



PROWLER



Quince Orchard High School • 15800 Quince Orchard Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Background on Russian interference and Mueller report

By **AYESHA SHAHZAD**
Editor-in-Chief

The 2016 presidential election was certainly one for the books. From the email controversy involving candidate Hillary Clinton to the surprising success of Donald Trump, a TV star turned presidential candidate, there was no shortage of shocking news stories throughout the year. In fact, so much was happening at once that a lot of details seemed to go overlooked.

The election of Donald J. Trump was a shock to many, and NPR host Sam Sanders was among them. He tweeted the day after the 2016 election: “8 years ago, America elected its 1st Black president. Today, it elected a candidate endorsed by the KKK.” The KKK did, in fact, endorse Trump, as was expressed in the November 2016 issue of the Klan’s official newspaper, *The Crusader*. Others were less shocked, more pleased. “With Donald Trump as our next President we will have safer borders & stronger national security policies for future generations

to come,” tweeted John Bolton, former diplomat and current National Security Advisor of the United States.

Regardless of one’s feelings towards the president, it is evident that Trump’s relationship with Russia is a somewhat unconventional one for an American president. For example, Trump’s financial history with Russia is questionable. “From 2003 to 2017, people from the former

USSR made 86 all-cash purchases – a red flag of potential money laundering – of Trump properties, totaling \$109 million,” wrote Jonathan Chait for *New York Magazine*. “In 2010, the private-wealth division of Deutsche Bank also loaned him hundreds of millions of dollars during the same period it was laundering billions in Russian money. ‘Russians make up a pretty disproportionate cross-section of

a lot of our assets,’ said Donald Jr. in 2008. ‘We don’t rely on American banks. We have all the funding we need out of Russia,’ boasted Eric Trump in 2014.”

There is a lot to unpack regarding the relationship between Trump and Russia, but one of the most talked-about incidents was the meeting between some of Trump’s associates and a Russian lawyer. This took place on June 9, 2016, in Trump Tower. Donald Trump, Jr. arranged the meeting with the Russian lawyer, who had ties to the Kremlin; Trump’s then-campaign chairman Paul Manafort and son-in-law Jared Kushner were also present. The body denied discussing anything related to the presidential elections at the meeting, but email exchanges between Trump Jr. and entertainment publicist Rob Goldstone that were later made public revealed otherwise. All of this preceded the FBI counterintelligence investigation into Trump’s collusion with Russia, which began in July of 2016.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE EPOCH TIMES

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The breakthrough of first black hole ever pictured

By **JENNA LEVY**
Managing Editor

A profound discovery in the science world was made last month: astronomers announced that the first image of a black hole was captured. The society as a whole is largely affected by this breakthrough.

Although over 200 scientists contributed to the project, 29-year-old Katie Bouman became the face of the scientists behind the black hole. “[Three] years ago MIT grad student Katie Bouman led the creation of a new algorithm to produce the first-ever image of a black hole,” tweeted MIT, or the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Other scientists such as Ken Young, an astrophysicist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center, and Shepherd Doeleman, project director of Harvard’s Project Event Horizon, were instrumental in the black hole project. “Right now, the telescope can already produce better images than what was shown today,” said Doeleman. “This blurry image is just the first go.”

According to *The New York Times*, Doeleman said “we have seen what we thought was the unseeable.” Not only is the concept of the matter astounding to think about, but the image reassured Einstein’s theory that “matter, space and time come to an end and vanish like a dream,” and just like Einstein also predicted,

“the shape of the shadow is circular.”

Junior Katie Orr refers to the scientific discovery as “a major advancement in the scientific world.”

“This is a fascinating time to be alive where they had to use like 15 of the world’s strongest telescopes to even see this black hole,” added Orr. “We now know that we can advance farther into space than we ever thought before. When the world ends we can find another planet to travel to.”

“[A black hole] an event in space that

sucks in all matter around it,” said physics teacher Michael Schweizer. Not to worry though, “the black hole is several billion times larger than the sun, with a distance of about 5,000 light years from Earth.”

Additionally, “the picture, taken... by a collaboration known as the Event Horizon Telescope, depicts luminous gas swirling around a supermassive black hole at the center of M87, a galaxy 54 million light-years away,” according to *Wired.com*. In previous attempts

to capture that same black hole, the instruments were nothing compared to EHT’s. “It’s like going from a cheap smartphone camera to a high definition IMAX cinema,” said astrophysicist Andrew Strominger of Harvard University.

Moreover, “this is just the beginning,” said Feryal Özel of the University of Arizona, who is a member of the EHT collaboration. Now that a black hole image is produced, EHT plans “to amass a whole scrapbook of black hole images,” added Özel.

People around the globe are anxiously awaiting for the new advancements in the future after this major scientific success.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCIENCE NEWS

“This is a fascinating time to be alive... We now know that we can advance farther into space than we ever thought before.”

- Katie Orr

News

Read about the college admissions scandal.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

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Graduation requirements: are they fair?

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Read about the Capitals’ round one loss in the playoffs.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF AP NEWS

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ABOUT

The Prowler is published six times a year by the students of Quince Orchard High School, and it has been continuously published since the 1988-89 school year. To become a staff member, students take Journalism A & B to qualify for the Advanced Publications class.



Parents, celebrities indicted in college scandal

By **ASHLEIGH GORDON**
Managing Editor

Fifty wealthy families have been indicted with alleged connections to a scheme allowing their children to cheat on standardized tests and be admitted to high-class institutions as athletes, regardless of their abilities. Among them are high profile names, such as Lori Loughlin and Felicity Huffman, who used their extreme wealth to cheat the college admissions system.

The central figure of the scandal is William Rick Singer, who has been cooperating with federal investigators since September 2018. Singer received more than \$25 million between 2011 and 2018 in exchange for his services in facilitating admissions, either through altering standardized test scores or using his connections with Division I

coaches. Payments were made through the Key Worldwide Foundation, a nonprofit organization that had granted 501(c)(3) status that allowed him to avoid federal income taxes on the payments. In order to be granted 501(c)(3) status, the IRS claims an organization must “be organized and operated exclusively for exempt purposes,” which include charitable, religious, educational and scientific purposes. Parents allegedly paid between \$15,000 and \$75,000 for Singer’s services, which could then be deducted from their own personal taxes as though they had donated to a real organization.

Singer orchestrated for Igor Dvorskiy and Lisa “Niki” Williams to administer the tests in certain Los Angeles and Houston locations. Families coordinated for their children to take the tests with

accommodations, a service ACT and College Board offer for students with learning disabilities. Singer had a personal psychologist that filled out the paperwork for these students to gain these accommodations, even if they didn’t actually need them. Once the accommodations were approved, Harvard alumnus Mark Riddell would take the test for the students. Both Dvorskiy and Williams are charged with conspiracy to commit racketeering, while Riddell pleaded guilty on one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and one count of money laundering.

Famous YouTube star and daughter of Lori Loughlin and Mossimo Giannulli, nineteen-year-old Olivia Jade Giannulli had been admitted to the University of Southern California as a crew team recruit when she had never

participated in the sport. Loughlin, who played Aunt Becky on the popular TV show Full House, and Giannulli, a fashion designer, allegedly paid bribes totaling \$500,000 to have their two daughters designed to be recruited by the school. While neither of the children had ever competed in crew, they posed on crew equipment to be sent into the coaches. Olivia’s popular YouTube channel caused her involvement in the scandal to capture a wide audience of teens.

While Giannulli’s parents have pleaded not guilty as of April 15, thirteen other parents, including actress Felicity Huffman, have agreed to plead guilty: in her case, to one account of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and honest-services mail fraud in accordance with plea agreements.

Terrorist attack in New Zealand met with action by PM

By **CINDY LIU**
Associate Editor

In the island nation of New Zealand, crimes are rare. Last year, Stuff, a news media company in New Zealand, came out with an article titled “Murder rate hits a 40-year-low.” So it was all the more shocking when a self-proclaimed “white nationalist” opened fire in two mosques, killing 50 people on March 15.

The Christchurch shooting is one of New Zealand’s deadliest crimes in decades, not only because of the casualties, but also the shock value of it: the gunman streamed himself on Facebook Live as he was committing the act of terror.

The video looked like what many have described as a first-person shooter game. The video started off with a few minutes’ drive with music in the background—around the neighborhood, as it seems—nothing besides the view of his semi-automatic rifles would have suggested the horrific deed he’d commit. As he pulled up to the first mosque, he took out his weaponry from the back trunk and opened fire on everyone—the old, the young, men, women, and

children—he saw. At one point, he went back to his car to restock before going back into the mosque. Then he stepped onto the sidewalk, shooting any bystanders before getting in his car and driving recklessly to the second mosque at high speed with blaring music. The shooter was finally apprehended at gunpoint.

New Zealand’s response to the attack has been swift. “Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced the ban on military-style semi-automatic weapons, assault rifles and high-capacity magazines,” according to CNN, only days after the attack. Their government has censored the gunman’s name in media reports, and banned the shooter’s manifesto and the circulation of his video in order to limit the spread of hateful ideas of the shooter. On the other hand, some, like senior Hazara Akter, don’t think the video should be censored. “I was shocked, just by the fact that it was

streamed to Facebook Live,” she said. As random mass shootings become more common, people has become increasingly desensitized to such matters. As a result, Akter believes, “I needed to watch it, so I wouldn’t just pass it off as just another shooting.”

On top of that, New Zealand gun owners have been voluntarily handing in their semi-automatic rifles, even if they would be otherwise allowed to keep them under the news laws. “We don’t need these in our country,” said farmer John Hart, who handed in his own semi-automatic rifle, according to Newsweek. Rival New Zealand biker gangs also came together and, along with high school students, performed haka, the Maori ceremonial dance, as a symbol of courage.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DHAKA TRIBUNE

What the Mueller report could mean for America

By **AYESHA SHAHZAD**
Editor-in-Chief

CONT. FROM PAGE 1

In May of 2017, Robert Mueller took over the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election as a special counsel. Basically, Mueller was able to do his own work independently, while still operating under the Justice Department. The Mueller report is the document consisting of his findings, which he submitted at the end of the investigation on

March 22nd. On April 18th, the Department of Justice released the report, with only “limited” redactions according to Attorney General William Barr.

“Unless Mueller files a detailed indictment charging members of the Trump

campaign with conspiring with Russia, the public may never learn the full scope of what Mueller and his team has found — including potentially scandalous behavior that doesn’t amount to a provable crime,” wrote Ken Dilanian

for NBC News before the release of the report. The report certainly did not clear Trump of any sort of criminal conduct or obstruction, but it was also less than adequate at incriminating anyone involved.

“The public may never learn the full scope of what Mueller and his team have found.”

- Ken Dilanian



PHOTO COURTESY OF NBC NEWS



VIEWPOINT

Second semester parking should be assigned earlier

By NATALIE PRICE
Journalism Student

Administration should deal with second semester parking before it actually starts.

Only one word accurately describes the Quince Orchard parking lot early second semester: mayhem. In the morning, over one hundred cars raced in only to find that their assigned parking spot was taken. Panic arose as students thought to themselves, what do I do now? The answer was simple: take someone else's spot. This seemingly effortless solution caused a domino effect resulting in absolute chaos. This is what happens when administration hesitates to deal with the over-capacitated parking lot at QO.

Assigning new spots each

semester is a good idea, if administration has permit registration under control. By the time second semester rolls in, everyone should be assigned a spot and there

should be no confusion. What happened this year was an unexpectedly large number of student drivers all registering for a second semester parking permit. Obviously, the permits

out quickly, and people were left with no spot on the morning of January 29. Of course, this did not stop them from going to school. On that first day back, there were students

parking in their new spots, students parking in their old spots, and students who didn't have an assigned spot at all, but were still parking anyway.

This issue needed to be considered earlier than the week before second semester started.

Furthermore, instead of offering permits on a first-come first-serve basis, there should be a seniority rule. While many sophomores eligible to get a permit will argue that first-come first-serve is only fair, they will have all of junior and senior year to drive so it is not a big deal if they continue to take the bus or carpool to school, as they are underclassmen. Instead, administration should offer the first parking permits to seniors only, then to juniors, and finally to the few sophomores old enough to drive.



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VIEWPOINTS

E3 policy is wrongly punishing students

By JAY MOTIWALA
Journalism Student

The Quince Orchard High School administration revealed that they would be following Montgomery County's E3 policy to reduce the amount of absences in school. This was originally thought as okay by the general public.

However, it has quickly revealed itself to be the judge, jury, and executioner to students who don't deserve to be punished for their absences. Students are only allowed to have five absences until they qualify for the E3 program. The E3 policy should pick possible participants through their class attitude, overall grades, and absences, instead of just relying on absences to choose who will be apart of it. They should also increase the amount of absences from five days to ten days.

As a student in Quince Orchard, I can attest to the fact that the news of the E3 policy has alienated the students and the administration. It has made news from the administration furthermore seem "as expected".

Also, kids with exceptional grades and peak participation in class could get punished for a system that's too harsh on its students. The school must communicate that their version of the E3 policy will only be for kids who qualify,

meaning that they should have a combined habit of skipping class, not trying in school, and bad grades. All of these aspects are put into a students' report card, and can easily be accounted for. There are some arguments that this

strict policy is to scare students into coming to school. And while a policy to reduce absences is a good idea, it must be said that the students who don't deserve to get punished, won't get punished.

As a body, we must convince the school board to change the E3 policy, in order to punish those who are actually doing wrong.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SWIPE CLOCK

Students are only allowed to have five absences until they qualify for E3 program.

Why the grading system is messed up on so many levels

By WILLIAM LAMPHIER
Journalism Student



PHOTO COURTESY OF BBC.CO.UK

Do you remember when you were in school and you wrote an essay for English class? You worked so hard on it. You turned it in on time and thought you were going to get such a high grade. But when you got it back, you got a horrible grade. Not only were you suddenly disappointed with yourself about your essay now, but you were angry at the teacher. "It's not fair!" you probably thought. "My essay was perfect!" "I worked so hard!" Well, I agree. But it's not the teachers fault - it's the grading system that needs work.

Changing the grading system would be a rough transition, but it would be a positive one. The only real problem that people come up with is how the teachers would lose their authority in the classroom. I disagree with this sentiment. Teachers are here to help their students learn and achieve, and if we can only learn by getting a grade for

less than a month for something we may never use again, then we should develop another method, because that won't help the students of America "learn and achieve" for the years following.

To the children and teenagers of today, the grade is the end goal. They just don't care about if they know it a week later, as long as they are satisfied with what grade they got on the unit. After that, it's onto the next subject. Students memorize exactly what they need for the test, as the question "Is this on the test?" becomes more and more popular because early on, the grade was the solution. But now, this is a problem within itself.

There is no easy way to make a vaccine to the virus in today's schools. A checking system may be best, as to signal if the student understands it or not. But as Americans, we can persevere past this dangerous system and transfer to a new one.

A cap on AP classes

By MELANIE FRANK
Journalism Student

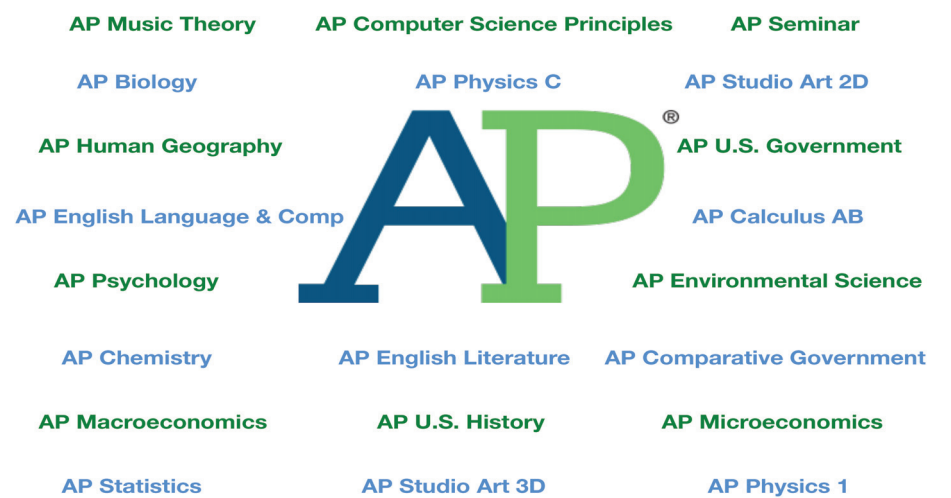


PHOTO COURTESY OF MEAD HIGH SCHOOL

High school students are told for years that junior year will be the worst year of their lives, which adds an unnecessary amount of pressure on kids when choosing classes. There are many juniors who are in 6 AP classes! AP classes have more homework than honors and regular classes, which means students in 6 AP classes would have about twice the amount of homework than someone in 6 honor classes.

Granted, students make their schedules with the guidance of counselors and parents and choose how many AP classes to take. Teachers recommend what AP classes to take and when a student sees that they have been recommended for say 4 AP classes, they feel obligated to take all the classes and make their teachers proud. Students and their parents do not know the full extent of what they are getting into when deciding classes and in the end this is only high school. AP classes help prepare high schoolers

for college classes, but when high schoolers have hours of homework every night, classes to go in for most days of the week and have to stay home on weekends to work, this could lead to depression, anxiety, and overall hurt the child emotionally.

Following that, with AP classes come AP tests which cost families about \$100 a test. For students in 5 AP classes, their families have to pay \$500 for tests that their child likely will not even pass. Data First stated that in 2013 only about 20% of test takers actually passed their AP tests which means 80% of those kids parents spent \$100 for a failed test.

High school students have grown to be more stressed throughout the years from various forms of pressures they receive such as the pressure to be the smartest, take the hardest classes, and be the best. AP classes are good for high schoolers in that they teach them how to apply themselves, but school administration needs to get involved and make a cap that students cannot go over.



Girl power in the world of engineering

Women in Engineering club further proves passion for STEM

By **CLAIRE SULLIVAN**
Associate Editor

For the Women in Engineering Club, engineering is about more than just working with advanced technology, vast tools, and mechanical equipment. It's about creating a welcoming space where female students can gather to share ideas and challenge each other to fulfil their passions.

“We want girls to know how many opportunities they can experience if they follow their interests.”

- Buena Zajmi

During their lunch meetings, which vary based on the member's calendars, the group of women both enjoy their lunches and discuss any opportunities related to engineering that they can work together to achieve. Members converse over recent discoveries of new advancements in technology, as well as how they can use the resources offered to them at school to create new findings. For example, at recent meetings, the members strategized over using programs that connect to a 3D printer to build phone cases.

Many of the members got involved in the club through the PLTW (Project



STEM Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics
PHOTO COURTESY OF CLIP ART

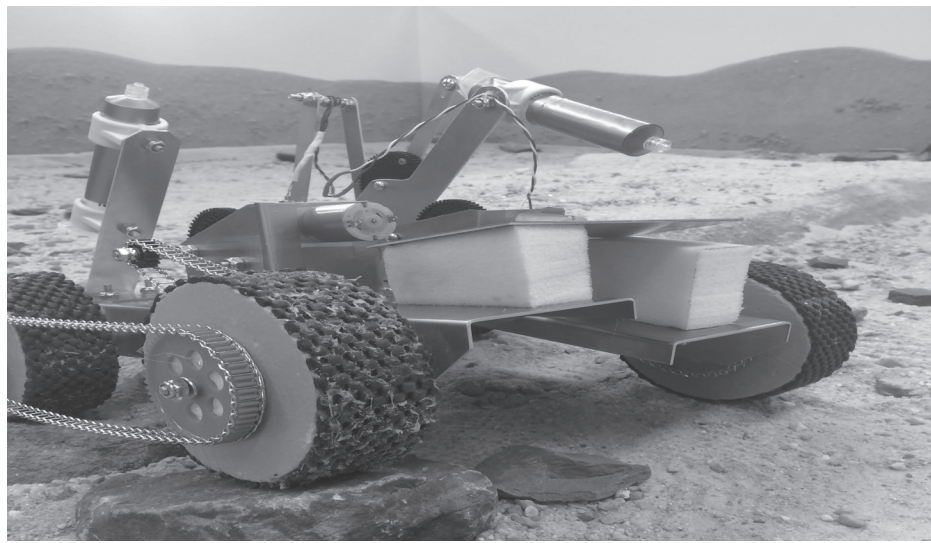


PHOTO COURTESY OF BUENA ZAJMI

During the Mars Rover Project, the all-girls team collaborated to create a robot.

Lead the Way) pathway, which offers students interested in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields a range of classes to develop new skills relating to those interests. Connecting their interests from the classroom to extracurricular environments enables the members of Women in Engineering to further expand their knowledge.

One major goal of the club is to expose more women to the world of engineering and science and share their passions. “We think it's very important to get more women involved in STEM,” said junior co-president Buena Zajmi. “We want girls to know how many opportunities they can experience if they follow their interests.”

Connecting that goal to their meet-

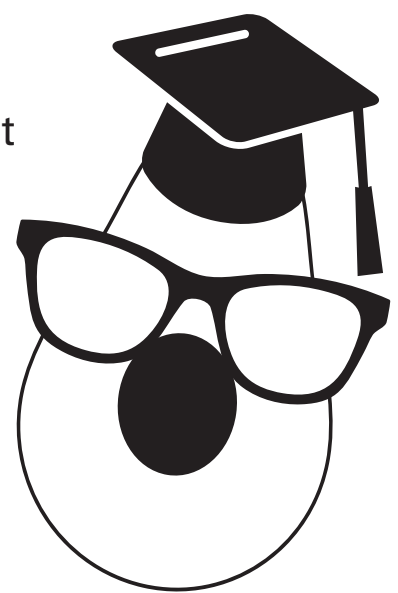
ings, the members discuss the numerous career opportunities and host various speakers to elaborate on their lives working in STEM. “We talk about how there are more career options than basic jobs people think girls are limited to,” said co-president junior Sabrina Chowdhury. When guest speakers come, members ask the experienced engineers and technicians questions that allow them insight to the world of STEM.

In addition to into school projects, the Women in Engineering club also participates in local volunteer events. Recently, a few members went to Girls' Night at Brown Station Elementary School to volunteer and converse with the younger audience by describing the excitement of engineering and technology. The members solved fun problems with the girls and showed them the diverse equipment the high-schoolers use. “It was really rewarding to see them like the things we do,” said junior member Bella Bardini.

In the end, the Women in Engineering Club members are proud of their accomplishments. “It's a great club. Girls who like engineering should really consider joining,” said Zajmi. To get involved, contact any of the members, or Ms. Adams in room 128 for more information, such as dates of future meetings and events. The members emphasized the value of not only getting involved in something that you enjoy, but creating relationships with people who can help you challenge yourself. “Girl power, we have to represent!” said Bardini, expressing the enthusiasm the whole club shares.

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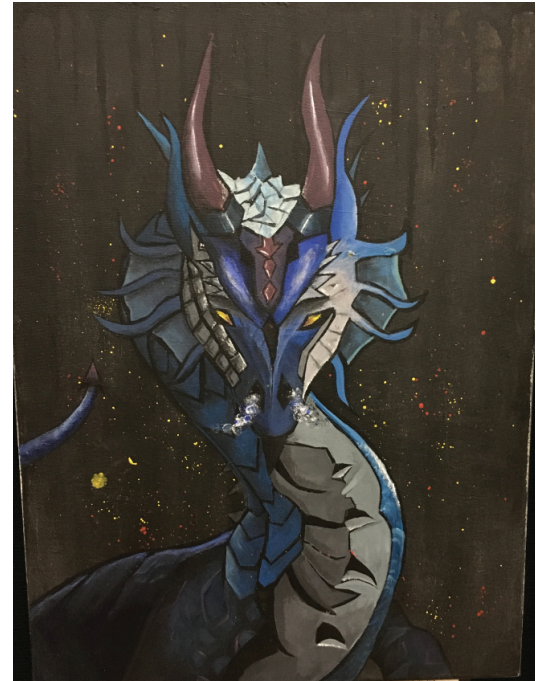
The Prowler's A

By LISETTE GEILING

Our favorite illustrated art:



Kaiyue Zhou



Kylie Wardrick



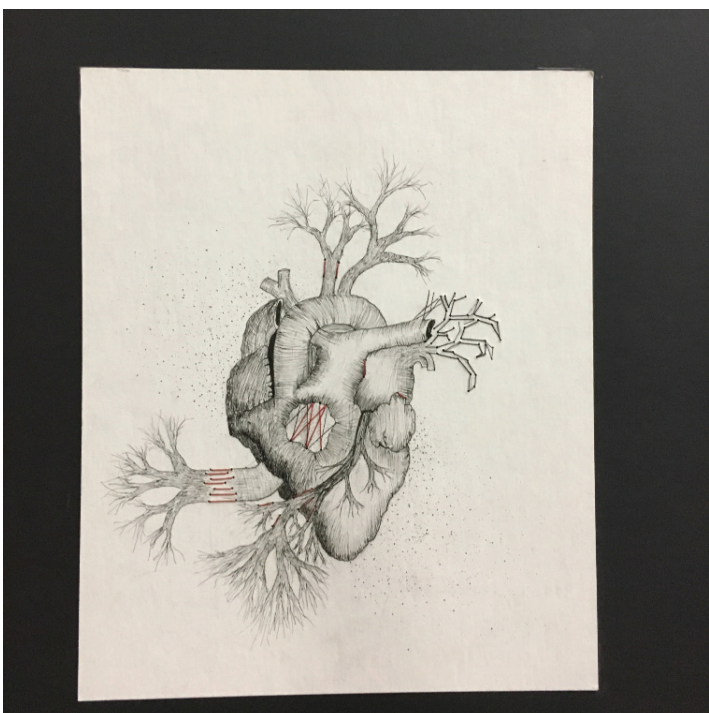
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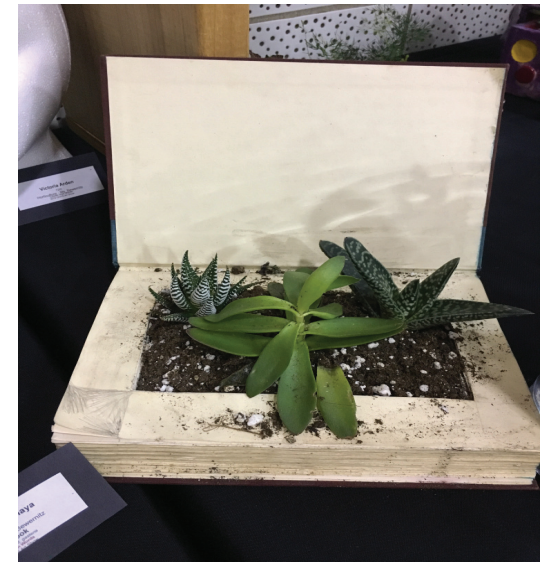
“The heart is connecting with growing branches. The thread connects the branches to the heart to symbolize growth of a person.”

- Jacob Lindner

Art Show Review

and REID PLOSHNICK

Our favorite 3D created art:



Yvi Fuentes Amaya



Alec Burdette



Sarah Tapia



Jennifer Ortega



Isabela Newlands



Chelsea Burcksen

**“The piece is about pyro-osteomancy and the face above the burning cracked bones represents different cracks in peoples lives.”
-Chelsea Burcksen**



Breaking gender stereotypes, one bench press at a time

By **ZOE BELL**
Managing Editor

It's Thursday and inside the weight room, seven girls dressed in workout gear stretch and do one-minute planks, chatting amongst themselves before they are given the task for the day: either squats or bench presses. A fan whirs in the background, but not louder than the friendly banter between the girls. The metal clanging of weights and dumbbells fills the room. This is a weekly meeting of Ladies' Lifting, an after-school club founded by sophomore Elena Newman and senior Julie Blitz.

What started out as just an idea turned into a positive environment for girls interested in weightlifting. Junior Rianna Luke feels more at ease working out with Ladies' Lifting as opposed to the average gym. "I felt like it was a more comfortable setting than working out with guys," Luke said. "It gave me a chance to interact with different females who want to weightlift and not be embarrassed to do it."

Luke, who has prior experience lifting, learned how to do a weighted squat properly at Ladies' Lifting. "I like the working out, sweating, getting active,"

Luke said, who described weightlifting as a method of stress relief.

But not everyone comes into the club with experience. This is the case for

junior Jael Kish, who was involved with dance before she joined Ladies' Lifting. "I wanted to do something that was different from what I normally do," Kish said.



PHOTO BY ZOE BELL

A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH: Junior Rianna Luke performs a bench press, spotted by Amie Dekpo, at an after-school meeting of Ladies' Lifting.

"And this is much different from dancing." Because weightlifting is a predominantly male sport, women and girls often are not given the spotlight. "In today's society, everyone thinks that men are the only ones that can lift weights," Kish said.

The members quickly proved that belief wrong as they worked together, taking turns bench pressing ten reps of 55 pounds or more. They encouraged each other and took coaching from their sponsor, English teacher Skyra Blanchard, all with smiles on their faces.

Blanchard, who has been an avid participant of CrossFit for about seven or eight years, believes that weightlifting is healthy, and not just a physical exercise. "Aesthetically, it's beautiful. Feeling strong is really important. Building a mental toughness is really important," Blanchard said.

Times have changed since Blanchard was in high school, when women did not lift at all. Now, QO offers a weight and strength training class specifically for girls. While there might still be a stigma around muscular women, society is making progress. In sponsoring Ladies' Lifting, Blanchard hopes to convey that "muscles don't equal manly." Because, after all, gone are the days when only men are considered strong.

Farewell to some great teachers

By **FAITH LANE**
Managing Editor

As we wrap up the school year, it's important to be grateful for all the teachers in the building, especially Mrs. Garro and Ms. Morozova, two teachers who are about to wrap up their last year at QO.

Zunilda Garro, a Spanish teacher, has been working in MCPS for 21 years and this is her seventh year at QO. She has been planning her retirement to Spain for a few years now. On July 6, she and her husband are retiring to Galicia, Spain. Her husband has family there and they have many close friends that they will get to spend time with. "I am very excited to walk by the sea every day on the boardwalk," said Garro. In the first week she is there, she plans to get spas and settle into her large house that will accommodate many visitors, including her friends and family. She plans to do volunteer work at homes for the elderly. "I will miss my level four classes the most," Garro said.

Another staff member who is leaving

this year is Elena Morozova, an ESOL teacher. This is her third year at QO and she has been teaching for 30 years. In her first years as a teacher, she worked with elementary school students, so she wants her last years teaching to be the same. For the remaining time, before she retires, she will work at Lucy Barnsley Elementary School in Rockville. After teaching, she plans to be an international travel agent. She has started a company called Authentic Travel and she hopes to further that company after she's done teaching.

Morozova's son was an ESOL student, which gave her ideas and helped her improve as a teacher. She went above and beyond as an ESOL teacher by undertaking projects to get her students more involved in the community. She also provided them with opportunities to get SSL hours after school. Morozova also made a partnership with the preschool class at QO to give her ESOL students opportunities to interact with kids and read them books. "I will miss my awesome ESOL staff, especially Ms. Bradley, and of course all my amazing students," said Morozova.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH GORDON

LAST YEAR AT QO: Mrs. Garro working hard during her last year as a teacher.

QO's first anti-stress week

By **KAITLYN PRICE**
Editor-in-Chief

With the school year coming to a conclusion, all students want to think about is how close the time of relaxing on beaches and sleeping past 6:30 am is—not how soon AP week is. Following the past six months of learning, the days leading up to the taxing, three-hour long tests consist of hours of extra study, attending review sessions, and even weekend mock exams.

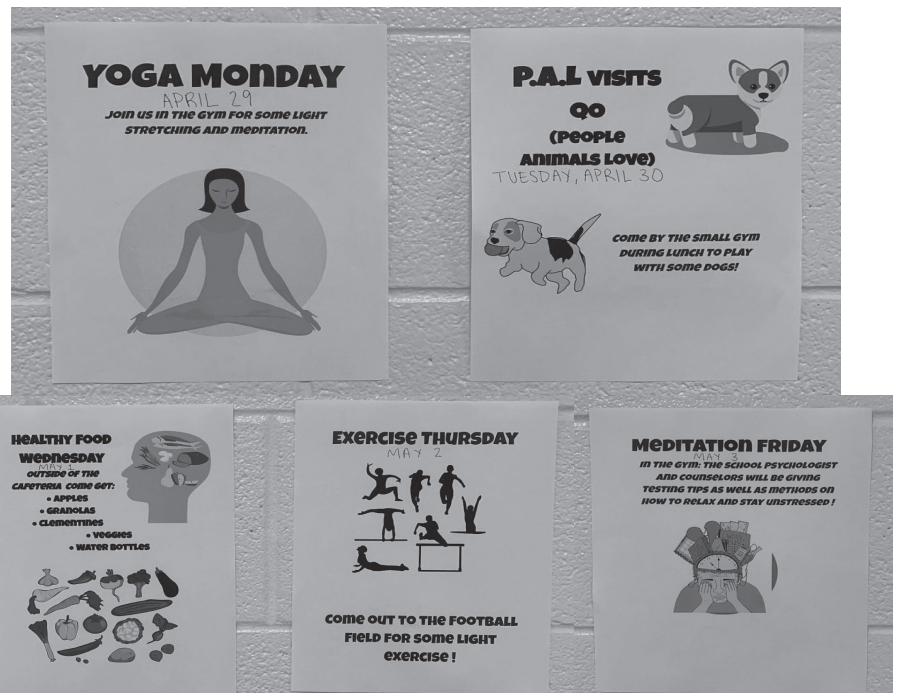
This year, however, QO's school SGA made plans to help students mentally prepare and ease into the final stretch of the year with an Anti-Stress week.

This past week, April 29 to May 3, the week before the first AP exams, the SGA planned a variety of themed events for all students to participate in each day at lunch. Whether it was yoga and meditation in the stadium and courtyard, or healthy eating options in the main lobby, staff and students had the opportunity to get outside, have fun, and let go of everything pent up inside. School president and senior Riley Hoffman worked with the SGA

sponsors, math teacher Joshua Davis and social studies teacher Kevin Lasko, to put together each of these special events.

The highlight of it all, though, occurred at lunch on Tuesday. Students might have noticed some adorably furry, four-legged creatures hanging out in the courtyard. This "big event," said Hoffman, was what people around QO have been talking about doing for a while now. "They're called People. Animals. Love., a nonprofit that does therapy dogs," said Hoffman. People. Animals. Love., or PAL for short, is based out of the Washington, DC metropolitan area and works to provide comfort through bonds between humans and animals. They bring animals (dogs, of course) to the elderly, the sick, and lower income children in the area, as well to different scheduled events, such as this one.

Overall, Anti-Stress week was working to provide not only a fun, interactive time between staff and students, but a positive influence on the mentality of students. "We wanted to do this really just to help everyone de-stress before exams," Hoffman said.



PHOTOS BY KAITLYN PRICE



Movie Review: In Love with *Maurice*

By RYAN OMERSO
Lit as Film Student

Maurice provides a picturesque and idyllic view of summer in the countryside, a sharp contrast from the cold winter of January I watched it in early this year. Based on the E.M. Forster novel by the same name, *Maurice* is a strange and lovely period drama focused around a gay romance, released in 1987.

With the setting of Edwardian England in the early 20th century, *Maurice* follows its title character, played by James Wilby, and his journey to accept his sexuality in the oppressive society around him. Maurice attends Cambridge University, where he meets and becomes fast friends with Clive Durham (Hugh Grant). Durham soon confesses that he has feelings for Maurice, who rejects him at first, but eventually realizes he has similar feelings for the other man. The film revolves around the relationship between Maurice and Clive, its eventual demise, Maurice's new relationship with Alec Scudder (Rupert Graves), and the emotional turmoil experienced by Maurice the whole way through.

Maurice is played by James Wilby, an English actor who is lesser known than his costar, Hugh Grant, who plays Clive. Both perform extremely well for actors in very risky roles; Wilby is able to accurately portray confusion and frustration with the pressure of his position in society, while Grant paints an excellent picture of a man forced to succumb to the same pressure. Alec Scudder is played by Rupert Graves of BBC's *Sherlock* fame, who provides an exceedingly strange per-



PHOTO COURTESY OF FROCK FLICKS

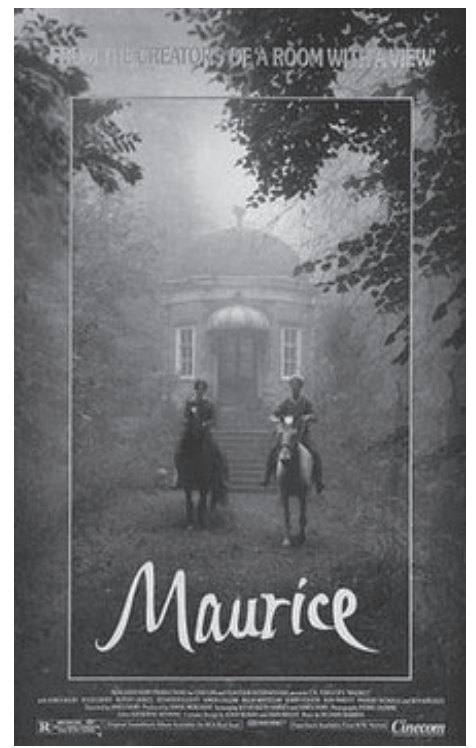


PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

formance. His role is perhaps the weakest of the film, by virtue of being such an odd character.

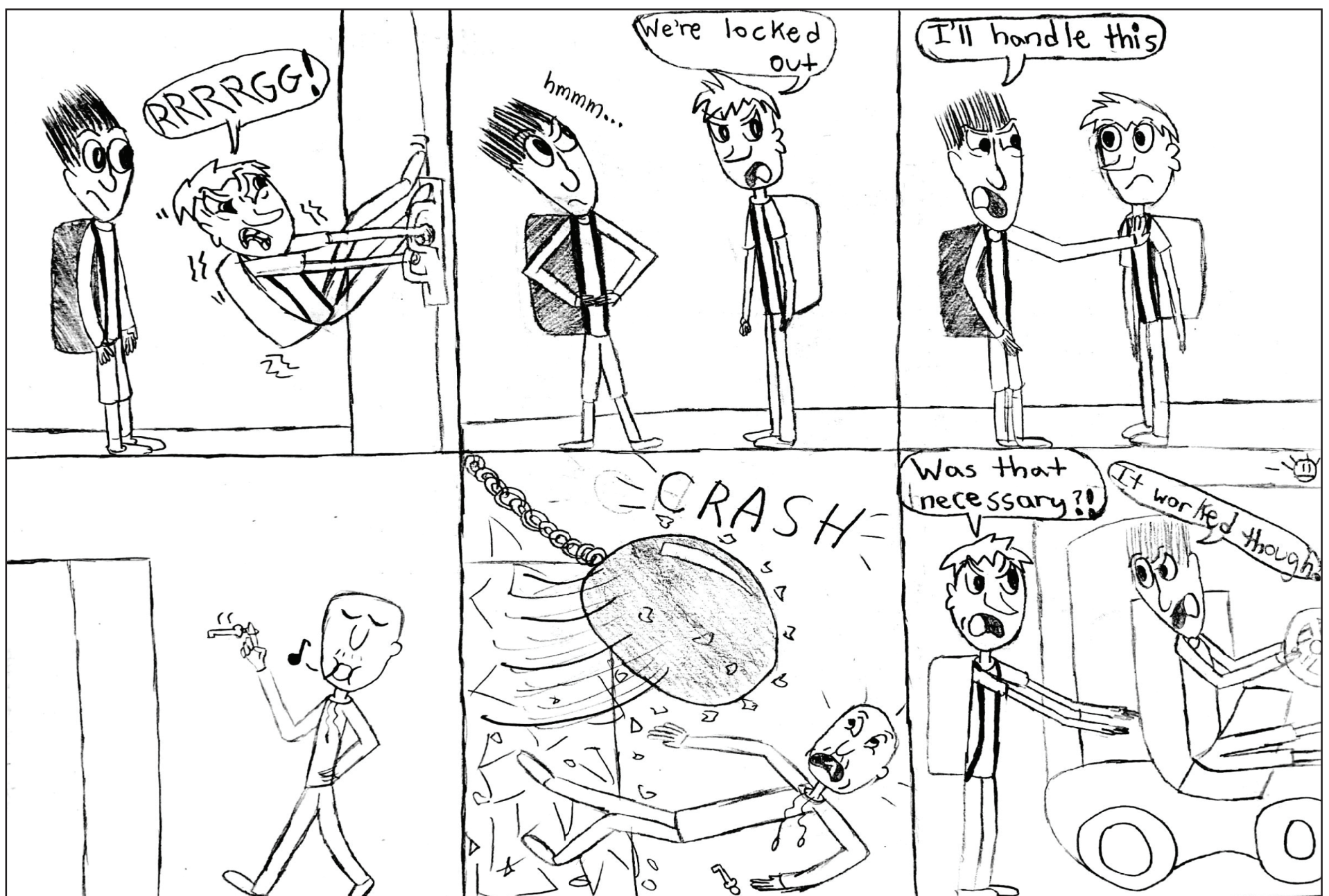
Maurice finds its strongest point in the aesthetic of the film. Long scenes of lush greenery in the countryside, remarkably period-appropriate sets, and beautiful costume design create a subtle portrait of Edwardian high-society. It is a compassionate film, and certainly revolutionary for the time it was created. A blatantly gay movie in the 1980s was a risk, and that is reflected by the reception at the time and how little known it is now.

The weakest part of the film is its pacing. It is extremely slow, especially when compared to the fast-paced movies of our time. While it fits the tone of the film in general, it makes for an at times boring experience.

The story of *Maurice* is about accepting who you are, despite the opinions of others. Maurice himself goes through several phases of rejecting who he is, until he is able to find himself. This is something that both others and I can learn from the film. While our society today is not nearly as oppressive as it was in the 1900s, or

the 1980s at the time of release, many of us still face rejection and discrimination from others. *Maurice* shows us that we can overcome these barriers to get our happy ending.

This movie has a well-deserved R rating, with full nudity and relatively tame sex scenes. *Maurice* is admittedly not the most accessible film, therefore I would recommend it more to those who already enjoy period dramas or are interested in historical LGBT cinema. *Maurice* is a film I will not soon forget; it is an amazing film that time has forgotten.



COMIC BY ADRIAN ISSASI



NBA playoffs comes with NBA playoff drama

By ZACH LEVEY
Managing Editor

After a long six months, the wait is finally over. The 16 best teams in the league are finally competing for the NBA Finals trophy—the Larry O’Brien Championship Trophy.

Although the Golden State Warriors have been dominant for the last five years, the Milwaukee Bucks finished the regular season with 60 wins and only 22 losses, which was the best record of the season. The Bucks are lead by league’s Most Valuable Player front runner: Giannis “The Greek Freak” Antetokounmpo.

On the west side of this year’s playoffs, the Golden State Warriors are the #1 seed playing the #8 seed LA Clippers, the #2 Denver Nuggets are playing the #7 San Antonio Spurs, and the #3 Portland Trail Blazers are playing the #6 Oklahoma City Thunder, with the last matchup between the #4 Houston Rockets and the #5 Utah Jazz.

The east side has the #1 Bucks playing against the #8 Detroit Pistons, the #2 Toronto Raptors against the #7 Orlando Magic, the #3 Philadelphia 76ers against the local Brooklyn Nets, and the #4 Boston Celtics against the #5 Indiana Pacers.

Both the Bucks and Celtics have had a relatively easy time advancing to the next

round. They both swept their opponents, meaning that they won four games in a row. In the Bucks’ series, Giannis continued to look extremely dominant with help from point guard Eric Bledsoe. Giannis averaged 26.25 points through this quick series. Kyrie Irving led the Celtics to their first round wins with his winning mentality and his insane ball handling skills: he has the best postseason win percentage in history. The Bucks and Celtics are set to face each other in the next round.

The 76ers and the Nets had

one of the most memorable series, filled with endless trash talk on and off the court and an on-court fight. All series, Jared Dudley was chirping at 76ers all star Ben Simmons. Eventually, Simmons and the rest of the Sixers had enough: Dudley was shoved to the ground as a swarm of Sixers crowded him.

However, the Sixers remained true and did not let one player screw up their plan, advancing after only 5 games. The Raptors also had a 5-game series against the Magic. Kawhi Leonard played just as he usu-

ally does and led the Raptors to victory.

One of the best matchups of this postseason is the Thunder against the Trail Blazers. Not only are these two teams great, but they’re both led by an all-star point guard.

The series quickly turned into a head-to-head matchup between Russell Westbrook and Damian Lillard. Westbrook was trash-talking Lillard in every game, but Lillard stayed calm and let his game do the talking. Lillard sealed the series with an almost half-court buzzer beater

and silenced Westbrook for good.

James Harden, also known as “The Beard,” led to Rockets through a quick five game series. The Rockets started off on the right foot and won the first three games in the series. Before they could seal the deal, the Jazz quickly came back, rallying behind Donovan “Spida” Mitchell.

Going on, all teams have their eye on the same prize, but I think Giannis will continue to dominate all of his opponents and bring back the trophy to Milwaukee for their first championship since 1971.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NBA.COM

EYES ON THE PRIZE: Four of the best players in the league set their sights on the NBA Finals, but they have to get through each other first.

One and done: Hurricanes battle back to end Capitals season

By JACOB CHERIS
Staff Writer

The Washington Capitals’ quest to repeat as Stanley Cup champions has ended. The Capitals lost a nail-biting double overtime game 7 4-3 at Capital One Arena. Carolina Hurricanes forward Brock McGinn tapped in a Justin Williams shot from the goal line. This was the third longest game 7 in NHL history. The Caps went 4-0 against the Hurricanes in the regular season, but once the puck drops in the playoffs, it’s anyone’s game.

According to an interview with Mike Vogel, Ovechkin said, “We fight through 82 (regular season) games and in game 7, they score one goal and...you’re disappointed. You’re frustrated, especially after last year.”

Going into the postseason, however, the Caps were without defenseman Michal Kempny, who suffered a season ending hamstring injury in March after having a career high 25 points (6 goals, 19 assists). Kempny was a trade deadline acquisition last year and immediately found chemistry with defenseman John Carlson. Without his puck-moving ability, the Capitals struggled to rush up the ice effectively.

The first line of Alex Ovechkin, Nicklas Backstrom, and Tom Wilson dominated, having a combined total of 22 points. It even looked like Ovechkin

and Backstrom changed roles. Ovechkin had the smooth hands of Backstrom with 5 assists, while Backstrom was sniping corners like Ovechkin, leading the team with 5 goals.

But unlike last year, they didn’t get the production the needed from the rest of the squad, with the second line of Evgeny Kuznetsov, Carl Hagelin and Jakub Vrana was disappointing. Kuznetsov, the ‘birdman,’ was not the same superstar compared to last year, when he led the playoffs with 32 points. Hagelin only

had one assist and, despite having had a breakout year with 47 points (24 goals 23 assists), Jakub Vrana was kept off the scoresheet. The bottom 6 forwards who did score are Brett Connolly (2 goals), Lars Eller (1), Andre Burakovsky (1), and Nic Dowd (1).

The Caps went 6 for 24 on the power play, but those numbers are deceiving. They only managed 1 goal in 9 chances on the road and allowed two short-handed goals. One was late in game 7 from Hurricanes forward Sebastian Aho that made

it 2-1. This put the Capitals on their heels big time. Then, in the second overtime, they were handed a delay of game penalty and failed to even get a shot on Hurricane goalie Petr Mrazek.

Not only that, the Capitals lost one of their leaders: T.J. Oshie. Oshie suffered from a broken collarbone after a dangerous collision in game 4. Oshie’s pregame antics with Ovechkin and Wilson brought joy to fans and players alike. Instead, he was in the press box at Capital One Arena, watching from above.

“We fight through 82 games and in game 7, they score one goal and... you’re disappointed.”

-Alex Ovechkin

Oshie was also part of the first power play unit, always waiting for the puck in the slot and

Carolina did not win this series on paper: they won it because of the adversity they faced against the Capitals. As a matter of fact, they faced it all throughout the regular season. They were in a tight race for the first wild card spot in the Eastern Conference with the Montreal Canadiens and the Columbus Blue Jackets.

“I don’t know what else to say about this group, and I’ve been saying it all year. They just don’t quit,” said head coach Rod Brind’Amour in an interview with Mike Vogel. Hurricanes forward Warren Foegele was a force to be reckoned with 4 goals and 6 points, along with defenseman Jaccob Slavin, who had 9 assists including the game winner in double OT. This is Carolina’s first postseason appearance since 2009, and they are surging into round 2 to face Barry Trotz and the New York Islanders.

Despite the disappointing loss, the memories of June 7, 2018 can’t be taken away from Caps fans.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THEOAKLANDPRESS.COM

BUNCH OF JERKS: Carolina Hurricanes forward Brock McGinn celebrates after scoring the game winning goal in double overtime.



Jantzen's Journal: The roars are back for Tiger Woods

By JANTZEN FOCHT
Associate Editor

As he putted out on 18, he let out a roar and pumped his fists similar to the way he celebrated on an almost weekly basis more than a decade ago. Squint just hard enough during his play of the last hole, as he's walking up the blooming fairways of Augusta, and you can see a 21-year-old stalking his first career green jacket, as he did 22 years ago. However, after he cleaned up for bogey and won his 5th Masters Championship, once he approached his caddie, Joe LaCava, and removed his signature Nike hat, we were all reminded that this is not the same man who struck fear into every golfer's heart as he stepped onto the tee box.

No, the only thing that lets us, the fans, recognize that this is a different Tiger Woods is the way in which his hair is fading, and the accumulation of dark circles under his eyes like that of an aging oak tree. To many fans, this outcome was just a glimmer of hope that was quickly shot down by the painful reality Woods has faced for the last five years.

But with this miraculous win, the whole sporting world, and especially that of the beloved prodigy Woods, can sleep easy knowing that for one week, our wish was granted: to see the seemingly Tiger of old overcome all the odds and surmount the greatest comeback in the history of sports.

What adds to the greatness of his win, however, is really the shape he was in just a short while ago. About two years ago to the day, Tiger was at home recovering from a spinal fusion surgery, which was essentially a last ditch attempt to revive his slowly decaying playing career. After hearing news of this—in addition to his DUI a year before that—Tiger could've been as good as dead and no casual fan



PHOTO COURTESY OF LUCY NICHOLSON

HE'S BACK!: With his incredible win, Woods added to his incredible history at Augusta.

would have noticed. Throughout the summer, not much progress was made, except for a short video of him practicing his chipping at his home in Jupiter, FL. While this video did admittedly get me hyped up more than I had been previously, my faith in him almost came to an abrupt end upon seeing in person during that same September.

Upon seeing him up close and personal at the bi-annual President's Cup, my hope that he one day could return, even for one last professional round, was almost eradicated from existence. What I hoped to see was a rejuvenated Tiger moving around with a glimmer in his dark eyes, and a fire in his heart; what I instead received was an image of a man who looked as if he LITERALLY could not

walk. I saw a once proud and confident athlete, who LITERALLY had to be carted everywhere because his health was so bad. He looked stiff and immobile. He looked depressed and solemn.

I remember after that day my Dad looking to me and consoling me: "This could've been the last day Tiger ever steps onto a golf course." He added, "This was like attending a funeral for his golf game." To wit, Tiger even publicly admitted in a press conference earlier that week that there was certainly a scenario where "he may never play again."

But following his return to the Hero Challenge that year, and his play through the spring of '18, things started to look up for golf's poster child. He started to make swings that looked fluid and effortless.

He began to make putts he would routinely miss when he was in pain. Things were nicely progressing, even if it was in small sample sizes. He would ultimately contend in some tournaments, and even come close in the British Open and PGA Championship, but things came to a fruition at the Tour Championship in the September of last year. He finally showed that he could win again on tour. But to many one question remained. Could he possibly win another major and cement the greatest comeback in professional sports history?

If yesterday was any indication of the answer to that simple question, it would be a resounding yes. Through the valleys of his career—i.e., the sex scandal, the multiple back surgeries, and the DUI—most people viewed these as "death sentences" to his career, factors that even the greatest golfer ever could not come back from. But on a cloudy yet pleasant Sunday afternoon, Woods's perfect walk up 18 and his miraculous triumph over the best players in the world, in the biggest tournament of the year, proved wrong everyone who ever dared to bet against the man who singlehandedly revolutionized the game of golf.

Following his return to professional golf after his back surgery last year, I wrote in *The Prowler*: "To see the comeback of one of what I believe to be the three greatest athletes of all time, would not only be pretty amazing, but be the perfect ending to one of the greatest careers in the history of sports."

While this still holds true today, this is in fact the greatest comeback by an athlete ever. Tiger Woods's career, barring any unforeseen circumstances, is nowhere close to being over. If he can keep this play up, watch out world, for we've seen how this can play out when THIS man is at his best.

Boys volleyball season ends, but hopes remain high for future



BY JACOB CHERIS
Staff Writer

The QO varsity boys volleyball team ended their regular season with a record of 2 wins and 7 losses. The team is led by seniors Sam Snitkovsky and Isaac Blaker.

This is Snitkovsky's second season as captain, and his mentality this season was all about having fun and encouraging his teammates. "I try and show them the right way [to play], and if anyone ever gets down [I] try to support them and show them that it's ok and it's not their fault, and move onto the next point," said Snitkovsky. Snitkovsky's journey to becoming a captain was not easy. "Freshman year I barely made the co-ed team and I was benched the entire season," said Snitkovsky. "Sophomore year I switched onto boys and I was training to become a setter, and then junior and senior year I ended up becoming captain and I've always been on the court."

This year head coach Jacob Ricker coached his first season with the QO boys



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM SNITKOVSKY

THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT YEAR: Even though their season had more losses than wins, this team has much potential.

varsity team, after spending two seasons with the JV girls. "I like how this group puts a lot of effort into [playing], especially since a lot of them are learning a new sport. To come out and put their heart[s] into it is very exciting to see,"

said Ricker.

Blaker praised Ricker for boosting the confidence of the younger players; he especially admired how Ricker brought experience, as he is currently playing volleyball, to the team. "Every single drill

we do translates to the gameplay perfectly, and when we have an issue with one of our play styles, he's able to show us what we are doing wrong and how we can get better to improve our own skills," said Blaker.

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH QUESTIONNAIRE

Girls Tennis



Brooke Wibberley '19
Senior Brooke Wibberley has quick feet. She always puts herself in the best possible position to get to the ball before it even crosses onto her side of the court.

Boys Tennis



Zach Pearlman '19
Senior Zach Pearlman is a monster on the court. Zach puts so much power behind each hit of the ball that his opponents are lucky if they see it.

Girls Tennis



Serena Tong '19
Senior Serena Tong sometimes is mistaken for Serena Williams while on the tennis court. She swings at the ball with perfect accuracy to put her opponent on the run.

Outdoor Track & Field



Alyssa Pickoff '20
Junior Alyssa Pickoff takes on every race as if it were her last. She runs harder and harder each day to try to surpass her personal records.

Boys Volleyball



Joshua Lum '20
Junior Joshua Lum is a terrific team player. Lum is always alert and ready to set his teammates up for a mean spike.

Girls Lacrosse



Kate Faraone '20
Junior Kate Faraone also known as the spectacular "k8 the gr8," uses her cheetah-like speed to zoom by defenders and set her teammates up for success.

We asked these athletes the following questions...

| | Brooke Wibberley | Zach Pearlman | Serena Tong | Alyssa Pickoff | Joshua Lum | Kate Faraone |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Beach or Pool? | Beach | Beach | Beach | Beach | Beach | Beach |
| When are you done with school? | 3 months ago | After Junior year APs | After football season | 2nd day | When I get to school | The last day |
| Sunscreen or Sun tan lotion? | Sunscreen | Sunscreen | Sunscreen | Sun tan lotion | Sunscreen | Sun tan lotion |
| What is your preferred SPF? | 5 | 15, not too strong | 0, I don't burn | 4 | I don't know | -7, sun don't set on K8 the Gr8 |
| Who would win in a fight, an Octopus or a Squid? | Squid | Squid for sure | Me | Octopus | Octopus | Squidward |
| Which teacher will you miss the most? | Mr. Wuu | Mr. Wuu | JEFFREY JERNIGAN | Ms. Stein | Ms. Kempf | Ms. Thomas |





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