

The Prowler



Quince Orchard High School • (301) 840-4686 • AP Signature School
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NHS plans for project expansion

By ANNA GOOREVICH
Managing Editor

The National Honor Society (NHS) is one of the most prestigious honor societies not only in Quince Orchard, but throughout the country. Aimed at promoting scholarship, and enhancing leadership, QO's NHS chapter also places a high value on providing service to the community. This spring, NHS is initiating a variety of projects focused on accommodating all of students' needs.

Becoming a member of NHS is no easy feat. Members are held to higher expectations than most students. According to chapter sponsor and Social Studies teacher Jennifer Yang, "Students must keep a weighted or unweighted GPA of 3.5 or higher, and they must complete five hours of service per semester through activities provided by NHS."

Additionally, as much as NHS members are supposed to achieve in the classroom, they are also encouraged to make accomplishments outside of school as well. Senior and NHS officer Cassidy Solomon expects members to "actively strive to make a difference in our community." Solomon also stated that "NHS members are and should be role models

"With all of these changes and new events NHS is working hard to plan, members are also committed to maintaining and expanding their student-led tutoring initiatives for the entire community."

-Hannah Weisman

of academic excellence and extraordinary service."

Currently, NHS offers various tutoring services throughout the community. According to senior and NHS president Hannah Weisman, "The NHS only offers tutoring for students enrolled in Connections classes and for the students at Jones Lane Elementary School. However," adds Weisman, "we are about to start many other programs that almost anyone will be able to participate in."

With the craziness of testing and the anticipation for summer, NHS has formulated multiple projects and events designed to keep students focused for the rest of the year. Firstly, NHS is planning a Test Pump Up Week. "This is an initiative where NHS members will be decorating the school and getting all the students excited and prepared for all the spring testing," said Weisman. "We know that

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PHOTO COURTESY OF AP

LEADING WITH AN IRON FIST: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) announces he will not hold confirmation hearings for any individual nominated during the last year in President Obama's term.

Scalia's death raises election stakes

By ANDY GOLDSTEIN
Editor-in-Chief

Last month, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia passed away of natural causes in his sleep, almost immediately triggering a mid-election political battle over control of the Supreme Court. With only eight justices on the Supreme Court for the moment, four of them liberal and four of them conservative, many upcoming cases could end in a 4-4 tie, leaving them unresolved.

It is the prerogative of the President to nominate a justice to fill any vacancy on the court, but the timing of these events complicates the usual nomination process. A nominee for the Supreme Court must be confirmed by the Senate, and Senate Republicans have proclaimed they will not consider any appointee for the court until this election cycle is over. "The American people should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court Justice," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY). "Therefore, this vacancy should not be filled until we have a new president."

Senator McConnell and his party have

taken criticism recently for releasing a statement saying that they would not hold any confirmation hearings on a justice nominated by this President, let alone take a vote on them. Julian Zelizer, professor of history and public affairs at Princeton University, stated: "What is remarkable is [that] the opposition is not to a particular candidate or even to the notion Obama will only nominate someone too extreme, but that he should not have any right to have a nomination considered." Tradition holds that the Senate meet with and hold confirmation hearings for a potential nominee out of courtesy and to determine their viability, even if they plan to ultimately reject them. "This nomination will be determined by whoever wins the presidency," said Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn (R-TX). "We will allow the public to decide."

Senate Democrats have been spreading a different message since the beginning of the nomination battle. "Senator McConnell is right that the people should have a voice in the selection of the next Supreme Court justice," wrote Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA). "In

fact they did - when President Obama won the election in 2012 by five million votes." The Massachusetts Senator has posted on social media, appeared on television, and written editorials condemning her Senate colleagues for their refusal to hold hearings. She tweeted, "Article II Section 2 of the Constitution says the President of the United States nominates justices to the Supreme Court, with the advice and consent of the Senate. I can't find a clause that says '...except when there's a year left in the term of a Democratic President.'"

Republicans on the campaign trail weighed in on the matter as well. "I do not believe the President should appoint someone," former Florida Senator Marco Rubio stated. Rubio fears that Obama would "ram down our throat a liberal justice." Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) echoed these calls, warning that "we are one justice away from a Supreme Court that would undermine the religious liberty of millions of Americans." The Republican presidential candidates fear that the nomination of a liberal justice would shift the balance to a liberal majority,

something not seen on the Supreme Court in decades.

A recent poll by CNN/ORC found almost 60% of Americans would like to see the Senate approve a Supreme Court nominee before the next election. It also found that Republican senators in contested elections in the next few months were less likely to win if they delayed a nomination. However, "The Senate needs to stand strong and say, 'We're not going to give up the U.S. Supreme Court for a generation by allowing Barack Obama to make one more liberal appointee,'" said Cruz. The Republican presidential candidates have each come out in favor of delaying confirmation hearings.

Staying largely quiet since she announced she would not run for President, Warren has mounted a new attack on gridlock: "Senate Republicans took an oath just like Senate Democrats did. Abandoning the duties they swore to uphold would threaten both the Constitution and our democracy itself. It would also prove that all the Republican talk about loving the Constitution is just that - empty talk."

News

Drastic measures are taken in Africa to protect the Northern White Rhino, which may face extinction.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF EPA

Features

The Prowler artistically analyzes the notorious graffiti that graces QO's bathroom walls.

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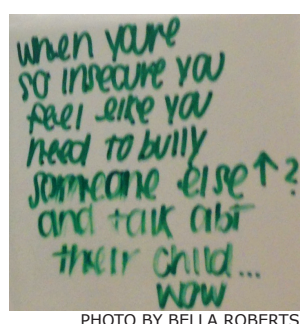


PHOTO BY BELLA ROBERTS

Sports

Get your brackets ready as college basketball season heats up this March.

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NHS works to coordinate new school events

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testing isn't so fun, so we are going to try and make things as fun and easy as possible for everyone."

Secondly, many NHS members are participating in a Student Panel for College Readiness. One of the most anticipated events that NHS has to offer, this panel will consist of a group of NHS seniors who have already experienced the college search process and are ready to offer advice to underclassmen. "The panel will have a night where everyone is welcomed (and encouraged) to come and ask them questions about any and everything on the college process," adds Weisman.

Next, NHS is sponsoring its own Teacher Appreciation Week in addition to the usual PTSA-organized teacher appreciation activities. "While the PTSA puts together things for teacher appreciation," adds Weisman, "we thought it would be fun if the NHS members organized a completely student-led teacher appreciation week."

Lastly, NHS plans to organize a drive for charity. While the type of charity drive has not been decided yet, Weisman said that "whether it be clothing, cans, or school supplies, [there will be] potential prizes for the classes and people who donate the most."

With all of these changes and new events NHS is working hard to plan, members are also committed to maintaining and expanding their student-led tutoring initiatives for the entire community.

While past NHS projects only affected a minority of students in the community, NHS is aiming to assist all students in QO through their new events. Yang expects these projects to "benefit diverse groups of students around the school" and hopes that "NHS members will

be able to provide valuable service to the school community, as well as gain some leadership skills for themselves."

NHS maintains high hopes for these projects, but student participation is vital for their success. "I think that to ensure the success of all these projects, we need the support of the Quince Orchard community," said Solomon. "I hope that all students take advantage of the new projects we are working on, whether they are bringing in items for our drive, attend-

ing our NHS college panel, or receiving testing tips from our Test Pump Up Week Campaign."

"In all honesty," adds Weisman, "over my three and a half years at QO, I don't ever remember hearing about any programs from NHS. These programs are hands-on, exciting, and available to the entire QOHS community!"

Be on the lookout this spring to take advantage of all of these upcoming events as NHS is armed and ready to make a difference in our school and community.



PHOTO BY PATRICK PAOLINI
COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Members of the National Honors Society meet at lunch to plan and coordinate their new projects while building upon already existing programs.

Northern White Rhino may face extinction

By **MATTHEW LOWINGER**
News Editor

The Northern White Rhinoceros is facing the brink of extinction. This subspecies of the rhinoceros is being killed off for its horns. With only three Northern White Rhinoceros left, the world is at a standstill — what should be done to save this species?

The Northern White Rhinoceros was once abundant in Central Africa in countries ranging from Chad to the Republic of Congo. In 1960, there was approximately 2,000 of them. In just a short time, the number dropped to only 15 in 1984. Kathleen Garrigan, a spokesperson for the African Wildlife Foundation, a Washington, D.C.-based group that works to protect African animals, said the Northern White Rhinoceros has "disappeared right in front of our eyes." Unfortunately, individuals had not recognized the severity of the endangerment and experts "didn't realize

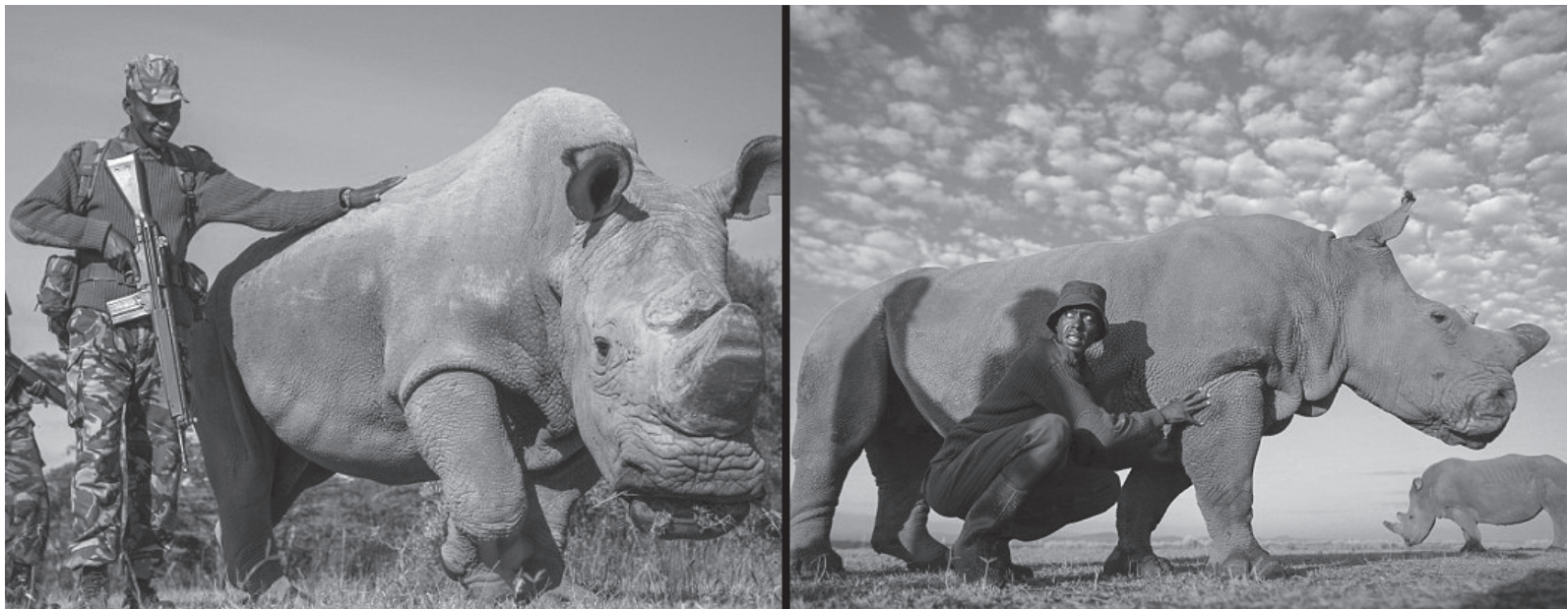
it until it was too late," says Garrigan.

After the death of Nola, the 41-year-old female Northern White Rhinoceros that had lived at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park since 1989, only three Northern White Rhinoceros are left on the planet, all of which live at Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya. Of the two remaining females, neither of them are able to reproduce. The only male Northern White Rhinoceros, Sudan, has a low sperm count and is unlikely to reproduce. However, Northern White Rhinoceros experts are trying to use in vitro fertilization to create more rhino offspring. According to Scientific American, the "San Diego Zoo recently set aside \$2 million as part of an effort to keep the species from going extinct by implanting northern white rhino embryos into surrogates from the related southern white rhino subspecies."

The near-extinction is due to the poaching of Northern White Rhinoceros' valuable horns, one of which can be val-

ued at over \$300,000. The horns have been used in traditional Asian medicines, specifically in Vietnam for over 1,800 years. Various trade bans have been instituted in order to protect the rhinoceros: "Trade bans among Asian countries instituted in the 1980s and early 1990s proved largely effective in quashing supply, with some help from poaching crackdowns in countries where rhinos live," reports The Atlantic. The uses for the horns range from a cancer-zapper to curing hangovers.

The endangerment is so severe that the Ol Pejeta Conservancy has a staff of individuals armed with firearms who monitor and protect the remaining rhinoceros. The staff members are in charge of being "watchdogs" over the rhinos, and observing "a 700-acre enclosure, and a nutritious diet supplemented with fresh vegetables," according to the Ol Pejeta Conservancy. If individuals continue hunting the Northern White Rhinoceroses, there will be no mo' rhino.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE EPA
CONSERVATION OR BUST: Soldiers of the Kenyan military protect the remaining Northern White Rhinos at Ol Peteja Conservancy from poachers and other dangers (left), while a caretaker inspects the health of the last-living male (right).



QO students share and connect to their cultures

By LAKSHMI SHYAMAKRISHNAN
News Editor

With the tremendous amount of diversity present in Quince Orchard, it is no wonder that International Night emerged to show off the school's cultural representation. International Night was created to bring together more appreciation for the world's cultures, and to display the vast expanse of history and art that lie behind every student. In this single night—on Friday, March 11—students, parents, teachers, and families came to QO to view the spectacle. Many performances were put on by both the students and staff, portraying their cultural appreciation.

The event was hosted by the International Club, sponsored by ESOL

teacher Heather Bradley. Bradley has been the sponsor for the International Club since last year. "My background was in International Development and Research," Bradley said. "The administration thought that [sponsoring the club] would be a good match, a good idea for me to connect with people around those issues." As an ESOL teacher, Bradley was encouraged to connect more with her students.

International Night was begun by the ESOL department years ago, and it eventually evolved over time to become what it is now—a representation of various other countries. "Generally, the mission was to showcase diversity that is at QO," Bradley said. "[The mission is also about] how young people who are inherently American are

identifying with other cultures." Approximately 12 countries were represented this year, with a multitude of performances displayed. "It [was] quite a diverse lineup, [so] it [was] fun and informative," Bradley said.

Students were equally excited about the special event. Senior Natasha Vozenilek, fourth-year member and President of International Club, was looking forward to seeing the many talents and cultures showcased. "It gives the students a chance to show a part of them to their peers that they might not [see] on a daily basis," Vozenilek said. Not only this, but International Night is meant to be educational as well as entertaining. Vozenilek joined the International Club in her ninth grade year, wishing to educate herself

more about her Indian culture. "I didn't feel very connected to my culture until I was in this club," Vozenilek said. "By joining International [Club] and getting others involved...I hoped to get other students to do the same and get everyone informed about some of the traditions of other cultures."

Among the clubs performing this year were Juntos, Africa United, and the South Asian Student Society, with special appearances by AP World teacher Kevin Lasko and AP Physics teacher William Wu. Senior Alka Jays, Vice President of the South Asian Student Society, otherwise known as SASS, was one of the many dancers in the event. "There's a range of all kinds of dances, from Hispanic countries to India," Jays said. "Everyone

comes to see the dances and to see different colors of the world come together for a night." Jays was never a performer—that is, until she joined the International Club. "I was always a shy person, and during my freshman year I was asked if I would dance with a few members of the club at International Night," Jays said. "It helped me overcome my shyness and make new friends and learn about other cultures."

Dancers, musicians, and community members joined together to turn the event into a fun night for everyone. There has always been a great turnout, not only because of the many trays of food set up in the lobby from all around the world, but because proceeds from the event helped raise money for Sierra Leone. "It's an

event where everyone has fun," Jays said. "I had fun performing and being a part of it, and the audience enjoyed the entertainment and the education."

The perfect line between fun and work was found in some of the performers' dances, as rehearsals required a lot of time. "When the school year begins, a fellow performer and I come together to choreograph a few dances," Jays stated. "When it comes to December and January, we start to have regular practices. Two weeks before the practice is when we start to have practice daily."

Quite a bit of practice went into making these performances the best they could possibly be to display the true amount of culture represented in the QO student body.

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Health community warns the globe of Zika Virus

By **MATTHEW LOWINGER**
News Editor

The Zika Virus has emerged all over the world after its roots beginning in Africa. As the virus spreads, the United States government is continuously monitoring the outbreak due to its harmful outcomes from the disease.

The virus was originally found in 1947 in the Zika forest of Uganda and is spread through mosquitos, much like Dengue, Yellow Fever, and West Nile Virus. A female mosquito feeds on people in order to lay eggs. Next, the virus travels from their gut through the mosquito's circulatory system which then goes to the salivary glands. Lastly, and worst of all, the virus is transmitted to the human.

The New York Times reports that Zika can "be sexually transmitted...but experts

suspect it rarely happens." Zika researchers reported that, as of February 2, "there have only been three reports suggesting sexual transmission." In 2008, a scientist went to Africa to research Malaria. After returning to Colorado, the scientist transmitted the disease to his sexual partner and experienced genital pain, fever, rash, and headaches. In another case, "a live virus was found in the semen of a 44-year-old Tahitian man [in 2013]." The last sexually transmitted case, reported in early February, involved a Dallas citizen traveling to Venezuela and later infecting his partner. Although these are severe cases, "experts believe that the vast majority of all Zika infections are transmitted by mosquitos."

Possibly the most serious effects associated with Zika

infections are brain damage in infants. The virus is known to shrink the head size of infants, a condition known as microcephaly. "In roughly 15 percent of cases, a small head is just a small head, and there is no effect on the infant," according to Dr. Constantine Stratakis, a pediatric geneticist and a scientific director at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. However, if a child has the Zika Virus, common symptoms could include developmental delays, intellectual deficits and/or hearing loss. "Zika Virus testing is recommended within 48 hours of birth," the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports. "Health care providers should work...to arrange testing."

The CDC preaches the importance of "Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents"

in order to protect children from mosquitoes transmitting the virus.

On January 22, 2016, the CDC issued its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) due to the outbreaks of Zika occurring all around the world.

"Experts believe that the vast majority of all Zika infections are transmitted by mosquitos."

-New York Times

On February 1, the World Health Organization declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern

(PHEIC) as a result of various reportings of microcephaly and other neurological disorders in areas affected by Zika. On February 8, 2016, CDC elevated its EOC activation to a Level 1, the highest level.

WebMD predicts the arrival of the Zika virus in the United States "carried by travelers from the Caribbean or Latin America" could potentially be extremely dangerous. The number of outbreaks could also exponentially increase with the 2016 Summer Olympics occurring in Rio de Janeiro, with spectators traveling from all around the world to view the events.

The Zika Virus can be comparable to Ebola in its worldwide presence. The Virus is extremely dangerous; however, Montgomery County issued an alert reporting there is no immediate danger for the citizens of the county.

Best Buddies spreads the word to end the R-word

By **SOPHIE LANE**
News Editor

Spread the Word to End the Word (STW-TETW) is a campaign to stop the derogatory use of the word "retarded" in everyday conversation. Originally, this term was used to describe people with intellectual disabilities, but now it has disrespectful meanings, which people associate with people with mental and developmental disabilities.

Today, many believe that the R-word is synonymous with "stupid." The members of Best Buddies explain how this mistranslation is

extremely offensive and hurtful towards people with disabilities. In reality, their minds may just work differently from others. At QO, the students involved in Best Buddies participate in creating a video to show on Cougar TV every year to spread the word to end the use of "retarded".

Jessica Manion, Vice President of QO Best Buddies, helped in creating this year's video. To Manion, STWTETW is very special. Her goal is "to make sure that everyone feels respected," She also believes that "a lot of people use the R-word and don't realize that it's really hurtful

to people with disabilities, and to people who love them." Manion also added that "people use it carelessly, and don't realize the impact that they are making." Every year the members of Best Buddies try to get the message across by creating a video for the school to watch. After watching the video, Manion believes, "[Best Buddies members] did a good job showing emotion".

Best Buddies members and everyone close to people with disabilities are passionate about this issue, and would love to see a change in our society's language. Abby Dirlam, for-

mer President and active member of Best Buddies, spoke about STWTETW very passionately: "Unfortunately, those with disabilities have faced a great deal of social stigmatization. This stigmatization is what caused the diagnostic label to take on such a derogatory meaning." To get the word across, Dirlam was heavily involved in creating the video each year she was at QO. "Language has much more power than people realize," she states, "it has the capacity to affect our attitudes, which, in turn, can affect our actions." Dirlam is "still very passionate

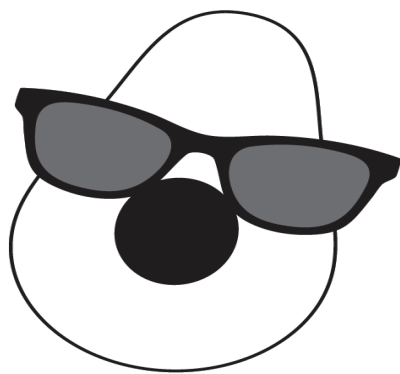
about promoting the STWTETW campaign." She is never afraid to stand up for people who have disabilities by telling others who use the derogatory term to stop. Additionally, Dirlam believes everyone in their everyday lives should "open up conversation about the hurtful nature of the R-word if we are to ever see the end of the word".

Not only is Manion a member of Best Buddies, but she also participates in allied sports. By playing allied sports, Manion is spreading the word. She will "post pictures on Instagram to show people

[she's] friends with students with disabilities, and that they're not just a charity." When someone asks her if she plays a sport, her response is "Yeah, allied sports." In addition, Manion will inform them about Best Buddies' mission to stop people from using the R-word.

Best Buddies only makes one video a year but hopefully their powerful words will carry with you the next time you are about to say the R-word. A future goal of the Best Buddies team is to make STWTETW an assembly instead of just a short clip played on Cougar TV.

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Fans and artists alike call for Kesha's freedom

By **ALEXIS KIM**
Layout Manager

#FreeKesha:

On February 19, 2016, a New York Supreme Court judge denied Kesha Rose Serbert, popularly known as Kesha, a court injunction that would allow the pop artist to produce music outside of her contract with producer Dr. Luke and Sony Music.

This was the first major legal decision following the initial lawsuit filed against Lukasz Sebastian Gottwald, a.k.a. Dr. Luke, in October 2014. Serbert had sued Gottwald under claims that the producer had "sexually, physically, verbally, and emotionally abused [her] to the point where [she] nearly lost her life," as stated in the suit, and should rightfully be able to sever the contract she made in 2005 as an 18 year old.

The alleged abuse stated in court documents ac-

cused Gottwald of drugging the young artist with gamma-hydroxybutyrate (commonly known as the date rape drug), raping her while unconscious, and threatening to harm her, her family, and career should she speak out against the attack. Serbert also accused him of driving her into an eating disorder, due to the emotional abuse directed towards her weight. She claimed this maltreatment landed her in a rehabilitation center for two months in early 2014.

Gottwald, a powerful and prominent record producer who has produced pop hits such as "Since U Been Gone" with Kelly Clarkson and "I Kissed A Girl" with Katy Perry, has denied

all charges and counter-sued the artist for defamation and breach of contract (which states Serbert must

I were friends for many years and she was like my little sister."

The feud between artist and

Gaga, Adele, Taylor Swift, Kelly Clarkson, and Lorde. Lady Gaga has demanded Sony re-

lease Serbert from Taylor Swift has donated \$250,000 to the artist. Fans have been spotted rallying outside the courtroom and

quoted from a New York Times article, "Kesha remains signed to Dr. Luke's label, Kemosabe Records, a subsidiary of Sony, through a separate deal with his production company, Kasz Money Inc." Scott A. Edelman, an attorney representing Sony Music, stated Sony "is legally unable to terminate the contract to which it is not a party" and even if the company were to sever ties with Dr. Luke, Serbert would remain signed under Kemosabe Records.

While Serbert may have support from many of the music industry's top performing artists and a sweeping social media movement in honor of her name, the pop star still has a long way to go until she's freed from her alleged abuser.

This legal battle is a grim reflection of the ugly side of an industry filled with allegations from female performers of abuse that seem to be silenced the moment they are heard, if ever. An article by Telegraph highlighting Serbert's struggle explains how bassist Jackie Fuchs of the 70's rock band The Runaways was encouraged by Serbert's testimony and "was one of the factors in her decision to expose the sexual assault she had suffered at the hands of her manager and producer Kim Fowley four decades earlier." Fuchs also stated that "a lot of the abuse that goes on is an open secret but everyone is terrified to put their necks on the line and speak up."

In an emotional Facebook post, Serbert stated: "All I ever wanted was to be able to make music without being afraid, scared, or abused."



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUPERFAME.COM

A DISAPPOINTING DECISION: Kesha (middle) cries after the decision not to release her from her contract was read in court.

fulfill and create the 6 albums promised in the contract), stating in a tweet, "I didn't rape Kesha and I have never had sex with her. Kesha and

producer has sparked a movement across social media and has been recognized by many influential female figures, such as Lady

her contract, Adele took a moment to publicly advertise her support for Serbert during her acceptance speech at the Brit Awards in London, and

Sony offices in support as well, calling for a boycott against the company. So why can't Serbert simply drop Sony? As



VIEWPOINT

YouTube's not-so-fair-use rules

By **BEN PALMER**
Viewpoints Editor

It's not easy being a guppy in a shark tank. That may sound like a depressing cliché, but recently on YouTube this has become a reality.

The most famous video sharing site in existence, YouTube, is occupied by both aspiring content creators looking to make a name for themselves and big film and television companies seeking to broaden their outreach. However, some people don't seek to make their own content, but simply upload copyrighted movies and episodes made by professional companies so they can make a profit off it instead of them. It's a guilty pleasure to watch things like that for free, but it's simply illegal. That's why YouTube gave these big companies the ability to take down videos violating their copyright, and it's worked pretty well in terms of removing plagiarized content.

However, this has proven to be a double-edged sword, as it often runs afoul of people who incorporate fair use into their videos. Fair use, as defined by the Copyright Act of 1976, is the usage of a copyrighted work "for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching..., scholarship, or research. This is a blessing for the vast numbers of internet critics and commentators on YouTube, regardless of how

skilled they are, and they even get to make money off of these uses too.

The law is not always binding where companies are concerned, as they are free to simply take down a video whenever they want, even if said video falls under fair use. This issue was first brought to international attention on February 16 when notable YouTuber Doug Walker, better known as the Nostalgia Critic, uploaded a video titled "Where's The Fair Use?" in which he, along with two other YouTubers, detailed how companies can abuse their privileges by taking down videos and even entire channels without even considering fair use.

The process of taking down videos is very simple, and that's the problem. If a company believes your video has violated their copyright, they can send a takedown notice to YouTube, which the will always execute. This process can happen even faster if the company uses the Content ID Tool, allowing them to automatically detect and report usage of their material. The account that uploaded the video will receive a copyright strike, preventing them from uploading videos longer than 15 minutes for six months. The creator can appeal the strike if they believe it was unfair, and if they get no response they are released in 30 days. However, if the claimant upholds the strike, the dispute can go all the way to court,

which most people wouldn't want to go to even if they did win. One, two, three strikes and you're out, with your channel and videos all being deleted. There's very little the YouTuber can do outside of hoping for the best or going to court, and it has reached a breaking point.

Within days of Walker's video, numerous other YouTubers—including channels such as TheMysteriousMrEnter and Markiplier, among others—have made their own videos showing their support of the movement. The movement has spread throughout the internet using the slogan #WTFU and has showed no signs of slowing down.

I'm nowhere near a serious YouTuber, but it's clear that there is a flaw in the system which YouTube needs to fix. Big film companies bring in massive amounts of money each year, and while piracy is still a serious problem, the YouTubers abiding by the law should not have to go through this. YouTube may be the unquestioned king of video sharing right now, but as long as this movement goes on, there may be a quest to get a new, better, video site that ends up usurping the throne. Video may have killed the radio star, but the internet hasn't yet brought film and TV into oblivion. Even if you're not a content creator or have no interest in this at all, I highly encourage you to spread the word and support the plight of independent content creators.

By **BELLA ROBERTS**
Editor-in-Chief

I am a standardized test. You may have heard of me. Actually, I know you've heard of me. I'm a bit of a local celebrity around here. I have all those star qualities that the most famous do: more fear than praise.

You see everyone wants to beat me, wants to one-up me and get inside my mind. I find this cute because I've gotten so complicatedly developed

recently that it's not even possible to beat me. My power has taken over society even more than the Kardashian family.

People take a glance at me, and I automatically destroy their self-confidence. Yeah, you can say I am worshipped. People spend countless hours studying me in all my various forms from the time they can read till they die. They pay thousands of dollars to learn about me in classes. Ha, as if they could really master me from some silly classes. Kids spend time practicing how to speak like me, how to think like me, how to BE me instead of playing on playgrounds and

know what to expect. I am like Britney Spears: I could shave my head at any moment and force others to question their sanity. I often change the way I ACT and I've even changed the way I've SAT. As a result of this constant changing, people can never truly get used to me. They will always be waiting for my judgments and try to copy my style.

I control your future. Not to burst your bubble (which you halfheartedly fill in), but you will never master me. I am just too important.

having a childhood. Teachers spend their lives devoted to teaching kids how learning me and my ways will make their lives better. Colleges analyze me to compare students for future success. Everyone spends time thinking that they could just stop worrying about me, but they have become addicted. You see, I am no reality show, I am reality. I have so successfully tricked society into thinking I am necessary that now I am vital to their existence.

But don't worry, I still keep things fresh! Every few years I get a makeover and change my personal image from head to toe. This way, no one will ever

I control your future. Not to burst your bubble... I am just too important.

know what to expect. I am like Britney Spears: I could shave my head at any moment and force others to question their sanity. I often change the way I ACT and I've even changed the way I've SAT. As a result of this constant changing, people can never truly get used to me. They will always be waiting for my judgments and try to copy my style.

The strange, bizarre and weird of QO

By **WILL HUSTED**

Double-Truck Managing Editor

The routine of everyday school life can get extremely boring. Wake up, go to school, and remember the homework you didn't do the night before and feverishly struggle to get it done—it's a grand ol' time. There is a key ingredient to breaking this monotony that we all find in this strange collection of people at this school, and it can be found in the outlandish (and just plain weird events) that happen.

One area of the school that sees things

that might be seen as weird is the world languages department. Spanish teacher Charlene Cardona refers back to a time when one of her students "ate a banana and then continued to eat the peel of that banana." While various studies show the nutritional values of eating peels, the strange behavior by a past student begins to reveal the bizarre impulses we all have.

Based on experience, abnormal behavior is normal in high school students. Still trying to

find our place in this world, it is easy to behave abnormally. But when that misbehavior is harmless, there is a strange wonderment to the situation. Math teacher Tadesse Goshime recounts when a student brought in a hedgehog to the school because he had never seen one before. "That animal was so little I wanted to take it home", he remembers. Although bringing an animal to school may not be the best idea for an everyday occasion, the appearance of a tiny rodent

can give people lasting memories and a sense of excitement to their day.

A respectable level of weird and mystery should be tolerated, if not encouraged. When people are free to be weird, they can be themselves and meet like-minded people.

Teachers have seen this in action and, even though the actions are odd, the effect of humor and the downright bizarre has on a student body and the staff is greatly undervalued. In conclusion, stay weird, QO.



SECRET MASTERMINDS

By **BRITTANY MILLS**

Double-Truck Managing Editor

SEBASTIAN

Two young members of QO's Cougar Cubs program were asked for their expertise on the most secretive parts of the QO.

Warning:

This information is top secret!



Do you know any QO secrets?	Yes. Don't tell anyone... I know everyone's birthdays
What is prom?	It is like a fish
What is the grossest thing you can think of?	Gooey fish
What is the meaning of life?	When everyone is smiling

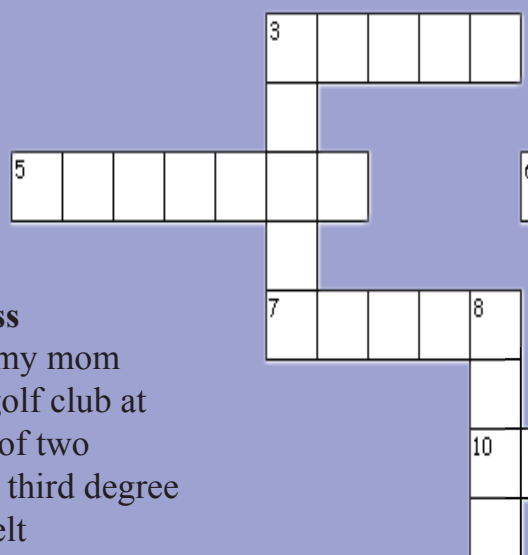
ELIZABETH



What is love?	I'm too scared to say it
What is prom?	My mom never said that to me
Have you ever been to the 4th floor pool?	It had a carousel and a park
What is happiness?	It means a smiley face



MYSTERIES OF Y PROWLER STAFF



Across

- 3. I hit my mom with a golf club at the age of two
- 5. I'm a third degree black belt
- 6. My siblings and I were all born at the same time
- 7. I love funky puns
- 10. I hate mashed potatoes
- 11. It costs \$100,000 to hang out with me

Down

- 1. My younger sister and I have the same birthmark in the same place
- 2. I am a Ukelele virtuoso
- 3. I make movies (and I am immortal)
- 4. I am the AP World Quizlet god
- 8. I am physically dependent on coffee for basic functioning
- 9. I am deathly afraid of fish

- Brittany Mills
 Anna Goorevich
 Jacob Cornblatt
 Jamie Fink
 Patrick Paolini
 Bella Roberts
 Andy Goldstein
 Sophie Lane
 Alexis Kim
 Danielle Pasekoff
 Dylan Kearney
 Guy Fieri

Answers

- 1D: Sophie
- 2D: Anna
- 3D: Jacob
- 4D: Brittany
- 5A: Dylan
- 6A: Fieri
- 7A: Bella
- 8D: Andy
- 9D: Alexis
- 10A: Dylan
- 11A: Fieri

Bathroom graffiti gets uncovered

By **BELLA ROBERTS**

Editor-in-Chief

Minimal soap, classroom fugitives, and restricted time intervals—many aspects of the QO bathrooms vaguely resemble being locked up. The most indicative of this confinement, however, is the bathroom graffiti. The graffiti, both terrifying and magnetic, reveals the inner thoughts of QO students.

Deep within the borders of the girl's bathroom are encouraging messages for the walls to whisper to young girls such as "Conform today" (pictured below). Messages like these are what allow for the systems put in place in QO society to just work. Or, perhaps, is

this a metaphor about our social tendency of adapting to what is expected of us, and thus a commentary on modern day society?

"You are beautiful" is a kinder message on the walls, to remind QO students that they have self worth, whether they believe it or not. However, this is followed up by the response "no i am slut." This kind of back and forth reveals the true thought processes of teenage girls, which are often destructive. But even this is contradicted by another phrase right underneath: "sluts are beautiful." This back and forth conversation is quite uplifting and adds a hint of faith to the horrid

walls of incarceration. Ultimately, this conversation, written in alternating colors as to mimic the voices of their authors, ends with the axiom "You can be anything you want to be."

Sometimes, the angry thoughts scribbled on the walls to the world take a turn, and hold a more personal meaning. Messages against bullying are revealed in this graffiti: "When you're so insecure you need to bully someone else and talk about their child." Not sure who the child being referenced was, but the message against bullying is loud and clear.

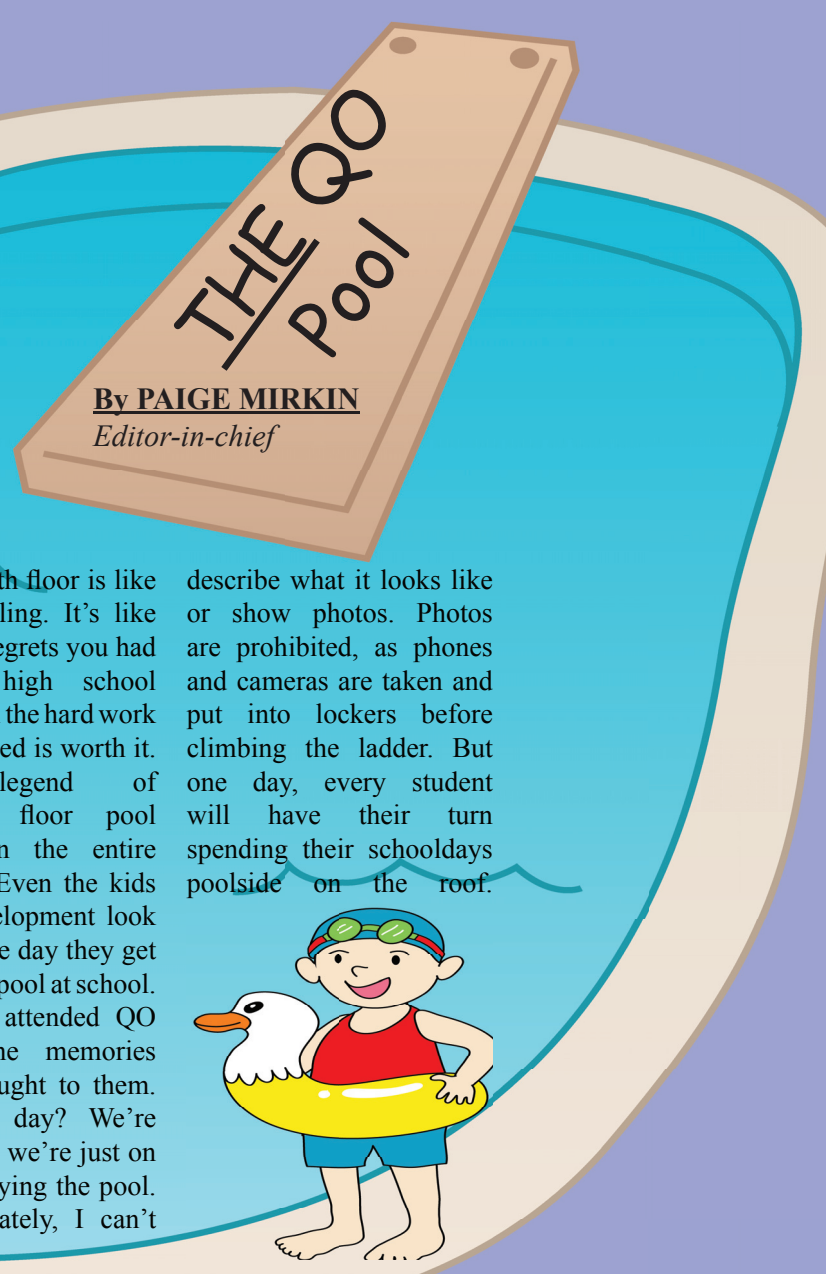
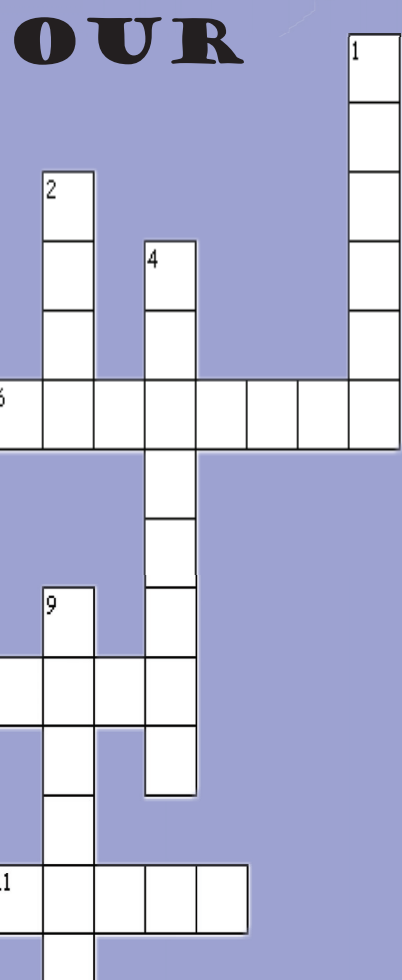
The boys bathroom utilizes their blank walls

to advertise by sprawling out "GO QO SOCCER" across the white canvas of tile. The tactic they used of advertising (sans rental fee) is brilliantly displayed. Even the colors of the art (black, brown and red) showcase their beautiful taste for the fine arts.

I have always wondered who brings markers with them to the bathroom, who the mysterious anonymous artists of the bathroom graffiti are. Whoever you are, your graffiti sends some interesting messages. To the QO students confined to the bathroom walls, take a look around you: you may just be inspired.



PHOTOS BY BELLA ROBERTS



By **PAIGE MIRKIN**
Editor-in-chief

Senior year: finally time for what I've been looking forward to since freshman orientation. No, not graduation, not even senior prom, not even beach week... being introduced to the pool on the fourth floor! As the warm weather approaches, seniors will begin wearing their bikinis under cover ups to school or flat swim trunks to class. When

no underclassmen inhabit the school, the seniors climb up the secret ladder and into the legend that is the fourth floor pool.

For those of you who don't believe me, let me explain why this is such a secret. When you're a freshman, you're flooded with opinions on whether or not the pool actually exists. The reason people tell you it doesn't is because they don't want you truly believing in it until you get to experience it with your own being. It makes perfect sense. Climbing

onto the fourth floor is like no other feeling. It's like all of those regrets you had throughout high school vanish and all the hard work you've endured is worth it.

The legend of the fourth floor pool exists within the entire community. Even the kids in child development look forward to the day they get to play in the pool at school. Adults who attended QO smile at the memories the pool brought to them. Senior skip day? We're still here, but we're just on the roof enjoying the pool. Unfortunately, I can't

describe what it looks like or show photos. Photos are prohibited, as phones and cameras are taken and put into lockers before climbing the ladder. But one day, every student will have their turn spending their schooldays poolside on the roof.



Young filmmakers team up on big-screen projects

By JACOB CORNBLATT
Managing Editor

Filmmaking is a collaborative effort.

For teenagers, this “collaborative effort” can be a challenge, as it can be tough to find crew to fit every position and to find actors for all roles. All jobs on a production, from gaffers to sound mixers and script supervisors to color graders, are equally important, so when a set is missing someone to fill each role, production becomes that much tougher.

For this reason, Tryka Film Coalition exists.

On the first Saturday of every month, a plethora of students meet in Bethesda’s own Imagination Stage to network, learn, and connect with one another. At every single meeting, there is a

speaker representing some field of the movie industry and a script reading where one can receive feedback on one’s script.

Tryka’s president, B-CC senior Jeff Fan, describes Tryka as a “breadth of connections” with “valuable resources in every stop of the filmmaking process, from writing to casting, to scoring and releasing the film.” The coalition has over ten films that are in every stage of said process, some of which are already released. Full disclosure: one of those shorts, *Blinds Between Friends*, is mine, and let me tell you, my movie would not have been possible without Tryka.

I had a cast and crew of about 14 people and had the opportunity of using Imagination Stage’s professional-grade

equipment for about 30 hours of production. That is an opportunity that very few teenagers have the chance to participate in, and it’s all thanks to Tryka Film Coalition.

QO sophomore Luke Tittle not only helped with both the cast and crew for *Blinds Between Friends*, but is also an active member of Tryka. He says that the organization allowed him to learn all about filmmaking and its process, most notably that “[filmmaking] is a lot of fun, but also a lot of work... it involves a lot of people from different schools and communities.” He also explained that “[filmmaking] gives you good connections” from a variety of people that “you wouldn’t meet normally.”

This idea of expanding to multiple

communities was actually a prime reason for Tryka’s inception. David Stern, film teacher at Imagination Stage, explains that “Sam Dodd, a student from [Whitman] who saw that there were many other students interested in filmmaking, but were spread out over many schools,” created the “idea of giving these students a venue and umbrella organization” to produce their movies.

Stern says that “students who are interested in filmmaking will have more support and resources than they would otherwise not [have had].”

Of the two previously discussed core components that Tryka offers—speakers and script readings—script readings are one of Tryka’s most valuable assets. “We group read [a member of

the group’s] script, and then discuss what’s working and what isn’t while the writer listens, but is not allowed to speak,” Fan said. “The script reading is mainly for feedback, but also introduces members’ projects to which people can sign on to.”

That leads into the pièce de résistance of

“‘[Filmmaking] gives you good connections’ from a variety of people that ‘you wouldn’t meet normally’”

-Luke Tittle

Tryka: the opportunity to participate in all aspects of the filmmaking process. New movies are constantly being announced. With new movies comes more jobs and more opportunities. Anyone in Tryka can sign on to virtually any position (bigger jobs require classes that Imagination Stage offers), granting students the ability to try out new jobs and learn about literally every part of making a movie. Tryka has brought me, as well as my peers, many experiences that most teens can not say they have done.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining Tryka, request to join the Facebook group Tryka Film Coalition for more information.

THE THINGS SPRING BRINGS

By DANIELLE PASEKOFF
Managing Editor

Spring... when this word comes to mind, most people think of flowers, sunny days, and the end of school nearing. We start to care less about school and more about how many days are left until Spring Break. Although spring is celebrated by many, there are also a few things that make this season so terrible. So, in spirit of spring starting soon, here are some reasons why it is such a dreadful season:

Allergies. Sneezing, coughing, and runny noses. Allergies have us taking so many pills that we don’t even remember the names of most of them. With pollen swarming around us suddenly, eyes get itchy and red, and you can’t go anywhere without a package of Kleenex with you. I would say more, but I have to go take my Zyrtec for the third time today.

Bugs. I know I’m not the only one who has been attacked by mosquitoes, gnats, bees, moths, butterflies, and every other bug the second I walk outside of my house. Simply swatting away the nuisances with our hands isn’t enough, and the pests continue to fly around and never leave us alone. They would still follow me around even if I bathed myself in bug spray! And that’s not the worst part of it. Spring can be summed up in two words: bug bites. Bug bites are quite possibly the worst part of spring. If you make it to the end of spring with only 3 or 4 bites on your body, you’re one of the lucky ones.

Weather. When it comes to springtime, I don’t even bother checking the weather. It’s always just so warm and beautiful that I just know that whatever I choose to wear that day will be the perfect ensemble! Just kidding. Spring weather sucks. It’s cold and windy in the morning, and then hot and humid in the afternoon. To wear sweaters or short sleeves? Pants or a parka? The weather is beyond unpredictable, and changes day by day. One day it’s sunny and 75 degrees, but by the next day, it’s 25 degrees with a high chance of rain. The weather has so many mood swings that I’ve honestly given up at this point.

Daylight Savings. “Spring forward, fall back...” Spring calls for the first part of this beloved play on words. With summer coming up soon, it begins to stay lighter outside longer and makes everyone feel a bit relieved. However, something that makes us even more stressed is Daylight Savings. “Losing an hour” of sleep is less than ideal, especially for us students who already have to get up before the sun rises. Once Daylight Savings comes around, don’t be surprised if you see zombies disguised as students walking around school, wearing sweatpants and clenching gallons of coffee.

Getting that “bikini bod.” Once spring rolls around, all anyone can think of is Spring Break. Whether you’re staying home with family and waiting for the pool to open, or taking a 2-week long vacation to the Bahamas, the words “bikini body” are haunting you throughout all of spring. Pressure to get in shape before summer, or even for Spring Break, is almost unbearable, and we begin to see more photos of perfectly toned model bodies with beautiful tans in magazines. This may motivate some people to hit the gym and eat healthier, but if you’re like me, you’ll still be watching Netflix and eating chips.



March Horoscopes

Sign	Horoscope Match	March Horoscope
Capricorn Dec 22 nd - Jan 20 th	Virgo ♥♥♥♥♥	This month, you will run into the love of your life, a Virgo, in the crowded yellow hallway.
Aquarius Jan 21 st - Feb 19 th	Cancer ♥♥♥♥♥	Unfortunately, your crush will pass you a note in science class asking you to set them up with your BFF. #rough
Pisces Feb 20 th - Mar 20 th	Sagittarius ♥♥♥♥♥	You and your significant other will keep arguing in history class. This wouldn’t bother you as much, but your birthday just passed... and so did interims.
Aries Mar 21 st - April 19 th	Gemini ♥♥♥♥♥	You are known for your short temper, and you will finally find someone who deals with it! You will prove your mom wrong when she said you wouldn’t.
Taurus April 20 th - May 20 th	Libra ♥♥♥♥♥	Your heart will be broken because your significant other will dump you for an underclassman. But you will find someone new who lives far away from that drama.
Gemini May 21 st - June 21 st	Aries ♥♥♥♥♥	You will finally get together with your crush... and their temper is sooo annoying! You will look for a way out and hope for better luck in April...
Cancer June 22 nd - July 23 rd	Aquarius ♥♥♥♥♥	You will pass your crush (Aquarius) a note in science class trying to be hard to get, but they will just get upset...oops
Leo July 24 th - Aug 23 rd	Scorpio ♥♥♥♥♥	Everyone wants you, but you have enough love for yourself you won’t even notice.
Virgo Aug 24 th - Sept 22 nd	Capricorn ♥♥♥♥♥	You will met someone (Capricorn) in the yellow hall. They are cool but too #clingy too #quickly.
Libra Sept 23 rd - Oct 22 nd	Taurus ♥♥♥♥♥	You will start dating an underclassman because you think they are better than your ex, until their mom had to come along to get them into an R rated movie...
Scorpio Oct 23 rd - Nov 22 nd	Leo ♥♥♥♥♥	You’re going to fall in love with a Leo who doesn’t know your name, but you will be fine with it because they love the attention. Counts for something!
Sagittarius Nov 23 rd - Dec 20 th	Pisces ♥♥♥♥♥	After your relationship has gone on for years, this month of arguing in science class will become the most exciting part of your relationship since the honeymoon period.



Adding a swish of madness to your March

By **LOGAN FEINGOLD**
Sports Editor

This year's March Madness is shaping up to be one of the craziest in recent history. With no clear favorite, the top teams in the country are duking it out for the right to cut down the nets at NRG Stadium in April. For those previously unfamiliar with March Madness, the top 68 teams in the country face off in a large bracket and are seeded to play against each other based on how well they performed during the regular season.

This year, the Maryland Terrapins are looking to make it back to the Sweet Sixteen for the first time since 2003. The Terps are a #5 seed facing a first round matchup versus #12 seed South Dakota State. The Terps finished the season with a strong record of 25-8 and have struggled as of recent weeks, dropping three of their last four contests in losses to Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Purdue. They recently lost a very close national championship game to national title contender Michigan State, 64-61.

Maryland has a very even scoring distribution, with five players averaging over ten points a game for the Terps. One key player who will have to step up for the Terps to advance far into the tournament is center Diamond Stone. Stone, a projected lottery pick in the upcoming NBA Draft, is the Terps' second leading scorer with 13 PPG, despite playing only 22.3 minutes per game. If Stone can assert himself in the post, the Terps will go far in the NCAA Tournament. The South Dakota State Jackrabbits are led by steady and dependable senior guards Deondre Parks and George Marshall. This experienced duo must be stopped in order for Maryland to notch a victory against the Jackrabbits. If Maryland can win that game, their

next opponent will most likely be the fourth seeded California Golden Bears. Cal had a very strong recruiting class this year, convincing two top ten recruits in Jaylen Brown and Ivan Rabb to come to Berkeley this year. That combo in particular will require the Terps to box out and crash the glass to win against Cal.

The four #1 seeds this year are Kansas, Oregon, North Carolina, and Virginia. Kansas, the current #1 team in the country in the AP Poll, is 26-4. The Jayhawks are shooting a deadly 43% from three point range and are currently led by the four man core of Perry Ellis, Frank Mason III, Wayne Selden Jr., and

Devonte' Graham. Pac-12 champ Oregon, coming off a dominating victory 88-57 over the Utah Utes, has shocked the college basketball world this year after starting the season unranked in the top 25 in this year's AP and Coaches' preseason poll. (The three other #1 seeds were in the top ten of both polls this preseason.) Oregon, the alma mater of Nike founder Phil Knight, also is guaranteed to have the coolest uniforms of any team in the tournament this year.

Virginia and North Carolina are the two other #1 seeds this year. Virginia, despite losing tight games to conference rivals Virginia Tech, Georgia Tech, and Florida

State earlier in the season, has rebounded by notching wins over teams such as Miami (FL) and North Carolina. The backcourt duo of Malcolm Brogdon and London Perrantes combines deadly three point shooting with great defense. North Carolina defeated Virginia 61-57 to win the ACC Championship this year. The Tar Heels are headed by power forward Brice Johnson, a senior who is averaging an astounding 16.6 points per game and 10.6 rebounds per game. However, North Carolina will need to hope its lack of three point shooting does not hurt it, as the team ranks 302nd out of 346 NCAA Division 1 teams with a 31.6% three point field

goal percentage.

Some other teams sure to contend this year are #2 seeds Michigan State, Villanova, and Oklahoma. Senior forward Denzel Valentine has become an absolute monster for the Michigan State Spartans, averaging 19.6 points, 7.5 rebounds, and 7.6 assists per game. After the Spartans' fantastic showing in the Big 10 Tournament, Valentine could win the John R. Wooden Player of the Year award. The #1 threat to Valentine's chances of winning that award this year would have to be another senior shooting guard, Buddy Hield of the Oklahoma Sooners. Hield is averaging 25 points per game this year on 46.4%

three point shooting, and is the main reason the Sooners are a #2 seed this year.

Villanova is finally hoping to advance further after being upset in the second round of the past two NCAA tournaments. (I personally have the #3 seed West Virginia Mountaineers coming out of the East Regional and winning it all this year.) Coach Bob Huggins has instituted an all out full court press this year and it has worked beautifully, carrying the Mountaineers to a 26-8 record.

This year's NCAA Tournament will be complete madness. Any of the 68 teams in the field this year could be cutting down the nets in April.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CBSSPORTS.COM
MADNESS ENSUES: The 68 team bracket features many cinderellas, mid-majors, and favorites ready to play some exciting games.

Baseball and softball poised for big seasons

By **DAVID STRICKMAN**
Sports Editor

As winter sports wind down and the days lengthen, baseball and softball get ready to have another great season. Last year's baseball team finished 18-4, losing to Gaithersburg, the eventual State Champions, in the playoffs. "The 2015 class accounted for 52% of our innings on the mound last year, so we will need several players to step up and fill the void," said baseball coach Jason Gasaway. Gasaway started as an assistant in 2003 and continued in 2004, becoming the head coach in 2005 and is now in his 12th year as the head coach. 2003 was the first time that QO won

the region championship, and in his first year as head coach, QO won the region and state championship. The team won the region championship in 2006, 2007, 2009, (lost in the state championship), 2010, and 2011. "Since 2003 we have never finished lower than a number four seed entering the playoffs," said Gasaway.

This year's team will be exciting to watch, led by seniors Jack Ropelewski, Carson Knight, Robert Burdette III, Kyle Chieh, Ryan Krissoff, Nick Moon, Brian Edell, and Nick Wong. "I think the team is going to do very well this season and there's even a chance of going to states," said junior Sean Cole. The boys kick

off their season when they play Sherwood at home on March 22.

"This season we're trying to just play our best and lock down the ball every play we get!"

- Ella O'Keefe

From dugout to dugout, softball is also in the process of getting started in this long spring season. The girls hope to

improve from last year's record of 8-11.

"We expect to be very competitive. We have a lot of players returning this year and a few new players who bring a wealth of experience to the team," said varsity coach Colleen Adams.

Coach Adams has been the head coach here at QO for 10 seasons total, 7 as head coach of varsity and 3 as head coach of JV. "The team looks great and we are all excited for this season. This season we're trying to just play our best and lock down the ball every play we get!" said junior Ella O'Keefe. Adams' main goal is to go to states this upcoming season. "We lost some key players,

but are lucky in that last year we had younger players that were challenging and preparing themselves to fill these holes and we have all of our pitching staff returning which will be a huge asset to us throughout the season," said Adams. Many girls on the team are very excited for this season to kick off and to start being competitive in all of their games. "I think that this season and the team will be great. We have a lot of great girls and we are all excited for this season. As a team, our goal is to play the best we can to get to states," said junior Meghan Mychajliw. You can catch the girls in action when they face Sherwood at home on March 21.



Legendary teachers selected to 'compete' in all-star game

By **SAM KIRSCH**
Editor-in-Chief

As all true sports fans know; a sport must have an all-star game to showcase the best athletes in their respective sports. At QO, one sport is the most common, the most demanding, and by far the most competitive: teaching. All-star teachers are a dime a dozen, and we students at QO are lucky enough to be in the presence of these future teaching Hall of Famers during the four year rodeo that we call high school.

Inspired by the recent NHL and NBA all-star games, I have taken it upon myself to compose two teams highlighting some of the best teachers in the school. The criteria to be an all-star teacher is simple, he or she must exude all the qualities students deem necessary in a professor, maestro, etc. For example, a teacher that engages with their students, is patient, creates a fun environment, is tough or light on students when necessary, or any combination of virtuous attributes, may become an all-star.

For the sake of clarity, the teams will be divided by department, with math and science against foreign language, English, social sciences, and others. Furthermore, the teams will be formatted into a basketball style, with five starters, a few reserves, a head coach, and an assistant coach for each team.

Eastern Conference
(Math, Engineering/Tech

and Sciences)

When thinking about the face of math and science at QOHS, who better to represent this hungry squad than AB Calculus teacher and math department head **Jeff Jernigan**. Jernigan has shown strong leadership and knows what it takes to win. Look for the coach to have his players ride the calculus bus at the game. On a side note, Jernigan showcases many qualities shown in San Antonio Spurs coach Greg Popovich; not only do both men have beards, but they take no nonsense, don't mess around with the media, and always seem to win.

Behind Jernigan would have to be Assistant Coach and BC Calculus teacher **Sonal Patel**. Patel

"One sport is the most common, the most demanding, and by far the most competitive: teaching. All-star teachers are a dime a dozen, and we students at QO are lucky enough to be in the presence of these future teaching hall of famers"

can be fiery at times when students need motivation, but she can be chill during times of necessity as well. Above all, Patel loves her job and truly cares about her students. I remember during a drill first semester when we were supposed to turn off the lights and be quiet. Mrs. Patel turned off the lights and everyone was quiet, but she instructed us to continue our worksheets with the aid of our phone lights. Dedication at its finest!

At point guard for this math and science team

would be AP Chemistry and Astronomy teacher **Jen Yeck**. As a personal fan of her teaching skills, Yeck is able to help students achieve grades in AP Chemistry thought to be unimaginable. Throw in a bit of southern toughness and the cheerleading ability to bounce back and you're looking at a potential MVP. Joining Yeck in the backcourt is Biology teacher **Killeen Martell**. Martell, a quick witted teacher, will drain shots from downtown as easily as naming the classification of the five kingdoms.

The small forward must be the most versatile player of any team, and AP Physics teacher **William Wu** embodies this. A psychedelic man with mysterious ways, Wu can

come into the game and dish out a dozen assists, rebounds, or points using his precise calculations. Coupled with a complete sense of fashion, the man definitely has earned his all-star spot.

The choice of power forward is obvious. **Cynthia Hollies**, a physics teacher, creates a fun environment to learn this important branch of science, and, coupled with her volleyball background, is a no brainer for the all-star game. As Hollies often says, "My mom says I make a better door than win-

dow." She will be perfect for the pick-and-roll system, proving to be better than the 'big fundamental' Tim Duncan. Finally, the starting center is no other than AP Biology and Matter and Energy teacher **Stephen Majkrzak**. Majkrzak, or as junior Sajan Mistry calls "the yeet master," a steady and stern man, is one that has the obvious length and endurance necessary to be a stretch five.

Honorable mentions: One of the coolest teachers in school, tech teacher **Mr. Mikulski** is the sixth man of the team. A dependable and friendly man, Mikulski can always be counted on to come in to the game and provide colored printing, especially for senior Matthew

Lowinger. Honorable mentions to **Ms. Miller**, **Mr. Sontz**, and **Ms. Fackler** as well.

Western Conference
(English/Languages and Social Sciences)

As far as this team goes, the head coach is US History teacher **John Kelley**. Kelley, as we all know, is the head coach of the varsity football team. Valuable coaches are hard to come by, and Kelley is therefore head coach material. Coaching behind Kelley, the assistant coach for the Language/ English/ Social Science team is AP

Literature teacher **Marisa Trettel**. Trettel shows extraordinary patience in the classroom and knows her way around an essay. As far as the game goes, Trettel will be able to help players after they make mistakes, and can give imagery and pathos-filled speeches.

The point guard of this team is **Seann Pelkey**. This QO alum is a fantastic US History and Sociology teacher, an always greets students with a smile on his face. Aside from his obvious speed, Pelkey can navigate the QO area, and the court, like a true point guard. Rounding out the back court is **Marie Umali**. The English department head and a power lifting champ, Umali can knock opponents out of

the way as if they were a 200lb deadlift. On a serious note, Umali enjoys her job, almost too much, and will put grading essays above her own personal plans.

At the three spot would be none other than Spanish teacher **Charlene Cardona**. This profesora brings a relaxed style of teaching to the team, one that would allow a fluid ball movement on the offensive end of the court. The spot simply makes sense, given the countless times Cardona has been mistaken for Warriors for-

ward Draymond Green.

The bruiser of the team is power forward and Social Studies head **Kenneth Buffum**. This AP Econ and US History teacher truly understands his subjects, and teaches them well. Even as a senior, I still greet him in the hallway, and that's how you know you've had a great teacher. Buffum, an avid basketball fan and coach, could easily put this team on his back if necessary.

Finally, the big man of the squad is AP Social Studies teacher **Kevin Lasko**. The obvious here is the height; the man is tall. Plus, who could forget Lasko's infamous dance moves? The man can fake out defenders or even lull them into a fatal slumber on his way to the rim.

Honorable Mentions:

Art teacher **Corey Simko** is the sixth man of this team. Simko, a cool man with a baseball background, can come into the game and create some artsy plays with the finesse only an artist can contrive. I'd also like to throw out some honorable mentions to the following all-star teachers: **Megan Cooley-Klein**, **Jennifer Yang**, **Robyn Kleiner-Vilgos**, and **James Textoris**.

The number of all-star teachers at QO is simply too large to fit into one article. As students, we often take their time and effort for granted, and should therefore be more thankful. The date of the game is TBD. Betting is not permitted.

The hot stove gets hotter as MLB offseason gets heated

BY **DAVID SUGGS**

Sports Managing Editor

On November 2, the Kansas City Royals, fueled by World Series MVP Salvador Pérez's performance behind the plate, defeated the New York Mets in



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPORTINGNEWS.COM

Jason Heyward signed an eight year, 184 million dollar deal with the Chicago Cubs

extra innings to win the World Series. On November 3, baseball's offseason officially began, but it was still littered with intriguing moves.

The Nationals had a disappointing season last year, as

their 3.5-game lead over the Mets dwindled into a seven-game deficit. The season was marred with numerous injuries to key contributors and a dug-out scuffle between Bryce Harper and Jonathan Papelbon. The only bright spot to this season was Harper, whose sensational play earned him the National League MVP, making him the third youngest MVP in baseball history. In the offseason, much was made of the Nats pursuit of upper-tier free agents like Jason Heyward, Ben Zobrist and Yoenis Cespedes. However, despite the large amounts of money offered to each player—Heyward in particular, as he was offered a mammoth eight year, \$200 million contract, none of these targets signed on. That caused the Nationals to invest in less prolific free-agents such as Daniel Murphy, Oliver Perez, and Bronson Arroyo. Additionally, the Nationals traded their much-maligned closer, Drew Storen, to the Toronto Blue Jays for Ben Revere, who was brought in to replace the departed Denard Span. The Nationals are currently not projected to finish atop the NL East, but these new signings surely improve their

talented roster.

The Orioles were much quieter during the offseason. After a playoff appearance in 2014, the Orioles regressed, finishing at .500. Dan Duquette, one of the best GMs in baseball, had a dilemma at his hands as long-time Orioles catcher, Matt Wi-



PHOTO COURTESY OF M.MLB.COM

Chris Davis signed a seven year, \$161 million dollar deal with the Baltimore Orioles.

ers was one of the many Orioles left unsigned. Additionally, first baseman Chris Davis's contract expired, and he declined numerous offers from the O's until eventually returning to the

Orioles with a seven-year, \$161 million deal. After re-signing their stars, the Orioles approached multiple free agents, including Cespedes and Mat Latos, and were set to sign CF Dexter Fowler from the Cubs on a three-year, \$33 million deal. However, Fowler switched his commitment, re-signing with the Cubs on a cut rate one-year, \$13 million contract, shocking the Orioles and leaving them without an MLB-quality outfielder to play alongside CF Adam Jones. With the team unable to make any truly significant signings, only time will tell if their inactivity will come back to bite them.

Major transactions shook up the whole of the MLB, as signings by the Cubs (Heyward, Zobrist, Fowler) established them as the team to beat this season. This would be particularly sweet for longtime Cubs fans, as the Cubs have not won the World Series in 108 years. Additionally, teams such as the Red Sox (David Price), the Yankees (Aroldis Chapman) and the Tigers (Jordan Zimmermann) all improved substantially as they looked to return to form following disappointing seasons.

The Mets, fresh off of their first World Series appearance in 15 years, re-signed Cespedes and solidified their young core, as Matt Harvey, Noah Syndergaard and Jacob de Grom will head the mercurial pitching staff, while OF Michael Conforto looks to continue his development



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPORTINGNEWS.COM

David Price signed a seven year, 217 million dollar deal with the Boston Red Sox.

that was marked by tremendous playoff performances. While spring training has only just begun, the action of winter meetings surely foreshadows an exciting season.



Experienced lacrosse teams aim to excel on field

By **JAMIE FINK**
Sports Managing Editor

Spring is finally here, the sun is shining, the temperatures are rising, and the Cougars are ready because the spring sports are underway. On March 1, the boys and girls lacrosse team's officially began.

The boys lacrosse team has been hitting the weight room, running the track, working with trainers, and competing in tournaments during the offseason to be ready. The time has come and the boys couldn't be more excited. "This year's team is eager to learn and get better," said junior midfielder Joe Beville.

Last year the team came off a 14-1 regular season record and made a run in playoffs falling to a talented Churchill team in double overtime. The team lost 17 seniors and now has big shoes to fill. "Since we are young, we have the opportunity to grow and improve over the season," said Beville, "and gain the experience that we lost with last year's graduating class."

This year the boys are looking up to three of the few seniors: JT Rommel, Easley Kim, and Adrian Culp. These hard-working leaders have been invested in the program since they were freshmen.

Being such a young team, the boys must work together in order to accomplish their goals. Coach Gonzalez has set high standards for the boys, including a regional and state championship. These two goals have never been done in the program's history. "We won't win any games individually, but with teamwork and chemistry we will be able



PHOTO COURTESY OF DYLAN SMALL

WINDING UP: Junior Dylan Small prepares to shoot on goal as the QO lacrosse teams ready themselves for their first games.

to surprise some people," said Beville. The encouragement of the upper class will help the camaraderie of the team and allow them to be successful.

Junior Drew Levine stated that they hope to "surprise people as the underdog [that] we've been labeled as this year." With all the hard work and effort they have been putting in, they are ready to prove themselves out on the field.

At the same time, the girls lacrosse team has been preparing by playing in two leagues during the offseason and practicing during the week. They are

motivated and determined to start the season off strong and go far this year in playoffs.

The girls are starting the year off a little differently than the boys. They only lost two seniors last year and have a big junior and senior class of about 9 per grade.

"The role of leadership is going to be a lot different because we now have more input from the upperclassmen who have been a part of the program for some time," said junior Skylar Saffer. They have a lot of experience and leadership to help them create a nice transition

into the season. Having an allows the younger girls to look up and see the standards that are being set.

Senior captain Francesca D'Cruz stated that the team is "starting the season with experience and familiarity with each other's style of play." This will help the players to be comfortable with one another and have a strong start to the year.

The team has many goals for this season, which include making the regional finals and getting off to a strong start with season games. They have been preparing and working hard to

receive good results in the season. Saffer stated that her goals are to "help set her teammates up for success." She wants to do more than just score goals: she wants to help lead her team and contribute in a positive way. Being on the team since her freshman year, she has several seasons of experience under her belt and confidence to bring to the field.

The first game for both varsity boys and girls is against Urbana next Monday, March 21. Make sure to come out and support the team in the Cougar Dome!

Co-ed volleyball preview

By **PATRICK PAOLINI**

Sports Managing Editor

As the cold air begins to warm, Quince Orchard sports heat up as well. Tryouts for spring sports started on March 1, with teams readying their equipment and taking their respective field or court.

However two teams in particular, boys and coed volleyball, have decided to remain indoors rather than experience the warm weather due to their "set" needs. The spring season tryouts for both boys and co-ed volleyball ended on March 21, so both teams are set in place and are ready to begin their seasons.

The boys' team has twelve returning players from last year and are extremely optimistic for this season. They will kick off their season with an away game against Gaithersburg on March 21 at 5 p.m.

"Last season was pretty good," said senior boys volleyball player Vishnu Balajee. "We started out slow and then we hit our stride towards the end of the season." Even though last season was not the best the team has had, the boys volleyball team believes they have the team and skill set to make it far this year.

Returning senior player Saul Sallah said, "With so many experienced players, I expect to

grow in my position as well as expecting us to do better than we ever have." The boys' volleyball team seems ready to go and begin bringing in the wins for the Quince Orchard community.

The co-ed volleyball team is made up of only two returning players senior Herrick Hartman and junior Desiree Dietz. The team will kick off their season right after the boys do with a game on March 21 at 7:15 p.m. against Gaithersburg.

"Last year's season was the best season and also the best team I have ever been on. We had such a great run but lost in the second round of playoffs" said Hartman. "This season I am hoping to have a lot of fun and also try to make it far in playoffs." With high hopes of making playoffs, the co-ed volleyball team is looking forward to their upcoming season.

"Most of the other players have never played co-ed before, so we are still learning as a team. But hopefully this year is going to be so much fun and people will come to watch." said Dietz.

With both of the teams already immersed in preparation for their season, we can hope for great things from both of the volleyball teams.

QO athletes win state championships

By **SAM KIRSCH**

Editor-in-Chief

Quince Orchard students should be clapping their hands and bringing out the sparkling cider because our winter sports teams have won big time, with the Bocce team winning the Division 1 state championship, senior Liam Walsh taking the state title in the 800m, and senior Dylan Bikim cruising to a high jump victory.

The corollary bocce team started their indoor season under the radar with hopes of improving their skills and creating valuable friendships along the way.

However, under the leadership of captain junior Turner Thackston and coach Greg Benas, the team refused to accept any form of defeat, quickly beating Clarksburg, Northwest, and Watkins Mill, accelerating the team to a strong 3-0 record. Later on, the bocce team rolled their way past Seneca Valley and Damascus, asserting itself as a state title contender.

On February 1, the Cougars kept their undefeated season alive against Watkins Mill in the West Division Playoff semifinals, cruising to the state playoffs with a strong 2-1 win. The team went on to win states for the

second time in three years, a feat beyond comparison. The bocce team is the epitome of a team that can have fun and kick butt at the same time.

Our other two state champions came from winter track, with one athlete coming from the track and the other performing in the field. Senior Dylan Bikim had recently decide to end his days on the basketball court in order to focus solely on the high jump.

Bikim's natural ability and strong work ethic led him to success throughout the season, as he achieved second at the Montgomery County Championship and fourth at the Class 4A West Region competition.

During the state competition, Bikim was on another level, literally, beating his personal record by eight inches, claiming the state gold with a high jump of six feet, four inches.

As far as distance running goes, senior Liam Walsh is QO's hidden gem. For all fans familiar with Walsh, the whole season essentially led up to his gold. Walsh consistently won the 800 and 1600 events at meets, trained hard, and led his teammates.

Walsh's time of 1:58.4 won him the state title in the 800 event. This time was not only the



PHOTO COURTESY OF TURNER THACKSTON

WON AND DONE: Junior captain Turner Thackston greets refs following QO's state championship victory against Northwest.

fastest in the county for 2016, but the second-fastest 800 time for a QO runner in the school's 26-year history.

These feats are not to be taken lightly, and our academics are certainly spoiled to have such a great group of champions. If you see any of these gold-medal winners around school, make sure to give him or her a firm handshake and a congratulations.



Tennis team prepared to smash, crash, and dash

Propelled by experienced seniors, squad looks to reclaim the D2 title

BY HUNTER BOOTHE
Sports Editor

If you've seen some of your fellow Cougar students on the hardcourts, running in circles, and hitting balls to the point of exhaustion, don't be alarmed: they chose to do this.

The Quince Orchard boys tennis team brings back a veteran team littered with experience. Senior leaders Joe Cooke, Andrew Textoris, and Alex Myers look to guide the team to a successful season. Last year, the team struggled at times, due in large part to its difficult schedule. Senior captain Textoris explained how the team's struggles last year can help them through the upcoming season: "We were

in division one last year so we played the best teams in the state, [losing] many matches, but [that experience] prepared us for this year," said Textoris.

"We were in Division 1 last year so we played the best teams in the

state."

- Andrew Textoris

As Textoris said, the team fell to Division 2 due to their performance last season, but that has served as a motivating factor in the minds of many

players. Textoris stated that the team's goals for the upcoming season are to win their division and to move back up to Division 1 again next year. Two years ago, the Cougars captured the division title, and this group wants to experience the same feeling.

The aforementioned seniors' experience has already started to pay dividends for the team. "The seniors have helped the underclassmen by giving them encouragement and organizing workouts for the team," junior Spencer Tabit explained. Senior captain Joe Cooke hopes that this leadership rubs off on the underclassmen. "As a senior and third year captain I really hope that I can teach the younger kids the

importance of hard work. If you work your hardest every day on the court, the possibilities of level of play are endless," Cooke said.

As the number one singles player on the team, Cooke is looking to make the most of his final year as one of the Cougars' key cogs. Last year, Cooke had a great season, advancing a few rounds deep in county singles, and winning a few rounds in regionals with Textoris as his doubles partner. As a lefty, Cooke is a tough matchup for opponents. "My serve is the strongest part of my game, so I really work the serve-and-volley strategy. I play with a lot of power and spin and like to finish points quickly," said Cooke.

In preparation for their first match, the Cougars will look to sharpen up in various areas of the game. Tabit believes that the team must improve on their footwork, fitness, and ability to go to net. Textoris thinks that the squad must continue to work on their fundamentals and remain in great physical condition through running and sprints. Cooke says that the team, while experienced, may be rusty from a lack of matches in the off-season. If they sharpen up all of these aspects before match play, the Cougars will be a tough out for opponents this season.

The squad starts off their season on Monday, March 21 vs. B-CC at Walter Johnson High School.

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH QUESTIONNAIRE

BASEBALL

Nick Wong '16



Senior Nick Wong is a fourth-year player that has worked very hard to become one of the team's best pitchers. His lefty arm is a huge threat to the opposing team.

BOYS LACROSSE

Abdul Khan '16



Senior Abdul Khan has started his first year of lacrosse. Picking up the sport fast, he has quickly developed into a great player and leader on the team.

SOFTBALL

Hannah Bloom '17



Junior Hannah Bloom recently learned the sport of softball. Her knowledge of the game and natural abilities have helped her to be successful and very useful to the team.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Ashley McDonald '16



Senior Ashley McDonald is a spirited competitor that works hard for every rep and always finds a way to push her teammates. She is a leader on and off the field.

BOYS TENNIS

Joe Cooke '16



Three-time captain Joe Cooke is the team's number one for the second year in a row. He plays a huge role in perfecting his teammate's skills, as well as competing with the opponent's best players.

CO ED VOLLEYBALL

Jessica Valenti '17



Junior Jessica Valenti is a skilled volleyball player that leads the team with her strong communication and skilled coordination. She should be fun to watch.

THE PROWLER ASKED THESE ATHLETES THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS...

	Nick Wong	Ashley McDonald	Abdul Khan	Joe Cooke	Hannah Bloom	Jessica Valenti
Favorite team to win this year's college basketball tournament?	UMD	Whichever college I end up going to	Oklahoma	QO; the season never dies	Maryland	Ummmmmm
Most attractive athlete?	Kyle Chieh	Girls lax team	Lindsey Vonn	Chris Bosh	Christian McCaffrey	Matt Anderson... Sorry, John
If you could be anyone, who would you be?	Kyle Chieh	CIA agent; they seem really exciting	Coach Ernest Moxley	Tom Hardy	Olympic swimmer Maddy Zarchin	Jesse Van Valkenburgh
Best yo mama joke?	Yo mama so fat she can sell her shade	Yo mama	Yo mama is so ugly that her shadow ran away from her	Yo mama so stupid, she said yes to a date with Shayne	Christmas was around the corner, and yo mama went looking for it	Yo mama so fat, not even Dora can explore her
Coolest name for a pet?	Dinner	D-O-G	Pev	Becca	Spike	Esteban Julio Ricardo Montoya de la Rosa Ramirez
Favorite TV / movie quote?	"You're about to be killed by a zamboni"	Any Grey's Episode	"My name is Jeff"	"Shane. Shane. Come back! Bye Shane!"	"Chip, I'm gonna come at you like a spider monkey!"	"I'm sorry I ruined your lives and crammed eleven cookies into the VCR"