the beloved animal. Multiple conservation initiatives have been implemented by India, the most important being managing and protecting all of these tiger reserves. People can pay to visit these reserves and watch the beautiful creatures from a distance.

India's largest reserve is the Nagarjun-sagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve. The reserve is nearly 1,500 square miles in area, and is mostly composed of hills and forests that make up the tiger's natural habitat. The

See **TIGERS** on B5

Mexico Attacks Claim Nine Lives

By Shawn Gupta

On November 5th, nine people were killed in Sonora, a province in northern Mexico. Among the victims were six children and three women, all of whom were Mormons and American citizens. Eight children were found alive, but only a few of them were left unscathed. Seven of the children were flown to a hospital in Arizona to be treated. It is believed that members of a local drug cartel were responsible for the attack. The Mexican government believes that a drug cartel mistook the victim's vehicles as those of a rival cartel's.

This incident highlights a growing

problem in some parts of Mexico: rampant crime, gang-controlled areas, and a low amount of security. The attack started at around 9:40 am, but Mexican authorities arrived at the scene at around 6:15 pm. The nearest army base was 160 km away, leaving the surviving children to fend for themselves. At the same time, this attack is making many Mexicans wary of how effective President Obrador will be in tackling crime. Despite the numerous campaign promises he made about lowering crime and lowering the power of cartels, it seems as if crime is growing, and cartels are growing.

Many people offered their condolences on the internet including President Trump. Trump also offered to deploy US troops in Mexico, but this proposal drew sharp criticism from both the Mexican government and some members of Mexico's Mormon community. Some Mexican officials lashed out at Trump, saying that these cartels are powerful partially because of the American made weapons that are being smuggled across the border into Mexico in massive quantities. Events such as this attack may become more common if the drug cartels continue to gain power in parts of Mexico.

KRISTALLNACT COMMENTARY from A1

rific Holocaust which consisted of a long list of crimes committed against the simplest moral rule: human rights. A few of these crimes included mass genocide of the Jewish, harsh labor with no food or clothing, and the Mengele experiments which were completely beyond anyone’s imagination At this point, Jews received a wake-up call that this anti-Semitism would not be temporary, and would only escalate.

1945 marked the end of the Second World War, and Jews were released from prison camps while Nazis were tried at the Nuremberg trials. It was to be a happy ending to the seemingly never ending slew of violence. The problem was, it wasn’t.

Antisemitic attacks continued in the years of 1945, 1946, etc., and even today. An era of harsh discrimination was to be over, and yet it’s still widespread. For example, in the Kielce pogrom, over a year after VE day (May 8, 1945, the surrender of the Nazis), 42 Jews were killed following the false accusation of a Jew kidnapping a Christian boy. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, Stalin carried out the Doctors’ Plot, in which Jewish doctors were accused of conspiring against Soviet authorities and thus dismissed and arrested. Neo-Nazis attempted to bomb a Moscow

synagogue in 1999; nine Jews were stabbed seven years later at the same synagogue. An al-Qaeda-inspired assailant murdered three Jews in 2012, followed by a French-Jewish teenager getting assaulted on a train three months later. In 2014, a

One might think that it’s not important to learn about the Holocaust since they aren’t Jewish or they don’t plan on becoming a historian; but the truth of the matter is that it is.

mob chanted “Death to the Jews” at a synagogue, four were murdered in 2015, an elderly woman thrown off her balcony in 2017, and another set on fire in 2018. Although all of these incidents occurred in Europe, we witnessed our share of anti-Semitism in 2018 when eleven Jews were murdered at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. Whether it was the fear of revenge or a habit that manifested because of Nazi influence, these anti-Semitism attacks are undoubtedly severe calamities filled with unnecessary hate. What’s distressing is

the increasing number of people trivializing the Holocaust or even being completely ignorant of it. According to a study reported by a conference on Jewish claims against Germany, about one-third of all Americans believed less than one-third of the actual death count died, and 45% of Americans could not name a single death/concentration camp. Only 84% identified Germany as a location the Holocaust took place, 37% identified Poland, and about 5% identified Latvia, Lithuania, or Estonia. The most shocking data is that over one-fifth of Americans aren’t sure they have even heard of the Holocaust.

One might think that it’s not important to learn about the Holocaust since they aren’t Jewish or they don’t plan on becoming a historian; but the truth of the matter is that it is. The youngest of survivors would be at least seventy, and when their generation disappears, the stories and fates of two-thirds of the European Jewish population that died along with those who survived, will be forever lost. In addition, to prevent such brutal mass attacks against a certain race, we must learn the consequences and story of ones that have already occurred. After all, as the saying goes, “those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it.”

TIGERS from B4

reserve has a population of 110 tigers as of September 2016, holding a large portion of India’s tigers. Some reserves hold as much as 200 tigers, while others have lost all of their tigers.

Despite a large goal being achieved in saving the tiger population, they still aren’t safe. The lives of the tigers are threatened everyday by human activities such as illegal poaching, deforestation, and overgrazing. Tigers are poached by many for their meat and body parts. Even if a tiger accidentally come into contact with groups of humans, their lives are threatened. In July 2019, a tiger wandered into a village and attacked nine villagers. As a result, the tiger was beaten to death out of self defense. A video of this went viral, and the rest of India was outraged. Alongside tigers, India’s population has also grown. More people are living in India’s rural areas, taking up more space that could be roamed by wild tigers.

According to Penny Banham, an officer of Born Free conserva-

tion projects, “Reducing human-tiger conflict, ending poaching, improving habitat quality and connectivity and increasing prey numbers across India and beyond will be vital in the success and perpetuity of tigers”. Wild tigers, for the past few decades, have been forced to compete with humans for the forests they thrive in. Humans have also been hunting and killing tiger prey, making hunting for food a bigger challenge for tigers.

Tigers, of course, are not the only animals threatened by human activity. We also act as a threat for the endangered pandas, blue whales, elephants, leopards, otters, sea turtles, polar bears, and even more. Three subspecies of the tiger have even gone extinct in recent years. Tigers are still critically endangered and threatened along with plenty of other wildlife, and humans still need to make large changes if we want to keep them alive. However, the increase in India’s tiger population demonstrates that with enough effort, patience, and compassion, differences can be made by us.

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Libra: Facebook's New Cryptocurrency

By Ryan Chou



Source: Medium

Libra, the new cryptocurrency announced by Mark Zuckerberg, has sparked controversy even though it has not even been released yet. And this controversy is occurring all while Facebook is in more hot water over its sharing of user data and decision to allow advertisements containing lies about politicians to be run on the site.

Zuckerberg plans to have the currency released sometime in 2020, meaning Facebook users could make online transactions using the currency on the social media conglomerate. According to Libra’s website, the goal of the currency is to be, “A simple global currency and financial infrastructure that empowers billions of people.” Additionally, the cryptocurrency aims to have a stable value, unlike Bitcoin.

The currency has been criticized by many influential people, including John

McAfee, the developer of McAfee antivirus software. While Libra describes itself as a decentralized database, McAfee believes that it actually is not decentralized. Therefore, Libra would track its users’ spending of the currency rather than following the original purpose of cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, which is to provide an anonymous pathway for spending currency.

According to McAfee, Libra would use the controversial information collected by Facebook on its users and include purchases into this database. However, it is also possible McAfee has a bias considering Libra would be a competitor to McAfee DEX, his own cryptocurrency.

But how would Libra even work? Well, its stabilized value would be supported with some of the world's most powerful currencies, including the US dollar and

Japanese yen. This currency is supposed to be for all companies, meaning that it would not be isolated to a Facebook-only cryptocurrency. The currency would be used to pay for things such as ads on Facebook. Libra’s current structure allows for an infinite amount of the coin as every time it is purchased, it would be backed by a bank dollar. Subsequently, Libra will have the capacity of generating interest that can pay its owners back.

Libra is currently being developed by a Swiss non-profit. So before it can be launched, it would need to be approved by this association. Not only that, banks would have to agree to back Libra afterwards. Calibra has been developed by Facebook as a subsidiary to eventually make Libra available to users.

The Pension Gap

By Skye Campo

Throughout modern history, global population has been growing exponentially. However, as population growth slows, industrialized economies across the world are having trouble adjusting. Modern, first-world economies rely on a limited percentage of people to perform all labour for a society --the youngest of us are in school, and the oldest of us are deemed to be too frail to continue to work. If the economy does not have a sufficient number of people working, it can

experience some difficulties, such as not having the tax revenue to be able to supply pensions for the retired or, on a more general level, not having enough labour resources to care for the nonworking parts of the population. The part of this phenomenon that often gets publicized is called the “pension gap,” named after certain governments’ inability to obtain the funds necessary to pay off the pensions of the elderly, though the general phenomenon could be called

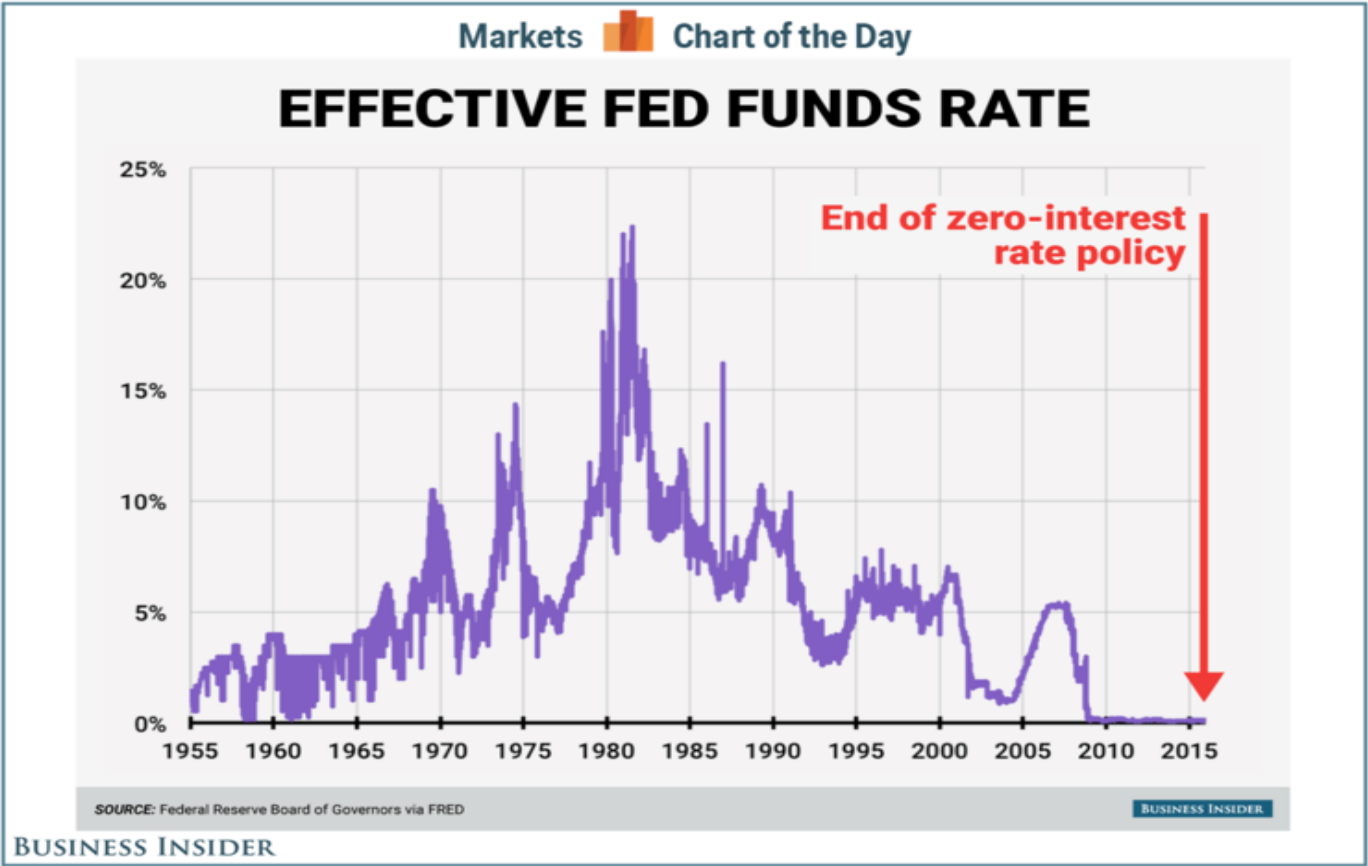
“demographic decline.”

Wealthier countries undergo the least natural population growth, tending to be below the two babies per couple needed to replace the population. A popularly held belief is that the world is overpopulated; though this may be true, the vast majority of the world’s population growth lies in third world countries, and due to the way the economies of developed nations function, first world countries could actually use more fertility.

To avoid the problems associated with the pension gap and overall demographic decline, it is best to have somewhat more population growth, lest everyone in a society be too elderly to work. Certain societies have this worse than others--Japan and South Korea, for example, have fertility rates of 1.4 and 1.3 births per couple, respectively, fertility rates so slow that these countries will not only have trouble paying

Fed Cuts Interest Rates Again

By Ryan Chou



Source: Business Insider

The Fed has cut interest rates for the third time this year due to stagnation in the economy consolidated with a slower US and global economy and a seemingly relentless trade war. In late October, rates were cut by 0.25%, to 1.5% from 1.75%.

According to Jerome Powell, the Federal Reserve Chairperson, it is unlikely that rates will be further cut due to stable economic growth and a relatively strong jobs market in this period of economic expansion.

The purpose of cutting interest rates is to artificially stimulate the economy so that this current period of economic expansion can continue. By lowering the financial costs with cutting rates, borrowing

and investing would be theoretically encouraged. But cutting interest rates is a very risky game.

With lower interest rates comes higher inflation. And if these rates are lowered too much, there may be too much inflation and growth that can end up destabilizing the economy while decreasing purchase power.

However, interest rates have been cut before. For example, quantitative easing, which is the lowering of interest rates in the beginning of a recession, occurred in the 2008 recession. The problem with this is that if the rates get too low, the economy tends to stagnate in growth.

Powell also stated that interest rates

will probably not be raised in the near future. If this rate continues on a downward trend, then it is possible that economic stagnation will occur.

The state of the economy continues to be mixed. Job numbers and household spending continues to hold steady, but business exports appears to be getting weaker. However, GDP growth last quarter was 1.9%, which is far below the Trump administration's goal of 3.0%.

While cutting rates may be increasing growth to some degree, the economy is still showing signs of slowdown. Consumer spending is still going down, and the current period of economic expansion might not last for much longer.

THE PENSION GAP from B6

pensions, but also will slowly wane in international power, relevance, and cultural influence over the coming century.

It's not just about paying for the elderly--it's about how many workers there are to keep an economy afloat. With too rapid of population decline, economies will steadily shrink, rather than steadily grow, which will likely mean a decline in the quality of life of affected areas.

Thankfully the USA has this problem less than other

first-world countries. Though we do have a less than preferable fertility rate--1.8 births per couple--we also have something that Japan and Korea don't: immigration. The Far East has historically been xenophobic in attitude and policy, and therefore few young workers arrive to carry out the labour necessary to run these economies. The USA and some Western countries continue to attract labour from around the world and welcome it at least to some degree. Whether that labour be

unskilled or skilled, it fills the state's coffers and provides the necessary resources upon which a thriving economy can be built.

Pause a moment to appreciate the ramifications of this information. The forces at work here can make or break nations--population growth could mean a thriving economy that dominates the world stage, and demographic decline could spell the decline of whole countries on the world stage, the slow and painful death of something once great.

In our lifetimes, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan will cease to be at the forefront of cultural influence, technology, and economic clout, and will instead begin to fade into a more impoverished and less relevant state of being, while countries that fair better demographically will not so quickly fade into irrelevance, such as France and the good 'ol US of A. Demographics will decide who is great and who is weak in the future affairs of our world.

Is Marvel “Real” Cinema?

By Leonardo Yana-Romero

There has been much talk ever since Martin Scorsese gave an interview to *Empire Magazine* in early October. In the interview, Scorsese boldly stated that Marvel movies aren’t cinema. He later elaborated with an opinion piece in the *New York Times* on November 6th. He supports his claim by using his own experiences in film and his observations of modern franchise movies. Scorsese talks about the artistic elements of cinema, the necessary presence of risk in films, and the business model of the modern movie franchise.

The main difference between Scorsese and the people who are Marvel fanatics is age. Scorsese himself acknowledges that the era that he grew up in saw and thought of movies in a very different way than today’s youth. Like many art forms, cinema has changed over time and has caused differences in taste among generations. Scorsese even says “I know that if I were younger, if I’d come of age at a later time, I might have been excited by these pictures and maybe even wanted to make one myself”.

Scorsese’s personal taste was developed through the various aspects of the



Source: The Walt Disney Company

films and filmmakers that he came to love. The type of cinema that Scorsese admires is about revelation and characters. Revelation in movies has the ability to confront the unexpected on a big screen with endless possibilities. Characters allow for the complexity of humans to be explored on screen. These aspects, along with the risks that filmmakers are willing to take, are what make cinema. According to Scorsese

the framework of a general movie is there in Marvel movies, but there is no revelation or risk. The movie is left empty and deprived of any enriching complexity.

I, as a young aspiring filmmaker, do agree with Scorsese. From my own experiences, I find that the filmmakers who take the most risks, in regards to not appealing to a certain trend or a set of guidelines,

See **MARVEL** on C3

Disney +

By Prabhnoor Singh

Disney has called it the future of the company, and it's less than a day away: Disney Plus. It's the entertainment giant's streaming service for almost everything it creates, taking on Netflix as well as a new crop of rivals like Apple TV Plus and HBO Max. Disney Plus, which launches on Tuesday, will be the exclusive home to stream theatrical blockbusters from Star Wars, Marvel, Pixar, and Disney's own studios.

Disney also is ramping up a slate of original shows and movies based on those brands and others. Most anticipated among them is big-budget Star Wars spinoff *The Mandalorian*.

Disney Plus is officially set to launch at 12:01 a.m. PT Tuesday in the US, Canada,



Source: Indie Wire

and the Netherlands, though some app stores may surface it earlier -- or later -- than that. (Next up is the Nov. 19 launch in Australia and New Zealand.) As it's counting down to the Disney Plus launch, Disney

has been dropping more news about the streaming service.

On Monday, just hours before Disney Plus was set to go live, Disney doubled the number of Marvel movie titles that would be available at launch

Tuesday. Before that, Disney pushed up the streaming date for the mega-blockbuster *Avengers: Endgame* last week, also making it available at launch after previously saying it would be coming a month later. Also last week, Disney also announced it had broadened device support to Amazon Fire TV streaming devices and Samsung and LG products, and Disney revealed March 31 as the Western European launch date for Disney Plus.

And a couple of weeks earlier, Disney made waves announcing a deal with Verizon to give the carrier's unlimited wireless customers a free year of Disney Plus. The offer boosts Disney's competitiveness

See **DISNEY+** on C2

against Apple TV Plus, another closely watched streaming service that launched Nov. 1. The tech giant, whose service is \$5 a month for a small library of originals, will give a free year of Apple TV Plus to anyone who's bought one of its gadgets since early September.

Overall, Disney Plus will cost \$7 a month in the US, or \$70 (about \$5.83 a month) if you prepay for a full year. That monthly rate is half the price of HBO Now and the forthcoming HBO Max. It's also a discount compared with Netflix's cheapest tier at \$9 a month. But Disney Plus includes perks that Netflix charges extra for -- like four simultaneous streams, 4K Ultra HD in Dolby Vision, HDR10 and Dolby Atmos immersive audio. That puts Disney's \$7-a-month subscription in closer comparison with Netflix's \$16-a-month tier.

Much of Disney Plus' original programming leans into the company's big-budget franchises. Its Marvel original shows, for example, are going to be closely knit into the storylines that play out on the big up to a PG-13 rating. It'll have content from Disney proper, Marvel, Lucasfilm (so Star Wars), Pixar and National Geographic. And outside those traditional categories, it'll also offer all 30 seasons of The Simpsons, a new feather in its cap from the Fox takeover. Hulu, on the other hand, will be where Disney streams more adult-oriented material. For example, Hulu will stream a new Marvel animated series for grown-ups. Hulu will continue to stream content from three of the broadcast networks, as well as its own original series, like *The Handmaid's Tale* and *Castle Rock*.

Beginning in March, Hulu will become the official streaming home for FX networks. (FX became part of Disney when the company bought Fox for \$71.3 billion.) FX on Hulu will include all seasons of more than 40 FX series and will offer episodes of current and new FX series immediately after they air on the traditional network. And FX will produce original series exclusively for

FX on Hulu, starting with four new series next year: *Devs*; *Mrs. America*, starring Cate Blanchett; *A Teacher*, starring Kate Mara; and *The Old Man*, starring Jeff Bridges and John Lithgow.

And Disney now has full control over Hulu's direction. Hulu was jointly owned by four parent companies as recently as March. But in May, Disney said it'd buy the rest of Hulu it didn't already own. That gives Disney the flexibility to offer its bundle discount.

When's the release date?

Disney Plus will launch Tuesday in the US, Canada, and the Netherlands. The initial launch of Disney Plus will come less than two weeks after Apple TV Plus rolled out.

It is supposed to officially launch at 12:01 a.m. PT Tuesday, but people who start checking for the Disney app before that may see it pop up

As the months and years pass, Disney will accumulate a bigger catalog of exclusives and originals on Disney Plus. As that happens, it's a good bet the company will start pushing its price higher.

sooner because of quirks in different app stores. Reddit may be your best bet for the early word of where people are seeing the app appear first. Both Disney Plus and The Mandalorian have subreddits, and the larger Disney subreddit has a Disney Plus launch megathread.

After the American, Canadian and Dutch launch, Disney Plus will arrive a week later, on Nov. 19, in Australia and New Zealand.

On March 31, it will launch across Western Europe, including the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and a number of other countries in the region.

In advance of the official launch, Disney has been offering Disney Plus free in the Netherlands for anyone to try. It'll switch to requiring a subscription on Tuesday.

Globally, Disney plans a progressive rollout worldwide

over the next two years. The company provided a generalized timeline for when it'll expand the service to the world's major regions.

Elsewhere, Disney Plus is slated to roll out in:

- Eastern Europe over the course of a year starting as early as October 2020.
- Latin America over the course of three months starting as early as October 2020.
- Asia Pacific over the course of two years starting as early as October this year.

Kevin Mayer, the Disney executive in charge of the division launching Disney Plus, declined to specify any other international launch dates in August. But he told a group of international press that he believes people "will be happy" with how quickly Disney rolls out the service to international markets.

How much will it cost?

In the US, Disney said the service will cost \$7 a month, or \$70 a year. Its price undercuts the \$13 monthly fee for Netflix's most popular plan in the US, which lets you stream to two different devices simultaneously in high definition. Disney Plus, however, will allow all subscribers to stream to four devices and access 4K content at no extra cost -- features Netflix includes in its \$16 premium tier.

Disney Chief Financial Officer Christine M. McCarthy hinted Disney Plus pricing may rise as the service advances, calling the \$7-a-month fee an "initial" price.

The company also said it'll bundle Disney Plus with Hulu (with ads) and ESPN Plus, offering a \$5 discount if you subscribe to all three of its streaming options. At \$13, that costs the same as Netflix's most popular plan in the US.

Way back in 2017, Iger noted that the price would reflect the "fact that it will have substantially less volume" than prime competitor Netflix. As the months and years pass, Disney will accumulate a bigger catalog of exclusives and originals on Disney Plus. As that happens, it's a good bet the company will start pushing its price higher.

But the company has also started carving deals to get the service in the hands of more people without making them open their wallets. In October, Disney and Verizon announced a deal that gives a free year of Disney Plus starting on launch day to all of the carrier's customers with a 4G LTE or 5G unlimited account, as well as new customers of Verizon's Fios and 5G home internet services.

In advance of launching, Disney offered a series of discounts. The very first people given the chance to pre-register for Disney Plus were attendees of its D23 Expo, Disney's biennial fan convention in Anaheim, California, in August. The "Founders Circle" offer priced a three-year subscription at \$140.97 total or the equivalent of \$3.92 a month. The offer was only available to US residents, and it ended on Labor Day.

Later, the company offered another pre-order discount to its Disney faithful: Disney Parks annual pass holders qualified for discounts on two- or three-year subscriptions. A three-year subscription dropped \$40, to \$170, and a two-year subscription fell \$20, to \$120. And then it offered another, similar discount. The deal, which is also for a \$170 three-year subscription, was marketed for Disney Movie Insiders members, but it seemed anyone could sign up.

In Canada, Disney Plus will be priced at CA\$9 a month, or CA \$90 per year. In the Netherlands, it'll be 7 euros a month, or €70 per year. In Australia, it'll be priced at AU \$9 a month, or AU \$90 per year. And New Zealand subscribers will pay NZ \$10 per month or NZ \$100 per year.

How can I stream it?

MARVEL from C1

usually make the best and most interesting films. As Scorsese phrased, “They are se-
quels in name but they are remakes in spir-
it, and everything in them is officially sanc-
tioned because it can’t really be any other
way”. The stories within Marvel movies
are usually very basic and almost formula-
ic. The reason why is that Marvel movies
aren’t being made to break any rules or
create something that provokes discussion
about its elements. The people who work
on Marvel movies do not go through an
artistic process, but rather conduct research
to find out how the movie could generate
the most revenue. By limiting Marvel
films to what appeals to the largest
amount of consumers, the studio has
eliminated any sort of creative risk. It
makes sense from a purely business
standpoint. Why wouldn’t you contin-

ue to use and develop a formula that can
create the high-grossing film of all time?
Kevin Feige, the president of Marvel
Studios, recently responded to Scorsese’s
thoughts on Marvel in a Hollywood Re-
porter interview. Feige argued that Mar-
vel does take risks in its movies. In the in-
terview, he said, “We killed half of our
characters at the end of a movie”, in re-
gards to *Avengers: Infinity War*. The type of
risk which Feige is referring to is not the
same kind of creative risk that Scorsese
and I believe is essential to making art. In
the *New York Times* opinion piece, Scorsese
emphasizes that cinema is an art form and
not just an experience. As mentioned be-
fore, it is the revelation and characteriza-
tion which lie at the center of good cinema
and separate it from franchise films. The
only thing that is left in Marvel movies af-
ter all creative risk as been stripped away
is the special effects. The result is an on-
screen amusement park ride. Hitchcock
films, on the other hand, were able to de-
liver on many different levels. Films like

Psycho were able to keep you on the edge
of your seat and also offer a glimpse into
different human complexities that would
develop throughout the story. Marvel
movies seem to only deliver superficial
thrills and shocks.

A good question that Scorsese asks is,
“Why not just let superhero films and oth-
er franchise films be”? His reason for
speaking out is that franchise films are be-
coming the main choice for moviegoers. I
do understand Scorsese’s point because it
difficult especially for youth to be exposed

*A balance is possible and
would both allow for pop-
culture to flourish while also
introducing the youth to
meaningful pieces of art.*

to things, such as movies, that fall out of
the pop-culture bubble. If these franchise
films eventually become the only options
at movie theaters, I think there is a serious
problem. However, I don’t believe movie
theaters should refrain from showing and
promoting Marvel movies. If anything, it’s
the franchise movies that keep movie thea-
ters up and running. Ideally, there would
be a balance between franchise movies and
“real” cinema. A more pessimistic view of
the situation could say that true cinema is
dying and the remaining fans of it should
simply find ways to watch it on their own.
I would argue that a balance is possible
and would both allow for pop-culture to
flourish while also introducing the youth
to meaningful pieces of art. A perfect ex-
ample of a film that encompasses this

blend of art and pop-culture is *Joker*. When
I watched *Joker* in the theater, I was taken
on a psychological roller coaster that
seemed to manipulate the thoughts of my-
self and those around me. I found myself
laughing hysterically like the Joker himself
and also deeply disturbed. It was both en-
tertaining and very risky for a superhero
movie due to its dark nature. But *Joker* isn’t
just different from other superhero movies
because it’s “dark”. It’s the exploration of
Arthur Fleck’s tormented mind that direc-
tor Todd Philips so vividly portrays

through his vision.

Some cinema lovers may say that
streaming platforms like Netflix and
Hulu are aiding the killing of cinema. I
would say that it’s the polar opposite.
Scorsese himself has released a Netflix
movie this month called *The Irish-
man*. Scorsese said that Netflix,
“allowed us to make *The Irishman* the
way we needed to, and for that I’ll al-
ways be thankful”. In this case, Netflix
is realizing a creatively risky film that
other modern studios may not have

wanted to touch. It’s a big deal that a
streaming service of Netflix’s caliber is
willing to give artists a platform to share
their vision with the everyday consumer.

Netflix taking on movies like *The Irish-
man* is a sign that there is still hope for the
future of cinema. It is not all bad news
when it comes to the movies that are being
released today. Some filmmakers who tru-
ly create art include Spike Lee, Wes Ander-
son, Quentin Tarantino, and Martin Scorse-
se himself. As I continue my filmmaking
journey, I will continue to push boundaries
and take risks so that the art of cinema
does burn out. Because in the words of Ca-
sey Neistat, an unconventional filmmaker,
“ The most dangerous thing you can do is
play it safe.”

DISNEY+ from C2

Disney promised wide device support, saying Disney Plus
will support streaming to phones, tablets, computers, connected
TVs and streaming media boxes. At its big unveiling in April,
Disney specifically called out support for Roku TVs and the
Playstation 4. In August, the company said it also had global dis-
tribution agreements in place with Apple, Google, Microsoft,
Roku, and Sony. Then, less than a week before launch, Disney
expanded that to Amazon, Samsung, and LG. That encompasses
the makers of:

- Roku's boxes, sticks, and TVs
- Apple TV, iPhone, and iPad
- Phones and TVs running on Android operating systems, as
well as Chromecast streamers
- Xbox One
- PlayStation 4.
- Amazon Fire TV devices
- Samsung smart TVs
- LG smart TVs

During the investor presentation in April, slides included
photos of Amazon Fire TV, but the company hasn't specifically

confirmed Amazon's devices or whether Disney Plus will be an
option on Amazon Channels. But executives have said that they
intend for Disney Plus to be supported by all major devices that
stream video.

My Verdict:

Disney+ is going to be great. I suggest buying it because it
comes at a fantastic price with all the amazing movies that are
going to be on it. I suggest all of you go home and beg for your
parents to get Disney+ because there will be something for them
to be nostalgic about too.



Source: Wikipedia

Pumpkins Are Fruit

By Emma Kelsall



Source: SNAP-Ed

Pumpkin season is inescapable. We bake them into our pies, spice them in our lattes, and carve them for our doorsteps. Pumpkins are the food of fall. But how much do you really know about the nation’s favorite gourd?

Would it be bold of me to suggest that pumpkins are a fruit? Considering squashes as fruits may be a strange notion. However, under botanical classifications, this is not false.

In this article, I will be speaking on the classifications between fruits and vegetables from a scientific, botanical perspective. However, like always, politics and the law choose which bits of

scientific evidence they deem to be true and which bits they choose to ignore. Sadly, it would seem the way to a lawmaker’s heart is through his stomach.

1893 - The US is facing its worst financial crisis to date. But what’s more important is perhaps the most heated and notable Supreme Court cases of all time, *Nix v. Hedden*. The question asked: *Should we tax the tomato as a fruit or a vegetable?* While acknowledging the tomato’s true scientific status as a fruit, the final verdict was derived from its culinary reputation: *A Vegetable*.

So what is the difference between a

fruit and a vegetable? As humans, our palates often associates fruits with sweetness and regards vegetables as savory. This has caused many to incorrectly draw the line between fruits and vegetables from a culinary perspective, depending on their taste. Nonetheless, botanically speaking, a fruit is considered to be the seed-containing structure that develops from a flowering plant’s ovary. Vegetables are classified as all other parts of the plant, such as the roots, stems and leaves.

While some of these may have surprised you and others may not, there are other misconceptions about our 5-a-day.

For example, throw the classification on what makes a fruit a berry into the mix and you’ve got yourself an article that actually reaches the required word count.

Anyhow, berries are defined as “fleshy fruit that have multiple seeds on the inside, embedded into the flesh of the ovary.” This makes for another controversial discussion, as this would therefore allow bananas, eggplants and peppers the status of a berry. Even the avocado is allowed to pass as a single-seeded berry. On the contrary, strawberries are not a type of berry. You see, while John Lennon may write songs about them being in fields forever, even he cannot

change the fact that their seeds form on their exteriors instead of their interiors.

To put this into perspective, let’s begin with some easy examples. Apples are considered a fruit, as they contain seeds and are produced from the ovary of the plant. Some examples of vegetables include kale (the plant’s leaves), celery (the plant’s stem), and potatoes (the plant’s root). Though these are easily classified because of their tastes, other plants do not have it so lucky.

Avocados - You may ask yourself, “Hey, where are the seeds?” Well, direct

See **PUMPKINS** on D2

Are Airpod Pros Worth It?

By Gaby Lops, Sarah Brunskill, Kate Zu

Did you hear that? Probably not, because these new airpods are noise-cancelling. Many students throughout the school have airpods, but now there is a new type of AirPods called AirPods Pro. Recently, Apple just released AirPods Pros, which have brand new features and a brand new appearance. The headphones have caught some attention, both good and bad.

These new headphones have silicone on the outside and noise-canceling technology. This feature has created a desire for these new headphones. Freshman Camm Dalton said, “I like that they are

smaller and I love that they are noise-cancelling.” Though the quality of these headphones increased, the price has too. Sophomore Kate Zu said, “I would buy the airpods and I like that they are noise canceling and high quality, but I would not buy them because it is easy to lose and expensive.”

The price of these headphones has increased to \$249 dollars, when the original airpods held a price at \$199, taking a large expense out of your back pocket. Some students feel it’s not worth paying that much for a pair of headphones. Sophomore Sam Fitzpatrick said, “I think that

AirPods are super unrealistic to buy when you can get a pair or regular headphones for \$30.” And freshman, Gianna Burgess said, “They are just too expensive.” Clearly, the cost of these airpods have been forcing students like Sam and Gianna to consider if they really want them or if they would rather spend the money on other purchases.

The price of these airpods isn’t the only reason students aren’t thrilled with the AirPods Pro. Many students don’t like the design of the headphones and think they look weird. Freshman Laura Dickie said that they were ugly and, “I

don’t like the silicone outside.” Fellow freshman Katie Stevens said, “They don’t look appealing in the way it looks, but otherwise they are pretty nice.” The design with the silicone outside and the headphones being smaller in general has made the dislike for these headphones more common. Whether it’s the design or the price, it doesn’t matter for some because they already have the original airpods.

Some say they like the way the old airpods look and work and don’t really want the Pros. Senior Cassie Wagner said, “I already have airpods,” along

See **AIRPOD PROS** on D2

Superbugs Pose New Threat to Global Health

By Dan Purizhansky



Source: Bloomberg

According to a recent Center for Disease Control study, an estimated 2.8 million people get infected by antibiotic-resistant “superbugs” each year, with around 35,000 killed every day. These figures are nearly twice as large as those from a 2013 CDC study. These microbes are a direct result of pathogens evolving to become resistant to what people used to call “miracle drugs” - antibiotics that used to work at extraordinarily high rates. The

new CDC study called this new trend as the beginning of the “post-antibiotic era”. The new rates of antibiotic-resistant diseases alarmed epidemiologists across the world. The data shows that someone becomes infected with a superbug every 11 seconds and someone dies every 15 minutes. These diseases are present in all 50 states and across the globe. Among the most alarming bugs are Candida auris and carbapenem-resistant

acinetobacter. Candida auris is a drug-resistant fungus spreading in hospitals since 2015, and acinetobacter is causing pneumonia in hospital Intensive Care Units. Despite increasing rates of superbugs, deaths in hospitals from antibiotic-resistant pathogens had decreased by 28% between 2012 and 2017. The CDC hopes that news of the new prevalence of superbugs will drive awareness and research in alleviating the problem.

AIRPOD PROS from D1



Source: Digital Trends

with Freshman, Sabrina Burkner who said, “I already have a pair and I don’t like the new design.” Many who own their airpods decide that it’s not worth it to get the Pros when they already have the original. Many students already have airpods and feel it’s not really worth it. When buying the airpod Pros many consider the factors, whether they want the quality or the appearance. If sound quality is an important necessity for your music experience, then you might want to consider buying the Pros. The silicone tips on the Pros help block out the outside sound and hold the headphones comfortably in your ears. Some say that it’s worth it because of all of the

newest features that the Pros come with, but for others, it exceeds their price limit. If you are happy with the original airpods you might not feel the need to get the Pros. Maybe some would consider buying the Pros if the price tag just wasn’t so high or if they looked different. Only 1 of the 27 people surveyed (3%) of the students said that they would buy the airpod Pros. Many disliked the way the Pros looked and said the price was just a little too much, making it less likely that we will see many new airpods around school. But you never know. Next time apple comes out with a new type of headphones you’ll hear about it and maybe you might buy it.

PUMPKINS from D1

your attention to the avodaco’s pit. The pit is actually considered to be a giant seed, therefore making avocados a fruit. Perhaps we can now consider guacamole a new form of jam, but do not let this or any millennial convince you that it belongs on toast. **Peppers** - Whether they are sweet or spicy, it cannot be ar-

gued; peppers contain seeds. As a result, they are **fruit**. **Eggplants** - Eggplants, or aubergines, if you’re one of those darn Brits or whatever, again, contain seeds. This makes the eggplant a certified **fruit**. **Tomatoes** - I feel like everyone already knows that tomatoes are a **fruit** from like 3rd Grade when you knew that one kid who was really into trivia and their go-to ice breaker was something along the lines of “tomatoes are actually a **fruit**” or “wombats poop in cubes,” but it never hurts to throw another one in there for the giggles. **Cucumbers** - Flavorless, bland and soggy (and no that’s not the name of my autobiography), the seed-containing cu-

cumber is also a **fruit**. **Olives** - A taste of the Mediterranean, or Wegmans’s ethnic food aisle, the pits in these **fruits** give them the official name. **Pumpkins** - Finally, going back to our friend, the pumpkin, this gourd, like all others, is classed as a **fruit**. And yeah, it’s the seeds again.

Sports

2019 Girls’ JV Soccer Season

By Sarah Brunskill, Kate Zu, and Gaby Lops



Williamsville East’s Girls’ JV Soccer team

Williamsville East’s Girls’ JV Soccer team was on fire this year, with a record of 13-1-1. We kicked off the season with a big win against rival Williamsville South 7-1. In game two, we kept our winning streak, beating Hamburg 6-1, with our midfielders controlling the game making plays and moving the ball up and down the field. Our first and only tie came against Victor 1-1, one of our closest games. We went into overtime twice. Then we returned with a win against Amherst on home field, beating the Tigers 5-0. Elizabeth Crawford scored 2 goals against Amherst. The next day we suffered our only loss in a close game against Niagara Wheatfield, 1-2, with our co-captain, Kate Zu scoring our only goal. Determined to have

no more losses, the team held strong against Starpoint, West Seneca East, and Orchard Park, keeping the score above 4 in each game. Next was a home game against Williamsville South, which we won 6-0. Keeping it lit, the team defeated Hamburg 3-0. The flames crushed the Tigers again by beating Amherst 7-0, with Sarah Brunskill scoring 2 goals. Our team played West Seneca East for our last away game, leaving the field with a score of 7-2 with Gianna Tuzzolino scoring off of a header straight to the back of the net. At another home game, we beat Starpoint 4-0. Then we played North Tonawanda, winning a close game 2-0, both goals scored in the last 10 minutes by Elizabeth Crawford and Gianna Tuzzolino (an eighth grader). Our final game of 2019 finished off the season

against Kenmore East, leaving the field with the score 5-0. The team finished off the season with a total of 67 goals. Our top goal scorers were Gianna Tuzzolino with 18 goals and Kate Zu with 11. Emily Woolingham gave the most assists with 9 assists, Gianna with 8, and Kate Zu with 7. Kelly Carver, one our goalies, had 84 shots and saved 79. Chloe Overhoff had 40 and 38 saved, and Bella Nestico had 27 shots and 26 saves. The team only let in 8 goals throughout the season and scored 67 goals. Claire Woolingham had almost 70 takeaways, Payton Roland, the other co-captain, had 47, and Elizabeth Crawford had 40. The team altogether had almost 600 takeaways. Overall, it was a great season and the team can’t wait for next season.

East Girls’ Tennis Team

By Maler Suresh

With a 10-0 undefeated season and a states-qualifying doubles team, you could say that the East Girls Varsity Tennis Team is on fire. Cheesy puns aside, they have had a great season, not only in terms of matches, but in terms of teamwork. Although large for a tennis team, everyone got along well, and many a team bondings were held to drink bubble tea or in preparation for bake sales. Practices were always fun, with plenty of joking and yelling to team mates across the courts. And, of

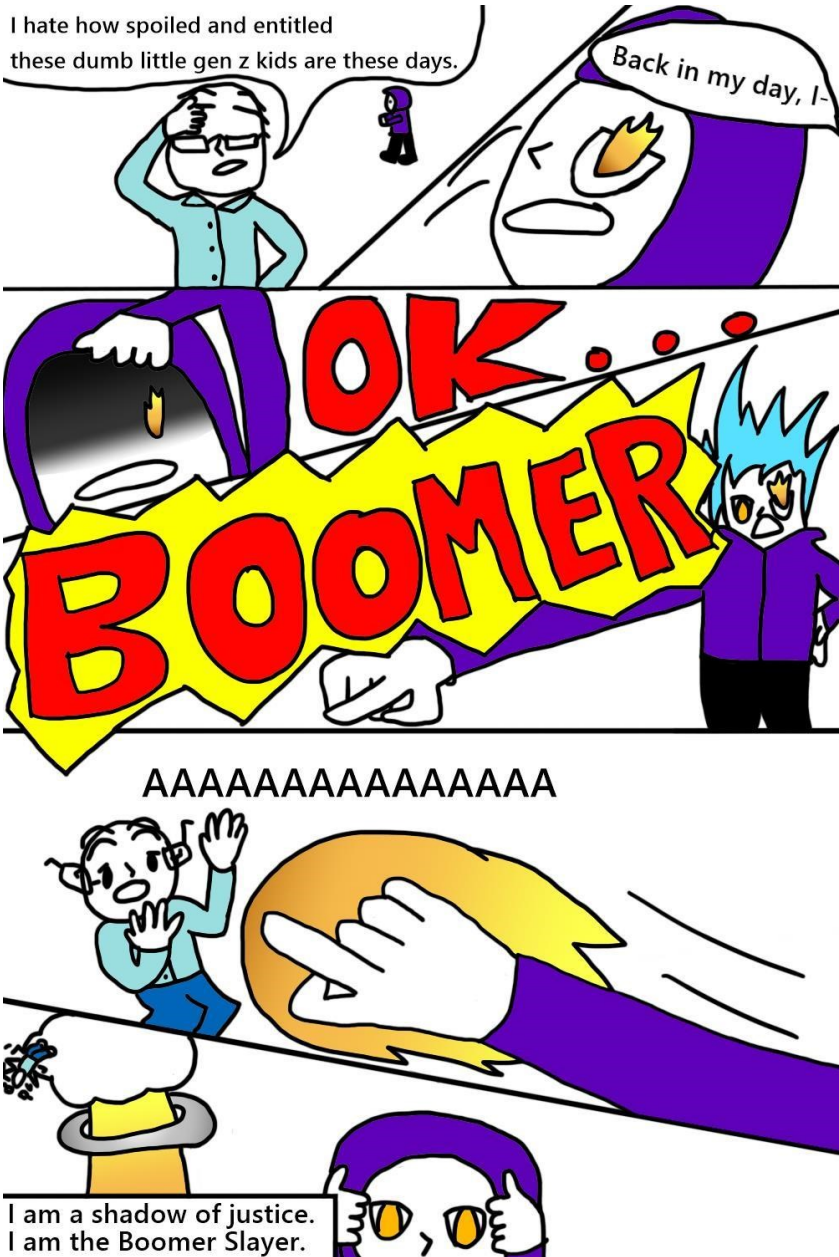
course, there was endless team spirit during matches, from their beginning chant of “East is Beast!” down to the enthusiastic cheers for the last girls on the court. “The kids just have to keep doing what they are doing and taking each match one at a time,” said Coach Dave Monkarsh to the Amherst Bee. At ECIC’s (Erie County Interscholastic Conference), Olivia Bakshi and Serena Fan played first and second singles respectively, with Richelle Yu and Kareena Cheruvu as the

first doubles team and Anna Lin and Maler Suresh as second doubles. All of the starting lineup had an undefeated record during the season, and they brought the same play to this tournament. First singles won her first three matches before losing a tough match to East Aurora. Second singles began with a difficult opponent right out of the gate, and split sets before losing 6-1, 5-7, 6-0. Second doubles also had a close second match with Williamsville North, winning the first set 7-6, but losing the next

two 6-4, 6-2. Meanwhile, first doubles won all their matches before finally losing to Clarence, but they were among the top teams headed for Sectionals. After winning at sectionals, Yu and Cheruvu went all the way to States in Albany. There, they lost their match, but they played well against skilled competition, and were glad to have an exciting experience. At the upcoming banquet, the whole team will be there to celebrate their success. Until next fall, go flames!

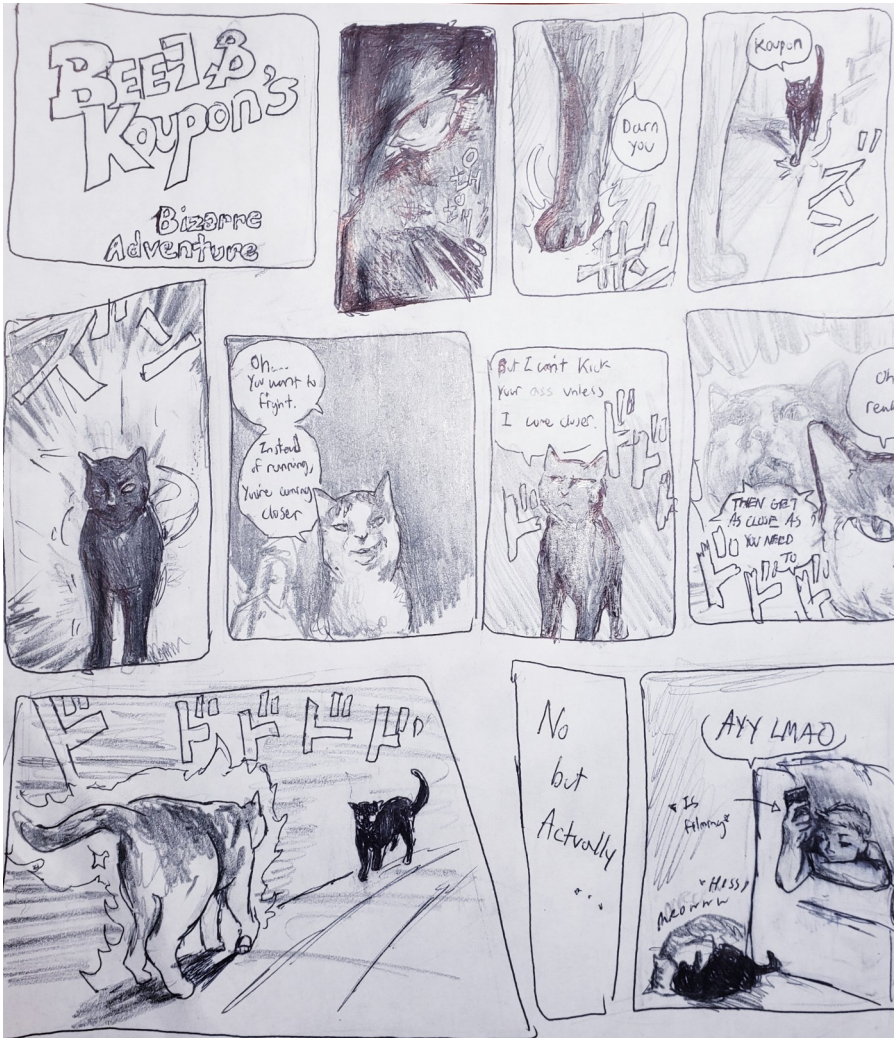
OK Boomer

By James Liu



Beef & Koupon's Bizarre Adventure

By Nicole Xu



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