

THE COMET NEWS

Winter 2019

Volume VI, Issue II

DR. FRYLING VISITS THE CHAMBER SINGERS

Written by: Krisia Romano

On December 13th 2018, Hicksville High School's elite acapella group, the Chamber Singers, had the honor of having a workshop with the venerable Dr. Fryling.

Dr. David Fryling is the director of choral activities at Hofstra University, where he conducts the select Hofstra Chorale and Hofstra Chamber Choir and teaches beginning and advanced studies in choral conducting, as well as graduate-level studies in choral conducting and choral literature. He can be described as an energetic and engaging conductor, clinician, and adjudicator of professional, community, and high school

choirs. He has been invited to master classes and workshops throughout all of New York, New Jersey, Vermont, Connecticut (New England Music Festival), Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, Illinois, Mississippi, Michigan, Tennessee, Louisiana, Texas,

Utah, and Alaska.

In the fall of 2013 Dr. David Fryling founded the eVoco Voice Collective, a

eVoco Voice Collective. "I am so happy to be able to bring Dr. Fryling to Hicksville. Everything I know about the choral arts, I learned from him. It is so heartwarming to

now see my students learn from him too!" Junior Rachel Samuel has been in the group for long enough to be able to have this visit be the second she witnesses. Dr. Fryling does not fail to amaze her every time. "Everyone took a new perspective on our concert repertoire just from his single visit and we can't wait until he comes back



nonprofit organization of singers of the highest musical, technical, and expressive abilities, who together believe in the transformative and educational power of music. Hicksville High School's own Choral Director Mrs. Shmuel is a proud alumni of Dr. Fryling and the President of the

and shares his love for music with the Chamber Singers again!" The Chamber Singers would like to extend their sincerest gratitude towards Dr. Fryling's talent and guidance. The Chamber Singers look forward to continue to experience musically life-changing experiences in the future and continue to grow as musicians.

CHECKING IN ON SCHOOL SAFETY

Written by: Gurmehar Kaur and Mallika Rangi

Growing up in a society like ours, safety drills have become a common commodity. Over 65 school shootings have occurred in 2018 alone. If there is ever a better time to start looking at practice drills as a necessity, it is now. Our school goes to many lengths to keep us safe, but as with many other things, there is always room for improvement. Too many innocent lives have been lost due to minor imperfections in the national school's safety system.

Our security measures may be out of good concern for the students, but are they ideal enough to keep us safe during a school emergency? Our teachers,

whose only job should be teaching and inspiring young minds, may end up saving our lives one day. Teachers are evaluated on how they conduct the drills, but it is not the most fool proof. They are not being observed individually, an impossibility with the amount of teachers in the building, which may result in future complications. Teachers are also not required to have the security measures memorized verbatim, so it is a possibility some teachers may not be equipped in an emergency situation. According to Assistant Principal Ms. Debeau, "It is our expectation that the teachers are familiar with the procedures and that if they don't know them by heart, that they have that sheet with them for reference." The sheet in which the assistant principal is referring to is a sheet with all of the drills and the proper procedures along with them.

Hicksville has provided us with a fairly safe environment. As everyone knows, there is an announcement made on the loudspeaker whenever there is a lockdown drill. According to Ms. Debeau, the administration is working on making a prerecorded voice audio that can be played with a button. The audio can only be accessed by certain individuals and will inform people in the case of an intruder. The recording will state the word "LOCKDOWN." Having a specific button for the lockdown is much safer and more reliable in the case of an intruder. Our school also takes guidance from the local police department and the NYS Education Department. The administration makes sure to give feedback to teachers on how they proceed during the drills. Teachers will reach out to the administration with any problems or questions they may have. Our school knows what to do in the case of an emergency and is best equipped with



Picture by Anya Marquardt: One of the bases for Hicksville's new Scholarchip system .

the necessities for a safe environment.

Teachers are some of the most caring human beings on the planet; many of them teach their students as if they are their own children. It is astonishing to see how school protocol has had to quickly adapt to new circumstances over recent years. Despite all of the security measures put in place, the students should also know how to properly conduct themselves during drills or real situations. The school will continue to improve and enhance the security measures, ensuring the students and staff the most practicable and efficient conditions for safety. In the future, students can look forward to initiatives involving Scholarchip Security Cards, a renovated Cafeteria and the recent installation of an extra partition in the vestibule of the Main Lobby to help keep us safe.

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A NEW MOVIE HITS CLOSE TO HOME

Written by: Angela Vizzari

Filming for *Bad Education* has reached our doorsteps in Hicksville. This movie stars Golden Globe and Emmy winner, Hugh Jackman, who is portraying former Roslyn Schools Superintendent Dr. Frank Tassone. The story is based on the true story of one of the biggest school scandals in the United States, written by Mike Makowsky.

Tassone was adored as an effective superintendent for twelve years until legal actions were brought upon him for embezzling 11.2 million dollars from the Roslyn School District in 2006. The North Shore School District is known for impeccable testing scores, ivy-league college admissions, and even some notable high school alumni such as Bobby Kotick, the current CEO of Activision Blizzard, Ken Langone, the founder of Home Depot, and Wendy Liebman, a well known stand up comedian who has won an American Comedy Award. Roslyn was one of the top 10 high schools in the country at the time, according to the Wall Street Journal.

It all started when Tassone's assistant superintendent, Pamela Gluckin was caught stealing \$250,000 in the form of school checks to pay for an abundance of credit card bills by Andrew Miller in 2002. A school-board meeting was held to discuss the repercussions of her acts on the school's pristine appearance and

how they should handle this with legal actions. Gluckin pleaded to: resign quietly, give all the money she owed back and lose her administrative license. Tassone defended his subordinate by making an argument on forgiveness and how everyone else from the district would be seen. If this incident would go to court, she would still get paid and the district wouldn't get their money back. The other way would save the districts money and no harm would be done to their depiction. A criminal lawyer was accounted for at the meeting, and said that victims of embezzlement don't have to press charges. Little did the board members know that Tassone was also protecting himself.

The superintendent was later charged by Nassau County prosecutors when evidence was found of his illegal money transfers. After an anonymous letter was sent to multiple medias members and a police station, the so-called rumor spread and Tassone denied it. As soon as the press got a whiff of it, Roslyn residents wanted justice and reassurance, and the District Attorney began their investigation on Tassone by going back to 2002. Reviewing those records led to an additional one million dollars of funds missing that year. A long train appeared where it showed how the entire district was scammed due to Tassone's spontaneous Vegas trips with his buddies, where he would gamble hun-

dred of thousands of school dollars, two trips to London for a total of \$50,000, mysterious trips to Puerto Rico and California, medical and household bills, even thousands of

dollars to pay for dry cleaning over the years. He owned a home in Manhattan, Long Island, and an estate in Las Vegas with an exotic male dancer. Gluckin owned homes in Bellmore, Westhampton, Florida, and could even afford a high-end Jaguar. The money was laundered by phony businesses, check-record fabrications and vender-bidding violations. Both Gluckin and Tassone never left each other's side.

How could they have gotten away with it for so long? Other "friends" were involved: the travel planner, Debra Rigano, a district clerk, who is Gluckin's niece, Al Razzetti, the internal auditor who rubber-stamped every check, and his sister, Fran Pertusi helped, who had ties to when Tassone was superintendent at Levittown. They all understood how to work the system due to their experience. From 2001-2006, only 14 out of 124 school districts had their books audited. A total of six people were brought to justice for the thefts. Tassone was sentenced to a minimum of four years for fraud and was released eight months earlier due to completed merit programs and is to be on parole until the end of 2018.

Roslyn School District stated, "The school district is not associated with the movie or its production, is not participating in this movie in any way, and no filming will be permitted on school grounds..." While the film is purportedly meant to entertain, it's important to remember that what occurred in our school district was far from entertaining. A former superintendent and several accomplices conspired to steal approximately \$11.2 million meant for our children's education. The scandal shook our community deeply," according to The Roslyn News.

Filming was done in Brooklyn, Roslyn, Levittown, and Hicksville.



Image from Newsday.com: Filming begins on *Bad Education*.

RADIUM GIRLS DEBUTS TO RAVE REVIEWS

Written by: Roman Charan

Radium... what was thought to be a miracle cure for disease, turned out to be poison to workers. The historical play shed light on problems that many were unaware of at the time.

Grace, played by Barbara Watterson, goes through dramatic changes throughout the course of the play. Within roughly two hours and ten minutes, we see Grace change from an innocent and obedient young girl to an independent and selfless fighter. Even

when she is told to quit her job by numerous people, she never listened and never gave up. All she wanted was compensation for her troubles. She also wanted the US Radium Corp. to explain how it was her fault that she got sick in their factor. As the story unfolds we meet many characters that help Grace through her journey. This included: Miss Katherine Wiley (played by Katie Jergensen), Raymond Berry (played by Roman Charan), Mrs. Fryer (played by Isabella Weber), and Tom Kreider

(played by Sean Dale).

While there were many people that helped her on her journey, there were also those whose mission it was to hinder her progress. This included: Edward Markey (played by Jovani Ledesma), Charlie Lee (played by Jack Immanuel), and Arthur Roeder (played by Viren Fernandes). All of these actors and actresses were able to take the audience back in time to the 1920's in Orange, New Jersey. The story they told and the characters they portrayed were truly amazing.



The character Katherine Wiley was truly “a woman that was ahead of her time”, said Katie Jergensen. When asked if she thought it was important to teach the audience the story of the Radium Girls through theater, she responded, “Yes it is always important to look back at historical events that have happened because you would never want history to repeat itself.”

Many people might not stop to about think how much work goes into these projects. Mrs. Cassidy, the director of the fall drama, picked the play, stayed after school to help all the actors, and taught the cast how to properly act out their parts. Just like the cast, Mrs. Cassidy also needs a “crew,” and her “crew” was Ms. Temps. Ms. Temps was responsible for directing the creation of the beautiful set.

Radium Girls was an informative and inspirational play. If you did not get the chance to see the show, then you truly missed out and the Thespians hope to see you at the Spring Musical, *Guys and Dolls*.



Pictures by Isabella Weber: The cast of *Radium Girls* performing and taking their final bow.

ADVICE FOR UNDERCLASSMEN

Written by: Erika Zahn

The following is a list of tips to help freshmen with their first year of high school.

Try to be on time for class; you should try memorizing all your classes as soon as possible. We know the building is big and confusing but don't be afraid to ask people for help and make a specific route to use everyday.

Most kids would probably rather spend their time playing Fortnite till 3am but underclassmen should really try getting in the habit of a better sleeping schedule because high school is tough and you should put 100% focus in your school work, sleeping during class won't help you.

People are going to be mean no matter what. You won't be friends with everyone, which is completely normal. Just stay in your lane and keep doing what you're doing in school. Focus on yourself and not about what others think about you.

Take advice from your teachers and parents. Teachers are the ones who made the assignment, and they've been high schoolers before, and so have your parents. They know exactly what is best for you when it comes to finishing an assignment they created. Listen to them because convincing yourself that only you know what's best for you is not how you should use your newly-gained freedom from adults. You're still young and need some guidance, so take what they are offering.

Stay organized. You don't want to be messy because when the time comes and you have a big test you want to be

able to go back and study from all the classwork. Try setting up a specific place for all your classwork, organized by class, so you can find it easily later on.

Friends. Some friendships don't last forever, even if they seem like it. People change no matter what. If you lose a friend that you were super close to it isn't the end of the world. You can always make new friends with people who you never thought you'd become friends with. So don't worry; be strong and keep your head up high.

Be yourself. It's a universal concept that goes for any situation. Don't change yourself to try and 'fit in.' You might want to attract the attention of a few people who you want to be friends with, but do it by being yourself. Most people aren't going to be mean to you for no reason, so even saying "hi" to someone new is nothing to worry about. Just don't try to be a different person for approval.

Bad days will come, even if you're a generally happy person. Sometimes a bad grade or a small fight with a friend can ruin your day, but remember that you're still growing up and that this is all part of the learning experience. Take this as a lesson for the future, and don't let that bad day ruin the rest of your week.

Now that you're older, you have more flexibility as to how you spend your time. Search for groups and activities that align with your interests. Not sure where to start? Try out different clubs at your school. Joining

different clubs and trying out activities will allow you to meet new, like-minded people. It will also help you hone your area of specialization, or area that aligns with your interests and talents and path you want to pursue. This can guide your academic and career focus.

It's not too early to think about college. You don't need to start filling out applications, of course, but you should be setting goals. Think about the path you need to take to achieve these goals. Set incremental "sub" checkpoints to help you achieve your larger aspirations. For instance, if you're hoping to become the editor of your school newspaper, consider the steps you need to take to get there, such as attending meetings, writing killer articles, and bonding with and learning from the current editor and the newspaper's advisor.

To sum everything up; high school won't be easy, but try to get the most out of the challenges it brings. Take your time seriously, and create a plan for success. While you'll face challenges along the way, having a plan, trying out new opportunities, and using your support system will help you manage your time well and prepare yourself for the future.

A SPELLBINDING LEGACY

Written by: Anya Marquardt

We have had many cultural phenomena in our society. We have been obsessed with everything from classic literature and comic books to Netflix television shows and large action movie franchises. The “hype” for these trends never last very long, except for a select few. One of these few is the *Harry Potter* franchise. It has been a worldwide phenomenon for over two decades, and the story about a boy with a lightning-shaped scar has changed the lives of millions around the world.

The *Harry Potter* franchise began all the way back in 1997, and it is still gaining popularity today. The series has grossed over 7.7 billion dollars from its 8 movies and 2 follow-up

prequels, the *Fantastic Beasts* franchise. JK Rowling, the author of *Harry Potter*, wrote a Broadway play as a sequel to the franchise, titled *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*. It went on to win six Tony awards, including Best Play. The question stands: how is *Harry Potter* still so relevant after all these years?

The *Harry Potter* series explores the life of a small boy whose life changes when he finds out that he is the “Chosen One”, chosen by a prophecy to defeat a wizard who killed his parents. Harry was constantly bullied because of his appearance and his quiet personality. Nobody would have ever believed that someone like Harry could save a society on the brink of disaster, but he did. He saved millions of people from a terrible fate.

Yes, *Harry Potter* is fictional. Yes, it seems quite impossible that any of us are “Chosen Ones” who have been chosen to save a race of magical people. But, *Harry Potter* is someone who defied all the odds. Nobody expected him to be any sort of hero, but he proved them wrong. The *Harry Potter* series has taught us that we can all defy the odds. Harry, a boy who was always seen as an outcast, overcame dozens of obstacles to save others and the society he grows to love. He grew up with a family that emotionally abused him, and was always seen as the “odd one

out” at school, but still had faith in himself and his mission. We don’t need others to believe in us; we need to believe in ourselves, and *Harry Potter* has showed us this.

As high schoolers, we often doubt ourselves. We are under constant stress and pressure to do our absolute best. *Harry Potter* has taught us that we can never lose faith in ourselves, because if we don’t have faith in ourselves, we can never accomplish our goals. As high schoolers, we also face obstacles, from a bad test grade to a problem with a group of friends, and, believe it or not, so did *Harry Potter*. Harry was also written as a “normal” high school student. He also got a few bad test grades and had problems with other students. He took exams and sat through boring classes. Harry may be a wizard, but he was also a high school student, and when you look at him in that light, he is a relatively relatable character for high school students.

The first *Harry Potter* book may have been written 20 years ago, but the lessons we can learn from the series are timeless. While *Harry Potter* may live in a fictional world filled with wizards and witches, he faced obstacles and hardships, just like the rest of us, and he overcame them. *Harry Potter* was a high schooler, just like we are right now, and he faced some very common problems that we face today. The *Harry Potter* series continues to teach us that we need to have faith in ourselves to defy the odds, even when others do not have faith in us. The relevance of *Harry Potter* will continue to resonate with us for years to come.



Pictured above: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part One* poster

REVISITING THE DEVASTATION IN CALIFORNIA

Written by: Roxy Dias

California is being demolished by wildfires as the number of deaths and missing people have skyrocketed during these last couple of months. Two blazes killed at least 87 people, and as of November 23rd, about 500 people remain unaccounted for. That number is expected to increase. It has destroyed over 13,000 homes and has become one of the worst wildfires in California's history.

The camp fire of Butte County in northern California is responsible for most of the destruction caused. As of November 23rd, the blaze has claimed 87 lives, burned 153,336 acres of land, and decimated 18,421 structures. The camp fire has ruined more structures than California's other seven worst wildfires combined. The deadly fire destroyed over 20,000 acres in its first 14 hours, and continued to grow over 100,000 acres in only two days. This means that the number of acres swallowed by the camp fire increased over 350% during the second day.

The Woolsey Fire is the other blaze that's affecting California destroying 96,949 acres of land in Los Angeles County and Ventura County. The fire has taken three lives and ravaged 1500 structures, but it is fully contained.

These fires are an incredibly dangerous and scary adversary to California. Wildfires typically occur in wooded areas near heavy populations, which puts more families and homes at risk.



Image courtesy of The Salt Lake Tribune: Wildfires destroy a home in Butte County.

Additionally, these fires are complicated to contain, and costly to fight. They can be caused very easily, and it usually isn't until months after the blaze has subsided that the cause can even be discovered. The wildfires are strong, deadly, and spread very quickly, which is a terrifying combination.

As death tolls increase, and many people are unaccounted for, Californians are revealing their courage to fight the fires together. Firefighters are selflessly rescuing people and their homes. They are courageously risking their lives in order to contain these fires.

Normal civilians are rising up to save lives as well. Kevin McKay, a school bus driver has been praised as a hero. He delivered 22 elementary school students to safety with an escalating blaze among them. When smoke began to fill

the bus, McKay quickly took his shirt off, while two teachers, Abbie Davis and Mary Ludwig, ripped it up, soaked it with water, and helped students to use it to breathe. These three people stayed strong and confronted their fears in the face of danger in order to comfort and save students until they escaped.

Liam Hemsworth, whose home has also been destroyed, posted a photo of it on Twitter. He wrote, "This is what is left of my house. Love." Let's pray that those affected have the strength to move on from the tragedy.

DEATH ROCKS THE WORLD OF JOURNALISM

Editorial written by: Asghar Shah

The untimely death of Jamal Khashoggi, prominent dissident and critic of Saudi Arabian policies, sent shockwaves throughout the world. Khashoggi's journalism represented resistance despite oppression, truth despite censorship, and courage despite the danger.

An investigation, ironically led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), has yet to determine the role of the Crown Prince, Mohammad Bin Salman (MBS). However, a recent piece in the Washington Post posits that "The CIA has concluded that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman ordered the assassination of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul last month, contradicting the Saudi government's claims that he was not involved in the killing, according to people familiar

with the matter." This is a shocking revelation in that the Saudis vehemently denied the involvement of MBS, and if true, may cause investment into MBS Saudi Vision 2030, a plan to reduce the dependence of KSA on oil, to decline. Furthermore, the direct order to call a critic of KSA speaks to the greater issue of journalistic independence and freedoms in this era.

A bipartisan effort is underway to ensure those responsible are held accountable. Republican Senator Rand Paul tweeted, "We should, at the very least, not reward Saudi Arabia with our sophisticated armaments that they in turn use to bomb civilians." On the other hand, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi said, "I think we should follow the money when we look at what the

attitude of the president is to Saudi Arabia." Pelosi may be current as the president essentially exonerated the crown prince of involvement in the killing through citing economic and investment reasons to maintain the US-Saudi relationship.

As a society, we need to reconcile economic relationships with dictatorial regimes to our value of journalistic freedom. Despite these reports, president Donald Trump doubled down on his defense of the crown prince. Recently, Congress ordered the Trump Administration to lead an investigation into MBS role in the murder. This infestation may shed light on the specific involvement of MBS in the murder of Jamal Khashoggi. However, based on the president's current rhetoric, it may not matter who was involved.

LGBTQ RIGHTS IN INDIA

Written by: Sneha Ghoul

For over 150 years, homosexuality has been considered a crime in India. The Indian penal code, section 377 banned sexual acts that were "against the order of nation."

This law forced LGBTQ Indians to hide in the shadows. Many Indians face difficulties, including getting STD checks at hospitals in fear that they will be judged.

Shivam Sharma, who lived in Mumbai, went to the hospital. He had intercourse with a man earlier that day, with precautions. The man was HIV positive, but Shivam wanted to get checked just to be 100% sure. He asked for a PEP, and he said the hospital staff "were absolutely clueless."

Shivam had also gotten a previous HIV test, back when he was in college. A nurse yelled at the other colleges "to be careful of him." This suggested that

Shivam was dirty and harmful because of his sexuality.

A reporter named Kai Schultz went to India to find out what it's really like to be in India as a gay man. He reached out to men who would be comfortable getting interviewed, and perhaps ostracized because of their sexuality.

On Facebook a man by the name "A" (his first initial) reached out to Schultz. "A" recollected a moment in 2014. It was a night where he was drugged and raped by two men at a medical college. However, "A" did not report the crime in fear that he would be arrested as well.

On September 6th, 2018, the Supreme Court of India struck down, one of the world's oldest bans on consensual gay sex. This news was a huge victory for people who had been in fear and battled long for this outcome.

The court went on to apologize for the mistreatment of gay people in India and that the Indian Constitution was responsible for the protection of their people. They ruled that all gay Indians are to be given all protections provided by the Indian Constitution.

Gay Indians still know that they have a long way to go until same sex marriage is legal. The mindsets of people have not changed and they are still extremely socially conservative.

In spite of the long road ahead, this news was a huge victory for people who had been living in India in fear.

AN ATTACK ON TRANSGENDER RIGHTS

Written by: Jamie Breuckel

The United States of America recently decided to disregard transgender identities and base gender identity solely on an individual's physical makeup. This sparked outrage across the nation; several rallies were staged to protest this new law. The decision to deny transgender individuals their rights disregards many scientific studies on gender identity despite being claimed as rooted in science itself. The administration fails to recognize and distinguish the difference between sex and gender and threatens to reverse the progress made by Obama-era regulations for prisons, homeless shelters, and schools.

Transgender rights have been a longstanding debate within the political spectrum. People have often used the

claim that transgender identities go against scientific research, but that has been proven to be false. Transgender individuals have been shown to have different brain compositions than those who identify with their assigned gender or cisgender counterparts. For example, an MRI scan of someone who is anatomically a girl but identifies as a transgender male would show that the individual's brain looks more similar to the brain of a cisgender male than the brain of a cisgender female. The opposite goes for transgender females: their brains look more like those of a cisgender female than that of a cisgender male. The difference between sex and gender identity has caused many conflicts among people today. Sex is the biological makeup of a

person, whereas gender identity is the way a person chooses to express themselves. The general public often gets the two mixed up, which has led to some major conflicts.

The rights of a group of human beings should not be up for debate. In a world where society already shames them for being who they are, taking away the basic rights of transgender individuals would be just another slap in the face for them. These people are just like you and I with the same goal: to make it through the day as happy and healthy as they can be. Calling our representatives and standing up to oppressors is the only way we can give transgender individuals their natural born rights.

QUESTIONING THE COUNTS

Written by: Alina Naqvi

Every decade, the U.S Census counts every resident living in the United States. It helps determine the number of seats in the House of Representatives for each state and allows the government to figure out how to distribute funding. The census generally asks questions about the number of people per household and the next census is planned for 2020. So, if it's not that big of a deal, why are people talking about it right now?

Last week, the Supreme Court announced that it would be hearing a court case in regards to a question about citizenship status being added to the census. The secretary for the Department of Commerce, Wilbur Ross, announced the addition of the citizenship question to the census last March, which brought on outrage. Many wanted to know the true motives for adding this question. The White House has been avoiding answering questions about their reasoning directly. Even the secretary

himself has denied claims about discussing the census question, referring to citizenship with members of the White House and later revealed that the question was an initiative from the Department of Justice.

Many have been assuming this question was added due to an increased focus on immigrants, courtesy of President Trump, and that this will cut down the number of represented immigrants. The main problem with the census question is for undocumented immigrants. Would they be forced to answer the question? Is there a way to avoid it? Well, that will all be decided soon. A trial for this case has already begun here in New York, and the Supreme Court will be hearing the arguments for the case in February. The NY trial is mainly being set due to lawsuits coming in from many states and cities, as they believe the citizenship question will discourage immigrants from responding to the census. The concern comes from the possibility that

less participation/responses could affect how much funding a state/city will get and will also affect the political representation of a state since it would cause less to participate and many immigrants might share similar views which may not be expressed. The hearing of the case in the Supreme Court later in February will look into bringing in unofficial evidence (evidence not part of official record), which is something that the government hasn't really based its decisions on in the past.

So, how does this relate to us as teenagers? I believe that by bringing up this discussion now, it will help our generations in the future by gaining perspective of what we should focus on as a nation. We're all going to be voting in a few years, why not learn what we can about the government? Instead of randomly choosing who to vote for, think about what you want for your nation/city/state and make an informed decision.

KAMIKAZE REVIEW

Written by: Jovani Ledesma

Eminem released a surprise album, *Kamikaze* on August 31, 2018. The album signified a return to the roots of his career and was a response to the hate towards last year's underwhelming and pop-filled mess *Revival*.

Kamikaze is an explosive punch in the face to the many people who criticized *Revival* and people who Eminem loathes. This includes Iggy Azalea, Machine Gun Kelly, Lil Pump and Mike Pence, who were all dissed on the album opener "The Ringer." The Shady onslaught didn't end there as it continued to be very enjoyable and shocking throughout the entire album. When he collaborates with his old friend Royce Da 5'9" on "Not Alike" he shows his intense hate for Machine Gun Kelly. This is a response to what MGK tweeted about Eminem's daughter, "And I'm talkin' to you, but you already know who.....you are, Kelly. I don't use sub-

lims and sure.....don't sneak-diss. But keep commenting on my daughter Hailie."

On "Stepping Stone," those who have been down since the breakup get their closure on the D12 situation with amazing word-play with some clever Biblical references. The track "Normal" hits hard with allusions to Em's past relationships and how toxic they were due to both his girlfriend and he being terrible people and asking why he can't have a normal, happy relationship.

Even in the track "Venom" which was made for the film of the same name released on October 5th, is layered with MC grit and is a catchy closing for the album.

Then there are the tracks that do not hit as well. This includes the "Nice Guy/Good Guy" couplet featuring Jessie

Reyez. They aren't as fast paced or cleverly written like the rest of the album and bring it down overall. As with most albums, Eminem decided to make a skit with Paul Rosenberg. It was made in two parts with Paul calling Em and Em calling Paul back. Both were funny and provided a satirical look on the fans reacting to *Kamikaze*. In one of the more mediocre songs "Fall," he boldly claims that he isn't at complete fault for *Revival's* flop and puts some of the blame on fans and critics of the album for leaning more towards new forms of rap like mumble rap.

Overall I give this album a 9.2/10 as it gives off some *Revival* vibes with his collaborations with Jessie Reyez but brings what I love about Eminem back to life.

DAREDEVIL SEASON 3—GOING OUT WITH A BANG

Written by: Eric Wang

It has been more than two years since *Daredevil* season two, and in that time, things have undeniably went downhill for the Netflix / Marvel relationship. There have been four new shows, and of those four shows, two were canceled right before the release of *Daredevil* season three.

I was concerned for this season simply because of the trajectory other Marvel shows have been going. The second seasons of all the Marvel Netflix originals have been considerably worse than their first season (excluding Iron Fist, which was bad to begin with). Thankfully, this season not only lived up to the high standards set by *Daredevil* season one, but also raised the bar up even higher. The main problem with season two of *Daredevil* was the intro-

duction of The Hand (Criminal organization) and the buildup it had to do for *The Defenders*. Season three takes The Hand (Along with their rituals and ninjas) out of the picture and focuses the story on the villain from the first season, Wilson Fisk. This season follows the events of *The Defenders*, in which Midland Circle had collapsed onto Matt Murdock, and starts off with him being brought to health by Sister Maggie in the very place he was raised. After his recovery, Matt Murdock decides to strictly become the Devil of Hell's Kitchen. He abandons his friends, his faith, and even his identity as Matt Murdock. To make matters worse, Wilson Fisk has been released from prison and once again causes corruption to stir in Hell's Kitchen.

Charlie Cox returns to play Matt Murdock (*Daredevil*), and is very effective at portraying the emotional breakdown that his character is going through. But, a few of the lines he had to deliver just felt too forced. Cox does a good job of making the dialogue feel more natural but still ends up sounding like a rebellious teenager at times. Elden Henson is also back to play Foggy Nelson and rides a fine line between frustrating and charming. The only downside surrounding Foggy was the introduction of his family, which was an unnecessary plot point. Thankfully, this season dedicates a decent amount of time to Karen Page, played by Deborah Ann Woll. Karen even got a full episode dedicated to her and her past. It definitely helped flesh the character out and

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DAREDEVIL SEASON 3—CONTINUED

(Continued from page 10)

helps us understand some of her decisions, such as shooting Wesley in Season 1, trusting Frank Castle (The Punisher) in season two, and aggravating Fisk in season three. The chemistry between Nelson, Murdock, and Page is just as good as ever and I love it whenever the three of them are in a scene together.

A good villain is necessary for a superhero show to really shine. Vincent D'Onofrio's Wilson Fisk is by far the best villain to come out of the Netflix por-

tion of the MCU. Fisk was the main reason for season one's success and now he's back in the spotlight for season three. D'Onofrio's acting is flawless and manages to portray this frightening but sympathetic character predominantly through deep sighs and squinted eyes. His calm yet menacing demeanor makes those savage outbursts of his that much more terrifying. D'Onofrio's take on Fisk is so compelling that you almost want a happy ending for him and Vanessa. Along with Fisk, one of *Daredevil's* most iconic villains from the comics is introduced in this season.

Ben Poindexter (Bullseye) is an FBI agent gifted with the ability to accurately

throw any projectile with deadly precision. While Wilson Fisk was definitely the main villain of *Daredevil* season three, Poindexter is an amazing villain by his own right. Wilson Bethel's portrayal of this character is very entertaining and contains just the right amount of psychotic rage. Seeing him fall further and further into depravity as the season goes on is thrilling. Plus, it's ridiculously fun to watch him get creative with his kills by making deadly projectiles out of eve-

that Charlie Cox performed about 80% of the sequence himself, which is impressive by its own right. The transitions to the stunt double were extremely fluid and hardly noticeable. The way that Matt struggles and grasps for air as multiple inmates and corrupt guards try to take his life makes the fight feel realistic and exhilarating. It was beautifully choreographed, wonderfully shot, and was very entertaining.

Daredevil season three hit all the right notes for me. The returning cast is just as good if not better than they were in Season 1. Matt's emotional / spiritual crisis is

interesting adds complexity to already amazing character. Karen and Foggy are both great characters that complement Matt very nicely. It also introduced a new and compelling villain as well as allies that are easy to sympathize with. While it wasn't perfect, it is exactly the bounce back the Marvel / Netflix shows needed. Even if *Daredevil* doesn't get a fourth season, it definitely ended on a high note.



rything, from a baseball to a gun magazine.

Action scenes have always been one of the strongest elements in *Daredevil*. Examples such as the hallway fight scene in season one and the stairwell fight scene in season two reflect that. The first confrontation between Bullseye and *Daredevil* in season three is also very enjoyable. However, the prison fight scene from episode four of season three tops it all. This one take sequence lasts for over ten minutes and was no doubt the best action scene to come out of the Netflix portion of the MCU. Alex Garcia Lopez (The director for that episode) claims

A RECAP OF THE SUPERHERO UNIVERSE

Written by: Rohan Manjrekar

Beginning in 2019, the MCU will enter the final stretch of its Phase 4 of films. This is a retrospective look at the last three films prior to the release of *Captain Marvel* in March of 2019.

Infinity War. I enjoyed this movie but it wasn't as great as everyone hyped it up to be. It was an enjoyable film, but the end included too much of a cliff-hanger. A popular theory is that all of the characters were just transferred into the Soul Stone for mainly two reasons. When Dr. Strange said that there was only one way to stop Thanos from wiping off half the population it couldn't have been that bad, otherwise Dr. Strange would have told Star Lord. The other popular reason is that many of these characters are already cast in upcoming films in the MCU. Including the actual deaths of Loki, Gamora, Vision, and Heimdall there would have been 16 total deaths. That is if Marvel chose to have the dusted characters killed which were Spider Man, Dr. Strange, Black Panther, The Winter Soldier, Mantis,

Groot, Drax, Star Lord, Scarlet Witch, Falcon, Maria Hill, and Nick Fury.

Ant-Man and the Wasp. This movie was amazing. The movie takes place during the aftermath of the movie *Captain America: Civil War*. Scott Lang has to deal with the consequences of his choices as both a superhero and a father. As he struggles to rebalance his home life with his responsibilities as Ant-Man, he gets a visit from Hope van Dyne and Dr. Hank Pym with an urgent new mission. Scott must once again put on the suit and learn to fight alongside The Wasp (Hope van Dyne) as the team works together to uncover secrets from their past. The Villain "Ghost" (played by Hannah John-Kamen) did a really good job during her fight scenes between her and Ant-man and the Wasp. She also did a good job building the suspense of who she was.

Black Panther was so action filled and had great suspense filled moments. The movie goes when prince T'Challa who,

after the death of his father (the king of Wakanda) returns home to the isolated but technologically advanced African nation to succeed to the throne and take his rightful place as king. But when a powerful enemy appears, T'Challa as is tested when he is drawn into a formidable conflict that puts the fate of Wakanda and the entire world at risk. Faced with treachery and danger, the young king must rally his allies and release the full power of Black Panther to defeat his foes and secure the safety of his people and their way of life.

The creator of many of these characters, Stan Lee, passed away on November 12, 2018. Lee died at the age of 95 at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, California, after being rushed there in a medical emergency earlier in the day. Where the MCU goes without his guidance and supervision is hard to predict. Lee was a not only man, but a legend to many comic book aficionados. Lee created most of the Marvel characters and he cameoed in many Marvel movies.



Image courtesy Digitalspy.com: Promotional poster for Avengers: Infinity War

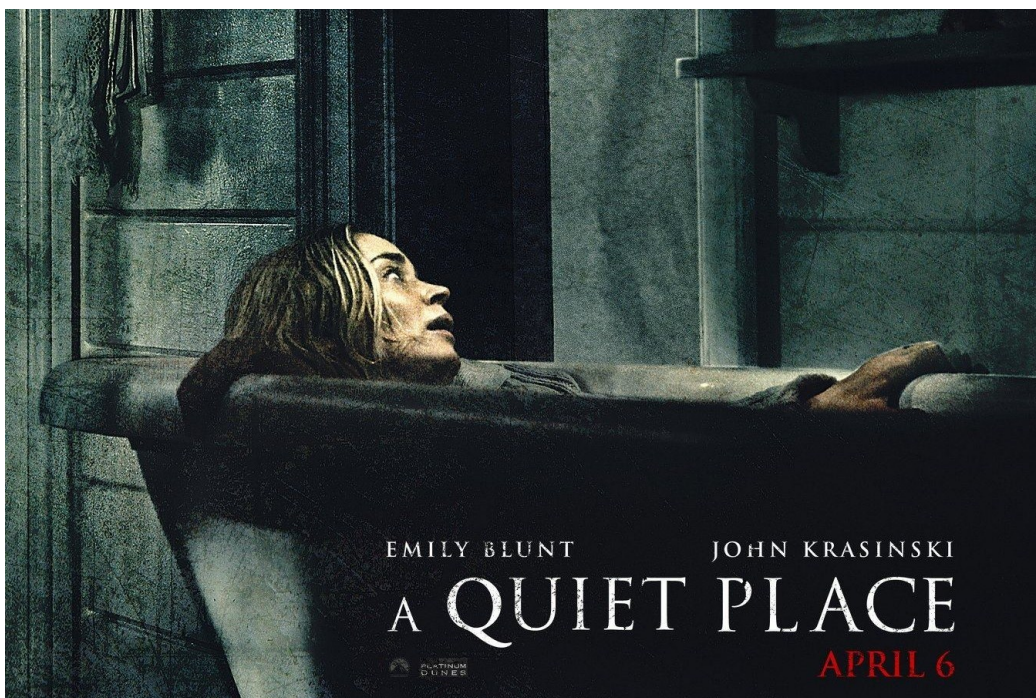
A NEW AGE OF HORROR

Written by: Lillian Aljada

It's been a good year for original horror movies. Movies like *A Quiet Place* and *Hereditary* performed well both critically and financially while also being new stories. And compared to remakes and sequels like *Halloween* or *Suspiria*, they're unlike anything we've seen before. But movies like these are minorities in an extremely popular genre.

Audiences want to be scared. It's why movies like *The Nun* and *Insidious: The Last Key* were financial successes despite being critically panned. But the problem with these two movies is that they rely too heavily on what is arguably the biggest problem with modern horror movies: jump scares. They're a basic characteristic of horror movies, and while there's nothing fundamentally wrong with using one or two, in recent years there has been a reliance on them. Film makers no longer create images that induce feelings of uneasiness. They take the easy way out by making the scene quiet and then unleashing a loud noise every ten minutes.

Alfred Hitchcock, also known as the master of suspense, once said that "there is no terror in the bang, only in the anticipation of it." Hitchcock's films are often regarded as the best in the horror genre because of his perfection of the art of suspense. He never had to use jump scares because he



could make you scared by the simple build-up of a story. His most famous film, *Psycho*, is often said to be the best horror movie of all time. The slow unraveling of the story leaves you at the edge of your seat, and the final revelation of who killed Marion Crane makes your skin crawl. He employs this tactic throughout many of his films but he was able to make every film different through his use of storytelling and imagery.

While the genre has now been saturated with the same tired clichés (family moves into new house, ghost hijinks ensue), there is still hope for the future of horror. One standout film maker is Andy Muschietti, the director of 2013's *Mama* and the recent remake of the famous horror story, *It*. Both films performed well commercially, with *It* quickly becoming a cultural phenomenon. While *Mama* didn't perform as well critically, it became a favorite among many. And it's pretty easy to see why Muschietti has become so popular. Both of these films had a noticea-

ble lack of jump scares and a presence of original monsters that could scare anybody. His ability to make creatures come to life on screen is like nothing we've seen before. The design of the title character of *Mama* coupled with the way Javier Botet, the actor portraying her, contorted

his body was nightmare inducing. A similarly styled character named Judith in the adaptation of *It* brought to life one of the director's actual childhood fears: a painting by Italian-Jewish artist Amedeo Modigliani. The idea of bringing back one's terrors from childhood is exactly what the horror genre should be.

The past couple years have been a little bland for horror. But filmmakers like John Krasinski, Ari Aster, and Jordan Peele are going to change that. *A Quiet Place* was able to build suspense through silence and did it so well that moviegoers were afraid to even eat popcorn out of fear of making noise. *Hereditary* was able to turn a story about grief into two hours of unnerving watching that made you feel as if you had intruded on a family in the midst of falling apart. *Get Out* preyed upon the fear of racially motivated crimes that many black people have instilled in them and gave audiences a false sense of security multiple times. These are three very different stories, all of which were able to accomplish the main goal of horror: scaring audiences. The horror genre can still be saved, we just have to give original stories a chance.

MLB END OF SEASON AWARDS

Written by: Andrew Scarpaci

The end of the baseball season is marked not only by the Fall Classic, but by a bevy of awards handed out to the best players.

In the American League there were many star players to choose from for the MVP award, with the main three being Mookie Betts and JD Martinez of the Boston Red Sox, along with Mike Trout of the Los Angeles Angels. Betts would end up taking this honor due to his absolutely terrific season with 28 out of 30 first place ballot votes. Betts lead the league with a 346 batting average, 643 slugging, 126 runs scored, and a 10.1 Wins Above Replacement.

The National League ballot was headlined by Christian Yelich of the Milwaukee Brewers. His breakout season following a trade from the Miami Marlins would land him one first place vote shy of a unanimous ballot. Yelich would approach the Triple Crown; he lead the NL in batting average with a 326, but his 110 RBIs was one RBI short of Javier Baez' 111, and his 36 homeruns left him two short of Nolan Arenado, who had 38. Yelich would also lead in OPS with a clean 1.000.

The Cy Young award is the award given to the best pitcher in each league. The winners of this prestigious award were Blake Snell of the Tampa Bay Rays for the AL and Jacob Degrom of the New York Mets for the NL. An extremely tight race in the AL gave a 15 point edge to Blake Snell over Justin Verlander of the Houston Astros. Snell had 17 first place votes, and 11 second place votes, while Verlander had 13 first place and 13 second place votes. Snell had a terrific season with a league leading ERA(1.89), wins(21) and batting average against(178). Jacob Degrom dominated the ballot, taking the vote almost unanimously with 29 first place votes. DeGrom's historic season of absolutely dominating all lineups he faced would see him with a borderline unheard of 1.70 ERA. This is the 6th lowest by a CY Young recipient ever. Despite Max Scherzer leading DeGrom in every single other major category (wins, strikeouts, BAA, and innings pitched), his 2.53 ERA was no match for DeGrom's.

The rookie of the year award is given to the best first year player in each league. Shohei Ohtani has been a name in baseball

for a few years now. He was a top tier pitcher and hitter in the Japanese professional league. He signed with the Angels during the off-season, and everyone could not wait for his arrival. What he was able to accomplish by being a major league level pitcher and hitter has not been done since Babe Ruth in the early 20th century. The history Ohtani made would crown him the AL rookie of the year.

Atlanta Braves Ronald Acuña Jr would top the National League rookie of the year vote with 27 first place votes. He was competing against Juan Soto of the Washington Nationals. Both of them had amazing rookie seasons and were very close in many stat categories. Acuña had a batting average of .293. Acuña had 26 homers to Soto's 22. Acuña 64 RBIs, Soto 70. In spite of these close numbers, most of the voters thought Acuña had the competitive edge, and voted him in over Soto for the honor.

THE NY RANGERS

Written by: Sean Joyce

As we make our way through late fall into early winter, the New York Rangers have been on a tear and have no plans of stopping. This season was supposed to be a season to forget for the Broadway Blueshirts, as they missed the playoffs last season. On top of a disappointing ending to last season, the Rangers started with 3 wins, 7 losses and 1 shootout loss in the first ten games. Recently the Rangers have been 8-1-1 in their last ten games and it seems to be the start of something for the team. New York has called up rookies Brett Howden, Filip Chytil, and Lias Andersson to help the team. Backed with experience by goaltender Henrik Lundqvist and other leaders in the locker

room it looks like a bright career for all of them in New York.

In addition to the rookies, the Rangers have picked up veteran defenseman Adam Mcquaid for Steven Kampfer, as well two late round draft picks. The boys in blue have grown accustomed to new head coach David Quinn's game style as it suits team veteran forwards Chris Kreider and Mika Zibanejad, who now have a combined 35 points in 21 games. In a surprising trade the Rangers acquired former Islander first round draft pick Ryan Strome in exchange for forward Ryan Spooner.

Since this season was a season meant for a

rebuild, it is unclear what the next step that should be for GM Jeff Gorton. Before the season there were whispers of trading forwards Kevin Hayes and/or Jimmy Vesey if a good enough deal was to come in. With still more than half the season left to go in the NHL, it has become a wait and see period for a team that is greatly exceeding expectations.

THE SKETCHPAD



By: Taylor Murphy



'2019 is going to be great... right?'

By: Isabella Weber



By: Sage Boiko



FUN AND GAMES

Word Search

T	C	W	I	S	N	O	W	M	A	N	B
N	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	S	A	G	L
M	R	A	L	K	Y	B	K	F	E	C	A
E	I	P	N	E	W	Y	E	A	R	E	C
K	S	V	R	K	I	A	M	S	E	E	K
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N	H	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	S	N	Y
S	I	O	B	L	K	F	W	O	C	R	G

Words:

Thanksgiving

Tree

New Year

Christmas

Snowflake

Black Friday

Holidays

Snowman

Presents

Winter

President

Anya Marquardt

Vice President

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