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

QO community stands strong during coronavirus pandemic

By NATALIE PRICE
Staff Writer

The clicking of keyboards echoes through students' homes as they sit at their desks typing and typing, cut off from the outside world. The only social interaction they've had, aside from family, is through Zoom or Facetime. When they do get out of the house, in search of a supermarket not out of toilet paper, all that is visible are beaming red signs on every other building reading the word "closed."

It's crazy to think that just over a month ago, the world was going on perfectly fine. Yet now, the ability to leave your house and go somewhere is a luxury most of us can't afford. This is what quarantine has come to. Coronavirus: 1, Quince Orchard: 0.

But, it doesn't have to be this way. There are plenty of ways to get outside and enjoy oneself in nature while staying safe, and you'll be quick to realize that even the slightest change of scenery may boost your happiness. Luckily, members of the QO community have already made some discoveries of just how to do that.

If you live in the Lakelands, you may

have heard of the bear hunt, in which neighbors place a stuffed bear in a front-facing window of their house. The point of the game is to get out and about and count how many bears you can find, and all it takes is a nice walk through the neighborhood. The bear hunt has been a national trend recently, but was brought to Lakelands by parents as an easy encouragement for people to spend more time outside, while maintaining safe distances from others.

Junior Sydney Katzman said, "it was fun to be able to get out of the house, and it made walking more enjoyable."

Over near Jones Lane, there have been other creative ideas as well. If you've taken a stroll through Aberdeen Park, you've probably seen some painted rocks alongside the paved path. This was an idea of the Hunt family, and has become the QO community's own addition to the nationwide trending Kindness Rocks Project, in which people paint rocks with positive messages and fun drawings to brighten the days of passersby.

"It started as helping my mom with a project for her kindergarten class by painting rocks. We put the rocks in our neighborhood park to put a smile on people's faces during the COVID-19 pan-

demic," said Freshman Natalie Hunt.

On the school and educational front, QO has been doing its best to provide materials and devote time to be there for students, such as through Chromebook and food distribution to those who need it. Teachers have been holding on-line lectures and making themselves as available as possible in order to continue learning in the best way they can. The National English Honors Society in particular is continuing to offer help with essay writing through the use of the Online Writing Center.

No doubt this is a disappointing time for everyone, seniors especially, as there has been no official decision put in writing regarding graduation. But seniors ought to know—Quince Orchard hasn't forgotten about them! As a special shout out to all this year's seniors, the QO Booster Club is selling signs honoring the Class of 2020, for the purpose of hanging outside of houses or in front lawns.

While the world may be shutting

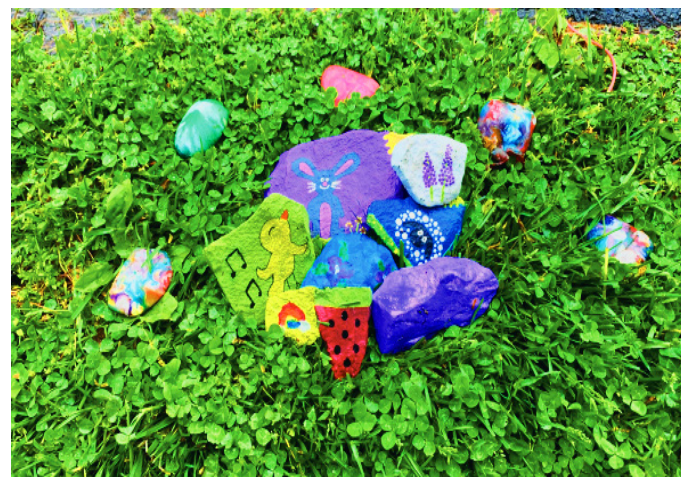


PHOTO COURTESY OF NATALIE PRICE

KINDNESS ROCKS PROJECT: QO community joins in on national project to spread positive messages by painting on rocks. Rocks are located in the Jones Lane area around Aberdeen Park.

down, the QO community surely isn't. With students, parents, and teachers uniting during this unprecedented, confusing situation, we can make the best of a bad situation.

Primaries and local elections delayed, switch to mail-voting

By SARA KLEMOW
Staff Writer

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, many states who had their primary elections scheduled during these past few months decided to postpone their elections or switch to vote by mail. Some of these states include Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Louisiana, New York, and Pennsylvania. Fortunately, about 26 states (over half) held their elections before mid-March, when many governors started to close down public gatherings in their states and issue a stay-at-home order. Except for Wisconsin, where they held a State Supreme Court vote and their primary election on April 7. The same court was the one to block the governor from postponing the election til June.

However, the presidential primary elections have become rather irrelevant as former Vice President Joe Biden has become the expected nominee ever since Senator Bernie Sanders dropped out of the race on April 8. Biden is now the only candidate left running for the Democratic Party. Nevertheless, it is still important to get the votes in for the primaries to be official.

The Democratic National Committee (DNC) rescheduled their national convention, where they count the votes to

officially announce the presidential candidate for the general election, from mid-July to mid-August. Additionally, the DNC is expected to meet in a few weeks to approve waivers for states to hold their elections past the original deadline, June 9.

Aside from primary elections, local elections were also postponed, or

switched to only vote-by-mail ballots and extended the mailing deadline. Specifically for Maryland, voters also need to pick a replacement for the late Elijah Cummings, the Congressional Representative for the 7th district of Maryland. The election for the mayor of Baltimore is another election to be postponed. Maryland Governor Larry Hogan announced

on March 17 that the elections (primary, mayoral, and House of Representatives) are moved from April 28 to June 2.

"I have two main priorities — keeping Marylanders safe and protecting their constitutional right to vote," said Hogan at a news conference in Annapolis.

The State Board of Elections developed a plan to carry out the primary election. It will be conducted primarily by mail, but there will be in-person voting for those who cannot vote by mail. The ballots will be mailed out in mid-May. It is strongly encouraged that eligible voters vote by mail instead of going to the few locations that will be open for in-person voting.

However, due to the urgency, the special election for the 7th Congressional District Representative was held using absentee ballots only, making it the very first election in Maryland to be done with a mail-only ballot system. The ballots had to have been postmarked on or before April 28 (the original election date). However, there were three polling sites in this district for in-person voting if not everyone was able to vote by mail for the election on April 28. "It is imperative that the people of the 7th Congressional District have a voice in the House of Representatives and that Maryland has a full delegation representing our state in Congress," said Hogan.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN WITTE

On March 17, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan (middle) announced the rescheduling of Maryland's primary election due to the coronavirus outbreak. Also present are Deputy Health Secretary Fran Phillips (left) and Dennis Schrader (right), the chief operating officer and Medicaid director for the state's health department.

<p>News</p> <p>Read about how the coronavirus is affecting the SAT/ACT and college apps</p> <p>Page 2</p>	<p>PHOTO COURTESY OF SVGREPO.COM</p>	<p>Features</p> <p>Find out about how the coronavirus is affecting the movie industry</p> <p>Page 9</p>	<p>PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLICDOMAINVECTORS.ORG</p>	<p>Sports</p> <p>Learn about the postponing of the Olympics</p> <p>Page 11</p>	<p>PHOTO COURTESY OF COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.ORG</p>
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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.



COVID-19 causes colleges to rethink 2020 app process

By **MADDY FREEDMAN**
Staff Writer

As COVID-19, a.k.a coronavirus, continues to break out and force all schools and colleges to close for weeks, if not the rest of the year or semester, many students are left confused about what this means for their future.

Although almost all schools, ranging from kindergarten to graduate school, have switched to online schooling platforms, many people are arguing that the education they are receiving over these platforms is just not the same as they would be learning in the actual school environment. This virus, however, seems to be impacting one grade particularly hard: high school juniors.

Junior year is known to be the toughest work year in high school due to the hard course rigor students take on to show their talent to colleges, as well as standardized testing like the SAT and ACT students have to take (and do well on) to get in and even apply to most colleges and universities.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, all standardized tests until June at the earliest (as of now, though, those are looking less and less likely to happen) are cancelled. This leaves students and colleges panicking about how they are going to admit the class of 2025.

Many colleges are starting to take different approaches to handling this never-before-seen crisis. As of writing, at least 17 colleges, including some of the

top schools in the country like UC Berkeley, believe they solved their problem by announcing they are going test-optional for the class of 2025. Students who weren't able to take an SAT or ACT can still apply to the school, and admission offices will have to evaluate the student based on their grades, essays, extracurricular activities, and many more factors. This also allows students who have been working hard and already put in countless hours of tutoring and studying to be able to submit and get recognition for their test scores. Quince Orchard junior Sasha Carter said, "I am happy that schools are going test optional, because although I plan to take another ACT if it is administered in time, I have only taken one and still need my score to improve."

Another solution many colleges have been talking about is pushing back college application deadlines to allow students more time to take these standardized tests in the fall of 2020. This is most likely going to be the case for many big state schools, who get tens of thousands of applicants and simply have to use standardized test scores to narrow the field.

The Ohio State University, one of the largest state schools in the country, already issued a statement saying that they are not planning on going test-optional at all, which was then followed by many other large state schools who agreed that they will possibly be administering an online ACT/SAT before thinking about going test optional.

Small business plan experiences major trouble

By **JAY MOTIWALA**
Staff Writer

What was once called a successful plan on the government's part is now being criticized by the people this plan was supposed to help. The Paycheck Protection Program was a plan set up by the Small Business Administration that could offer millions of dollars in loans to businesses that qualified. Worryingly, the plan—which was launched on April 3—ran out of money just three weeks later on April 16.

Over \$350 billion was allocated for this plan, with small businesses who qualified able to get up to \$10 million worth of loans from the government. This program was a part of a \$2.2 trillion economic rescue package that passed Congress with bipartisan support.

However, just three

weeks after the plan was initiated, the Small Business Administration is no longer accepting applications for its Paycheck Protection Program.

"The SBA is currently unable to accept new applications for the Paycheck Protection Program based on available appropriations funding," says the official website of the SBA.

What was once a bipartisan issue is now turning partisan again, as Democrats and Republicans are playing a game of "he said, she said" while trying to explain the reason for the failing plan and attempting to revitalize it. Democrats want more money to go to hospitals and to businesses they also feel deserve it; meanwhile, Republicans are itching to send a solution out as quickly as possible.

"It's an ironic situation, because everyone's in favor of [The Paycheck Protection Program]," Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) told

the New York Times. "I just want to see action."

The United States Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin and SBA administrator Jovita Carranza wrote in a statement, "We urge Congress to appropriate additional funds for the Paycheck Protection Program—a critical and overwhelmingly bipartisan program—at which point we will once again be able to process loan applications, issue loan numbers, and protect millions more paychecks."

Here in Gaithersburg, local small business owner Jodi Rapaport also has concerns about the future of small businesses in America.

"I don't think a lot of times people have a lot of savings put aside, especially with a small business," Rapaport says.

Her business, My Big Finds, located in the Kentlands, is approaching its fifth anniversary of operations later on in the year,

although coronavirus concerns have managed to delay the optimism she once had for the year. And while Rapaport is confident in her own business, she feels the situation could be dire for other small businesses in America.

"I think it's going to take a lot of creative people to come up with solutions to help these small businesses, but I wouldn't be surprised if we lose a lot," she says.

Encouragingly on April 21, Congress passed a new Coronavirus aid package with \$484 billion going to small businesses, hospitals, and facilities that are working on Covid-19 testing. However, the uncertainty of the future still looms over the heads of many small business owners.

"As much as I would like to be optimistic, I am concerned," says Rapaport. "We've never been through anything like this."

VIEWPOINT

The Earth finds its own cure

By **LYLA KIM**
Staff Writer

We, together, are facing a worldwide epidemic. We are forced to stay inside, and isolate ourselves from each other. We are watching loved ones, doctors, nurses, and acquaintances fight every day to battle this horrific virus. These times don't only affect our physical health, but have a great toll on our emotional well-being as well. When you are in this state of mind, it is difficult to see the light within the dark, so today I am here to be your flashlight.

The environment has been deteriorating in front of us, compromising our home planet. While this virus has caused an epidemic for the people, the earth has taken this time to heal. How? Well, the earth was sick from the ongoing pollution that humans created. Since everyone is forced to stay inside, factories have shut down, fewer people are

driving, construction companies have shut down, and thus overall pollution has decreased, according to National Geographic.

As a result of fewer greenhouse gases being released, our ozone layer has started to repair itself. For those of you who don't know, the Ozone layer acts as protective gear to the earth. According to National Geographic, the ozone layer "absorbs almost all of the sun's harmful ultraviolet light." The more exposure to this radiation can cause damage to your skin and eyes that is untreatable, possibly even cancer.

After societal shutdowns because of the pandemic, CNN reported that the canals in Venice, Italy were so clear that you could see the fish swimming around. This became a shock to locals as they flooded social media with pictures of the canal. Many posted with a comment relating to the idea that the canal is clear due to boats being restricted from the water, causing less sediment.

China's environment has also benefited from the pandemic. Many factories were shut down, causing coal consumption to decrease. As a result, levels of nitrogen dioxide were down as much as 30%, according to NASA. There are images of clear blue skies that can be seen throughout China.

Here are some other amazing things nature has been able to recover from since the pandemic. Blue whales, an endangered species, were spotted in Antarctica for the first time since 1980. After 10 years of trying, Hong Kong pandas were able to breed after getting privacy from the zoo shutting down, allowing the animals to bond. CNN reports that air pollution in LA has decreased, and been the clearest it's been since 1995. Seaweed in general has increased in oceans, providing more resources for the food chain. Bigger animals are returning to Yosemite. For the first time in decades the Himalayas can be spotted

from Jalandhar, India. Lions can rest peacefully on the side of South Africa's National Park. Wild mountain goats return and take back a small Welsh town.

In fact, researchers who study Earth's movement are reporting a drop in seismic noise, meaning there's less trucks, trains, heavy machinery, etc. This is helping scientists read vibrations better to predict earthquakes and aftershocks to help warn people. There are so many wonderful things happening in each community.

Many people have denied that climate change is real. Hopefully, it doesn't take another tragedy to open our eyes. Because humans are refraining from their daily polluting activities, the earth is doing better, and animals are reclaiming their natural habitats. From now on, we need to start finding alternative solutions and become less selfish to the organisms we share this planet with.



A smile a day keeps the doctor away

Friendship can stave off social isolation, other mental distress

By **BERI ALLEN**
Staff Writer

Due to the recent coronavirus outbreaks and widespread fear, many people go into panic mode and make what they believe to be the most rational decisions such as buying food, cleaning supplies, and toiletries in bulk. They do this with the assumption of limited mobility, even in their own neighborhoods.

Many people also face the obstacle of boredom in the household however in this day and age, it is much easier to keep oneself busy during a time of isolation, especially with modern technology. However, this begs the question: how important is real social interaction?

Senior Habiba Elgindy says that “[she’s] been feeling quite well” about the whole pandemic because she is fortunate enough to “have people with [her].” While this is the case for most

QO students, there are others who aren’t in the same circumstances. Many people neglect to think about essential businesses such as prisons, medical supply manufacturers, and homeless shelters where isolation takes a toll.

Regardless of the current pandemic, the stigma that follows convicts and homeless people already isolates them from others and puts them into a worse state of mind. People’s social skills in these situations deplete and tend to form into a defensive aggression based on how they are treated.

According to the studies of psychologist Michael Argyle, “stress increases the likelihood of mental disturbances, but the effects of stress can be reduced or eliminated by social support.” This means that while mental disturbances can be



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a common issue, a simple act of friendship or support can make the difference.

On the other hand, a lack of friendship could create resentment

within a person and could form into other mental health problems. All of these risks could easily be prevented by something as simple as a smile.

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College closings and COVID-19

Colleges close campuses, recalculate finances due to coronavirus outbreaks

By **CLAIRE SULLIVAN**
Editor-in-Chief

Due to concerns about the coronavirus pandemic, colleges across the country have taken the initiative to discontinue in-person learning, converting their education to strictly online. The closures were initially targeted at locations most impacted by the virus, such as New York, Los Angeles, and other large cities. Soon, due to the severity of the pandemic, college closures spread across the country.

In the effort to continue students' education as planned, staff and faculty have published their lectures and lessons online through numerous educational platforms. Dormitories and campus life have come to a halt, except for the few students who cannot go home. This includes foreign exchange students who are impacted by the travel ban

and restricted from seeing their families in this time of need.

"University of Maryland has been doing a lot to help the

those struggling throughout the quarantine." In addition, some students are able to find relief if their Student Crisis Fund ap-



PHOTO COURTESY OF PSMAG.COM

community," said Quince Orchard alumnus Dan Mesri '19. "The university provides free food pick-up on campus for

applications were accepted, which was created to provide money for students in need.

Not only are the shutdowns

affecting the students who are studying from home, but they are also causing conflict within the colleges that are closing. For colleges that were already unsteady financially prior to the pandemic, the economic impacts could be a threat of full time closures. Colleges are recalculating financial aid, as well as searching for more ways to cope with the sudden struggle. Due to social distancing, hosting athletic events has stopped, decreasing the abundance of money made from ticket sales and merchandise.

In addition, college administrations are concerned how this will impact enrollment in the 2020-2021 school year. For individuals planning on attending a college in their following year, lack of in-person tours could sway future plans for committing.

In response, colleges are doing everything they can to keep the attention of the upcoming committing class. Starting with converting to online tours, colleges have also taken action to post YouTube videos, offer connections with current students and staff, and continue to send out information and help.

Moreover, the National Association for College Admission Counseling has encouraged colleges to be more flexible with deadlines, such as a large number of schools moving their deposit deadline from May 1 to June 1.

With the continued coronavirus scare, colleges are striving to make the transition from in-person learning to online school as smoothly as possible, acknowledging that everyone is overcoming their own personal struggles as well.

VIEWPOINT

"Mom, Dad! Stop exploiting me online!"

By **GRACE GNAMOA**
Journalism Student

Ever since websites such as MySpace and Facebook became popular in the early 2000s, we have gone a long way in regards to social media. As more technology came out, it gave children access to the real world. The fear of their child exposing too much and getting hurt was, and still is, in every parent's head. Yet many parents found this as an opportunity to make their children celebrities, costing their children's happiness and dignity.

One example of exploitation is sharenting. Sharenting is the act of a parent sharing pictures

of their child online without the child's permission. In a video on sharenting, published by the New York Times, three minors of different ages confronted their mothers about the pictures that have been posted. Sixteen-year-old Zoya Garg explained to her mother how "someone out there could look at [my] body and think something of [me] that [I] wouldn't want them to think." Many parents think that teenagers care more about the embarrassing baby pictures with sauce on our faces, but we are just sitting in our diapers. It might be funny and cute to most of the followers, but "all it takes is one person and one hack and there goes all your privacy," says 18-year-old Elmer Gomez.

One recent example of exploitation is 14-year-old Danielle Cohn. Her fame started to rise around 2015 when lip-syncing application, Musical.ly, became popular. As the offers started to pile in, Cohn's mother, Jennifer Archambault, started to claim that her then nine-year-old daughter was 11. To play her fake age, she posts pictures of herself in lingerie, revealing

bathing suits and clothing on Instagram. The comments she receives does not stop Cohn and her mother.

Now, Cohn is an extremely controversial 'star.' After faking a pregnancy and a wedding, risking putting many innocent older boys in jail by dating them, her father finally exposed her. In September of 2019, her father, Dustin Cohn, wrote a long Face-

book post exposing his daughter's real age and all the things he has done to regain custody. "[I tried] to have it handled out of social media because I figured the system would work and keep my daughter safe," wrote Cohn in The Sun's article.

Mr. Cohn unsuccessfully tried to raise over \$30,000 to pay for all the court fees and extras. Cohn has been let down multiple times by the Los Angeles Police Department and Social Services.

As a society, it is time for us to make these changes. Parents should start realizing that their children have feelings. We need to protect all minors to avoid them from getting hurt by the awful people on the internet. If we don't do it, who will?

"Someone out there could look at [my] body and think something of [me] that [I] wouldn't want them to think."

VIEWPOINT

Trump isn't ending the apocolypse: he's causing it

By **MIA RESNICOW**
Staff Writer

It's been about four months since the first confirmed case of Covid-19 was discovered in Wuhan, China. The virus spread like wildfire across the globe, creating a pandemic, shutting down entire countries and forcing people to stay inside. Schools have closed, grocery stores have been raided, and even parks and beaches are now inaccessible to the public. For now, this is the world's new normal and during these hard times we look to leadership for guidance on how to keep us safe. We look to our president to inspire us, to help us out of these hard times, and what did he say? You're on your own.

In his defense, he has tried to use his authority to reopen America for business in an attempt to help the economy de-

spite what health professionals have been saying. Obviously, the country wasn't open by Easter as he had hoped because it wasn't up to him, although he thinks it was. Trump said in a press briefing on opening the country's economy, "When somebody's the President of the United States, the authority is total." He claims

only he has the power to reopen the country and that the states cannot do anything without him, even though that's exactly what they've been doing. The governors were the ones to enact the stay-at-home order and now the governors are forming a pact to decide when to reopen their economies, not the president.



PHOTO COURTESY OF POLITICO.COM

It sounds harsh, but Trump continues to justify not taking action, and a pandemic is not the time to have a lousy presidency. He continues to make problems worse just so he can throw a tantrum and take none of the blame. For example, the Treasury sent \$1,200 per person checks as a part of the recently passed stimulus bill, but that's just for those who have direct deposit. For those who are getting it in the mail, they will wait longer than expected since Trump insisted on them all having his signature in the check's memo line, which is completely unnecessary and unprecedented. This stunt is only keeping the checks from getting to Americans more quickly because the president wants all the credit as a campaigning technique.

Once again, in his defense, President Trump has also announced a three-step plan for opening up the states and it's

raising his approval rating, but when you look closely at the briefing, all he's doing is reading off a script. The plan leaves all the responsibility up to the states yet still manages to give Trump all the credit.

...completely unnessecary and unprecedented.

Look at who's leading our country: a man who doesn't understand democracy. His job is not to delegate work but to work alongside the governors, but instead he wants all the power and none of the responsibility. Yes, actions speak louder than words, but the words matter more when they come from the most powerful man in America. Words comfort, words motivate, and his words are misleading.



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Stuck in C



How Cougars taking advantage of quarantine

By FAITH LANE & MADDIE POMRINK
Senior Staff Writer & Staff Writer

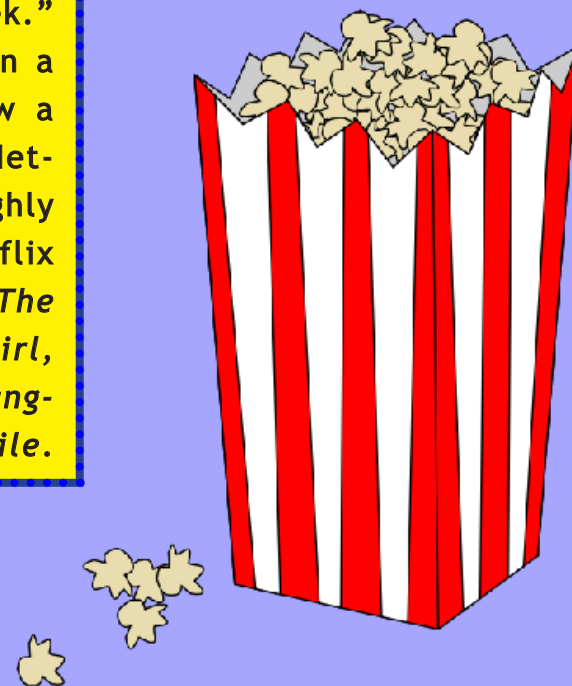
With everyone stuck in quarantine with nowhere to go, we thought we'd share a few insights into the lives of our Cougars. Many students are taking this time off to connect with their families and spend more time outdoors, like sophomore Izzy Romano, who has been "going on bike rides, hiking with her family, and helping [her] mom out by cooking dinner."

Freshman Jason Weber has been taking advantage of his time off by "running and watching Netflix."

Junior Michaela Belkin says, "During this time, I have been trying to keep myself busy by studying for the ACT, learning to cook, and working out as much as I can."

Cooking seems to be a common theme among Cougars, with senior Aaron Tavel trying to "bake a loaf of challah a week."

While our Cougars are spending their time in a variety of healthy and productive ways, we know a favorite pastime of many highschoolers is bingeing Netflix. Our Prowler staff has compiled a list of our highly recommended TV shows and movies available on Netflix for all Cougars to enjoy. Our favorite TV shows are *The Office*, *All American*, *Stranger Things* and *Gossip Girl*, and our favorite movies are *Incredibles 2*, *The Hangover*, and *Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile*.



Quarantine



All we need is *Some Good News*

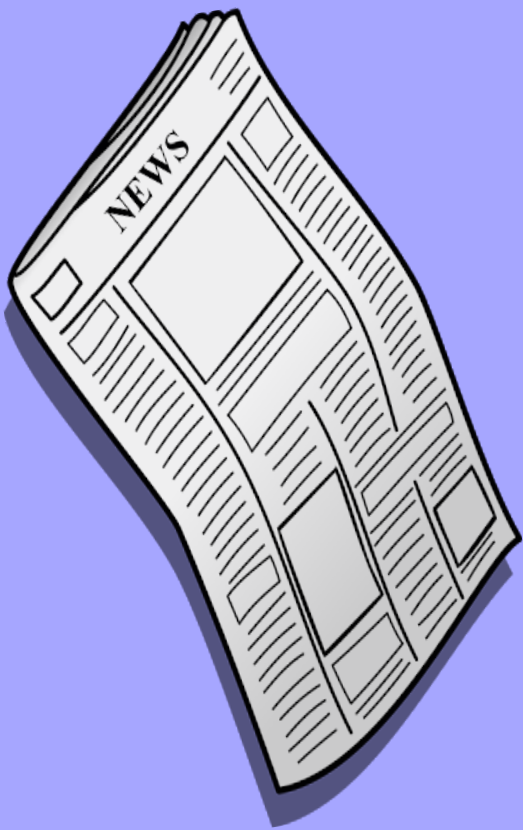
By ANNA SOYKAN
Staff Writer

During this unprecedented time, one looks at the news and only sees devastating headlines. However, people want to see what good is still being done in the world to bring happiness during these dark times. According to Google Trends, the search “good news” has spiked in the last month and a half. Many groups, from Instagram accounts to large corporations, have been trying to help spread the good news. Actor John Krasinski has added to the growing demand by creating “Some Good News,” a YouTube channel that only posts good news.

From his home office, Krasinski has uploaded five videos as of April 29, averaging 16 minutes long, posting his first episode on March 29. Within a week, the channel surpassed 1.5 million subscribers. Stories include how everyone is helping contribute to the fight against COVID-19, staying entertained, and starting online school. The episodes also include guest stars such as the cast of *Hamilton*, actor Steve Carell, sports commentator Joe Buck, and local nurses.

The first upload shares the good news that Krasinski’s followers submitted online. He also gave thanks to everyone putting their health at risk, sharing videos of people around the world showing their appreciation. Steve Carell guest-starred, celebrating the 15th anniversary of *The Office*, which Carrell starred in along with Krasinski. Then, to finish off the show, cancer survivor Courtney “Coco” Johnson was interviewed after her friends and family surprised her with signs, clapping, and waving as she arrived home after finishing chemotherapy.

The second video starts off with Krasinski taking into consideration the constructive criticism of the show such as creating a new intro and other people making videos similar to his. He then highlights how everyone from “huge corporations to local pizza shops” was helping out in the resupply and manufacturing of important medical gear. Next, teachers are shown not letting quarantine stop them from being there for their students. Lastly, an interview with a little girl who couldn’t go see her favorite musical *Hamilton* turned into a performance from the entire cast. In episode three, “Baseball is Back,” Krasinski shares clips of how people are missing the start of baseball season. Krasinski surprises a group of medical staff by taking them to Fenway Park, letting them throw the first pitch, and displayed on the jumbotron the entire Redsocks team, with the Boston Mayor and Massachusetts Governor clapping. AT&T paired with “Some Good News”, covering all health workers’ bills in America for the next three months. In the most recent episodes, astronauts from the International Space Station made an appearance as well as celebrities from the food industry such as Martha Stewart and Guy Fieri. Junior Masha Klochkova explained in an interview over Facetime: “I think it’s great he is spreading good news in a stressful time.” In the trying time, John Krasinski’s new channel is helping supply to the new demand for good news!





Why we celebrate AAPIHM: Asian students' perspectives on the immigrant experience

By **ZOE BELL**
Editor-in-Chief

April showers bring May flowers, and also the start of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AAPIHM). May is significant because both the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States and the anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad fall within this month. With about 18.2 million Asian Americans living in the US today, and an onslaught of racist attacks on Chinese-Americans amid the current global pandemic, it is more important than ever to talk about AAPIHM.

Today, Asian Americans are seen as “model minorities,” the most successful US demographic. According to Harvard Business Review, they are more highly educated and have higher median incomes than any other racial group. But this path to success wasn't easy.

“We need to keep in mind the obstacles that our ancestors had to overcome to be in this country,” said junior Monica Chen. “Many of them left their families and friends to

come here for a better life and new opportunities. We should never forget [their] struggles.”

Similarly, senior Kano Nakatsu's parents are first-generation Japanese immigrants who experienced what it is like to uproot everything and leave their home country.

“My parents immigrated to the United States before I was born,” said Nakatsu. “They struggled a lot since they could not speak English at all. Since they started out from nothing, it was difficult to obtain a sta-

ble lifestyle.”

Along with their families, Asian immigrants brought traditional foods, languages, ideals, holidays, and beliefs to the US. In fact, there are over 40 thousand Chinese restaurants in our country (triple the number of McDonald's locations), according to the New York Times.

Chen, who grew up in China, speaks Mandarin and enjoys eating spicy Chinese food while also being integrated into American culture. She es-

pecially appreciates the “rich culture” of Asia, such as the emphasis of respecting one's elders.

Likewise, freshman Maximus Seo, who is Korean-American, realizes the importance of celebrating AAPIHM. “We [need to] understand how differently everyone acts and how diverse America is,” he said.

Unfortunately, young children, particularly elementary school students, sometimes make fun of their classmates

who look different or falsely assume every Asian is from China. This could change for the better if more emphasis were placed on education, particularly focused on diversity and cultural differences.

“Many people often categorize Asians into one group as Chinese,” Nakatsu said. “It hurts to be considered a different ethnicity when I am not.”

Of course, as we grow more aware of the world around us, we realize that Asia is an entire continent, each country home to a unique culture. “Each country has their own language, tradition, and culture,” said assistant principal Edith Lee.

Lee, who hosts the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Committee, was involved in planning a school assembly along with a group of students, which would have taken place on May 1. These plans included a week of providing samples of Asian foods in the courtyard and having various music and dance performances by Asian students in an assembly. Unfortunately, with the continuation of school closures in Maryland, it looks like we may have to wait until next year.



IMAGE COURTESY OF ASIANPACIFICHERITAGE.GOV

Xenophobia sparks as COVID-19 spreads across the globe

By **STACY SHIN**
Staff Writer

Panic. Confusion. Fear. The spread of COVID-19 has circulated these three things across the globe. But along with the fear spreads something much worse: racism and xenophobia.

Ever since the COVID-19 breakout, many individuals across the country have been stigmatized because of their Asian background, particularly the Chinese-American community.

Many Chinese restaurants and businesses are suffering because Americans wrongly assume these Chinese restaurants are more likely to be infested with COVID-19. In Montgomery County, the well-known Peter Chang restaurant in Rockville has seen a 50% drop in sales, Sichuan Jin River in Rockville has seen a 35% drop in sales, and Lanzhou Hand Pull Noodle in Gaithersburg has seen a 30% drop in sales since January, according to the Washington Post article “Amid coronavirus fears, Chinese restaurants report a drop in business” published in February 14, 2020 (before they were shutdown). It specified that Chinese restaurants in particular were hurt by the outbreak. The Washington Post also wrote that, “in Chinatowns from London to Boston to San Fran-

cisco, business owners and restaurateurs have reported sharp sales declines in the weeks since Chinese officials identified the novel coronavirus.” If this continues, many Chinese restaurants and businesses will have to close down because of their lack of customers.

Unfortunately, this demographic is not the only one negatively impacted by the stigma. Many Asian Americans, not just Chinese, are experiencing public assault, both verbally and physically, in which they're blamed for spreading the virus. The New York Times interviewed a 26-year-

old Asian American, Yuanyuan Zhu, in which she describes a man spitting and yelling at her while she was walking to the gym on the streets of New York City. According to PBS, Asian architect Jeni Erbes-Chan in New York had a man yell at her saying her people “brought the virus” and she should “go back to China.”

Many more like them are afraid of going out in fear of being attacked because of their ethnicity. Quince Orchard junior Isabela Magpantay, a Filipino-American, said she feels she has to “be extra careful if I want to cough or sneeze”

because she feels that “everyone is so much more sensitive to that stuff since I am Asian.”

Our own president calling COVID-19 the “Chinese virus” did not help matters. Multiple Asian-American advocacy organizations claimed it worsened circumstances by putting a geographic location on the virus, provoking more racist attacks towards Asian-Americans. Luckily, after receiving backlash for calling COVID-19 the Chinese virus, President Trump claimed “it is very important we protect our Asian American community in the United States...the spread-

ing of the virus is NOT their fault” in a series of tweets.

Thankfully, many people have not fallen into the hole of racism despite these scary times. Asian Americans are sharing their racist encounters and are coming together with non-Asian Americans to fight the spark in xenophobia on the popular social media app Twitter. The hashtag “#Iamnotavirus” became trending among the Asian American community.

Well-known member of the YouTube channel “The Try Guys” Eugene Lee Yang, a Korean American, received 828 thousand likes on a tweet in which he described himself confronting a lady for the irrationality of demanding her drink be remade because her barista was Asian.

Former presidential candidate Bernie Sanders tweeted that “Trump and his allies are stoking anti-Chinese bigotry in response to the coronavirus pandemic. We cannot tolerate this kind of racism—especially at this moment.”

Even famous actor Mark Ruffalo directly called out President Trump on Twitter after calling it the “Chinese virus,” saying that “when you make these unscientific political statements, some of your followers begin to act violently and in exclusionary, xenophobic ways against these people.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF VOX.COM

On March 12, 2020, Asian American leaders in Massachusetts denounced racism sparked by the coronavirus.



The Broadway industry takes its own intermission

By ASHLEIGH GORDON
Editor-in-Chief

What was once a city full of bright lights, loud sounds, and the buzz of tourists has since become a dark, quiet, ghost town. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's restriction on large gatherings to help battle the coronavirus pandemic has led to the closure of all Broadway theaters in New York City, affecting so much of what the "city that never sleeps" is known for.

Tony nominee Rob McClure had just begun previews for *Mrs. Doubtfire* when the news was announced. In an interview with Broadway.com, McClure revealed his feelings by explaining how "audiences were cheering and tearful. It was the best we could hope for. The stage door was madness, so exciting. And then the rug was pulled out from under it."

This loss of control spread through all of the many shows, leading some to turn off the lights for the final time. *Beetlejuice*, popularized by the ever-addictive video-sharing app TikTok, was set to close on June 6. Unfortunately when the announcement came that shows will not resume until June 7, the entire cast and crew of *Beetlejuice* had to accept that their last performance unknowingly had already taken place.

QO senior Jonah Schwartz, a fan of musical theatre, pointed out that, while the "shutdown is absolutely necessary to keep audiences and artists safe from the virus, Broadway and the live theater industry as a whole is taking a huge hit from the halt in revenue."

Prior to the shutdown, Broadway had been booming like never before.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCALL

According to The Broadway League, the national trade association for the Broadway industry in New York, the 2018-2019 season was the highest grossing and most attended season in history. Broadway productions grossed a total of \$1.83 billion, with attendance reaching 14.77 million. Broadway relies heavily on tourism, and the fear of contracting the illness is likely to lower the numbers of visitors to New York City from around the country and more importantly, the world.

However, many organizations are

continuing to have optimistic outlooks on the future of Broadway. Broadway.com wrote a COVID-19 update, bringing light to the irony in Broadway's motto, "the show must go on."

"When this unexpected intermission comes to an end - and, make no mistake, it will come to an end - we'll once again... laugh, cry, and cheer together in unison... We can't wait to pick up right where we left off!"

Schwartz also aims to remain positive. "For seniors going into college for

musical theatre such as myself, this period of time can be very daunting, since the community you have committed to being a part of is struggling insurmountably," he said. "However, nobody can handle true anguish like theatre people can. Broadway's biggest stars continue to stay positive, belting their faces off on Instagram live until their neighbors file a noise complaint: similar to how I've been dealing with things."

Future of film industry uncertain in midst of COVID-19

By MATTHEW MINTON
Staff Writer

With the spread of COVID-19, nearly every walk of life has been impacted in one way or another. From school closings around the world, uncertainty regarding the upcoming 2020 election and unemployment rates rising, it's unclear when this global pandemic will come to an end.

COVID-19's impact has also been stretched to something that many people view as ordinary and not a necessity: going to the movies. The experience of sitting back, eating popcorn and having a night out with friends at the movies was intended to be a fun, relaxing experience; nowadays, it's just not possible anymore. Although missing out on this experience may not be regarded as a life-or-death situation by many people, it could be for chains like AMC and Regal that depend on theater attendance for revenue. With movie theaters around the world not open for business, and no sure-fire conclusion on COVID-19, how is the film industry already being impacted, and what will the long-term repercussions be?

While these questions may not have clear and conclusive answers at the moment, some of the impacts on the film industry can already be seen. According to Sky News, films previously scheduled for release starting on March 20 have been postponed to future release dates: *A Quiet Place 2*, *Mulan*, *Black Widow*, *No Time to Die* and *The French Dispatch* are just some of the titles that have already been delayed.

"I was really looking forward to *Black Widow*, so I'm a bit sad that it was delayed," said senior William Lamphier. "It's for good reason that movie theaters are closed, but I'm sad I won't get to ex-



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL NEWS

perience the movies right now."

Films being delayed creates a domino effect as more and more movies are being pushed back. In order to not overcrowd release dates and uncertainty regarding when production on films will be possible again, certain films slated for 2021 like *Thor: Love and Thunder* and *Indiana Jones 5* have already been pushed back to 2022. Big franchises like Marvel, where each new installment is dependent on the last, means every film in the franchise will be delayed and affected, not just one.

Furthermore, not only are movies originally slated for release being affected by COVID-19, but so are movies that were already in production. According to

Deadline, highly anticipated films such as *The Batman* and *Mission: Impossible 7* have had to pause filming until further notice, meaning these films will probably not make their originally intended release dates of June 25, 2021 and July 23, 2021, respectively.

Due to no source of income coming in for movie theaters, the big question remains of whether movie theater chains will be able to survive. As the digital age has taken over our world in recent years with streaming services providing entertainment without ever having to leave the house, could this mark the death of the movie-going experience for good?

"I definitely think theater attendance

will be substantially lower even after they reopen," said senior Luke Clarke. "But overall I don't think this will be the death of theaters: it may just make them a much smaller market."

"I would kill to go see a movie right now," said senior Noah Clarke. "Obviously they have to stay closed, but I really miss the experience." Clarke feels more optimistic about the future of movie theaters, though. "I wouldn't be surprised if the theaters just get flooded when everything reopens; people are going to want to go out and do stuff."

Even though the future of the film industry is uncertain, as is much at this time, there is something about the movie-going experience that is special for many people. For those who prefer the movie-going experience, hopefully the lights will dim and the projector will start rolling at least one more time.

"I'm sad I won't get to experience the movies right now."

- William Lamphier



Demeioun ‘Chop’ Robinson commmits to UMD

By **BEN STROBER**
Staff Writer

The suspense was over. The news QO sports fans had been waiting to hear for months now finally was revealed on Friday, March 27. Four-star recruit—and number one-ranked weak-side defensive end in the nation—junior Demeioun “Chop” Robinson decided where he will commit to play college football. Robinson’s staying home, and will continue his athletic career at College Park.

Robinson had over 40 different offers from schools, including some of the top schools in the nation such as Alabama, Clemson, and Penn State. However, the Montgomery County Defensive Player of the Year is going to play for his home state at the University of Maryland.

Maryland Football’s head coach Mike Locksley has made it his ultimate goal to recruit players from the Washington, DC metropolitan area to stay home and play for Maryland. This was a huge win for him and his “DMV2UMD” movement. Since Robinson’s commitment, multiple other players from the DMV have also announced they will be committing to play at Maryland.

When asked what led Robinson to this decision, he explained it was a part of something bigger. “Why go be a part of something big somewhere else when you can make a difference right at home?” he said. Robinson emphasized his plan to help build the football program at Maryland to greatness. Since their move from the ACC to the Big 10, Maryland has been below average in conference play against the bigger schools. Robinson wants to be a part of the change to making Maryland



PHOTO COURTESY OF TWITTER.COM

into a team that competes for Big 10 championships.

Robinson will be a huge addition for the Terps. In the 2019 season, Robinson broke the Quince Orchard High School season sack record with an astonishing 14 sacks. “He’s one of the best edge rushers in Maryland history,” Robinson’s coach

John Kelley said.

The most impressive part of Robinson’s game is mostly the elite speed he possesses while being 6’3” and 220 pounds. His footwork and use of his shoulder is unlike many have seen. He uses his speed and strength to blow past offensive tackles and pressure the quarterback.

This will be key to Maryland’s success.

In the coming years, Robinson has many goals he is determined to reach. “First off, I have one more year at QO, where it’s my goal to win another state championship for my school,” he said. Robinson also could very likely break the school all-time sack record in the next season. At Maryland, Robinson’s goals are to “prove everyone wrong” about coach Locksley and the team and to also “win a BIG 10 championship.” As an athlete, Robinson will have his doubters: it’s up to him to silence them all with his and his team’s success.

“Why go be a part of something big somewhere else when you can make a difference right at home?”

- Demeioun Robinson

Lastly, Robinson hopes to continue Locksley’s movement by letting other players in the DMV know “there’s no need to go somewhere far when you can make a big impact in your own city.”

With his college football career still a year away from beginning, Robinson will continue to work hard to improve himself and prepare for the next chapter of his football career. Maryland definitely got a special player on their hands in Demeioun Robinson.

The Draft must go on

Recap of the NFL’s first ever Virtual Draft

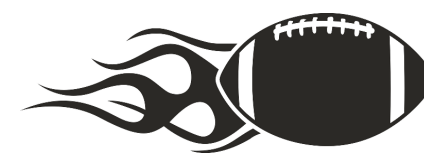


PHOTO COURTESY OF LATIMES.COM

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell holds the draft virtually from his own home due to social distancing requirements.

By **LILY STEWART**
Staff Writer

In this season of coronavirus, the NFL Draft has had to adapt to the new lockdown and social distancing measures. The ESPN team pulled it off with few problems.

Since this is a tough time for many Americans, they decided to include an underlying message of “Spreading Hope through Sports”. The draft opened with a monologue narrated by former NFL star, Peyton Manning. He spoke about how

sports brings new hope to communities and said that we will all get through this as not only fans but also as a nation. They included many videos from current players and staff thanking the first responders for all they do.

In order to keep it entertaining, the broadcast included tons of graphics and side-by-side player comparisons to keep people’s attention and spark conversations. The NFL wanted to make the Draft feel as normal as possible, so they had fifteen fans from every team cheering via Zoom as their team’s pick was announced.

Many of the fans decided to Boo Commissioner Roger Goodell since it has almost become a tradition. Bud Light even had a commercial where they introduced the hashtag #boothecommish.

It was no surprise that Joe Burrow, a quarterback from Louisiana State University (LSU), was the first overall pick. The Bengals, along with the rest of the college football world, have had their eye on him as he put up record-breaking stats last season.

The second pick overall was Chase Young, a defensive end from Ohio State,

who will be going to the Redskins. Both of these players will be returning to their home teams, as Burrow grew up in southeastern Ohio and Young grew up right here in Maryland. There was also another hometown pick when Atlanta decided to take A.J. Terrell, a cornerback from Clemson.

The third overall pick made the draft really interesting. The Lions decided to take cornerback Jeff Okudah from Ohio State. If you follow college football closely, you would know that Burrow was at Ohio State for three years before entering the transfer portal and going to LSU. This means that the first three draft picks were teammates on the 2017 Ohio State team. It is very rare that the top three picks were all college teammates.

This draft was the first time, in the common draft era, that three quarterbacks were taking in the top six picks. Tua Tagovailoa from Alabama and Justin Herbert from Oregon were picks #5 and #6.

Another fun factor was the trades that were made. As the draft went on, it was looking like no teams were going to trade spots, which would have been a major shocker. However, Tampa ended up trading with San Francisco for one spot higher, which was odd. Also, the Patriots traded their first-round pick to the Chargers for their Round Two and Three picks. At the last minute, Green Bay traded their pick to Miami, giving them three first round picks.

Overall, this draft was one for the history books. Since it was a virtual draft, we got to see the coaches and General Managers’ adorable kids and witness some amazing and heartfelt reactions, along with some surprising picks.



Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympic Games postponed

By **BEN FLEISCHER**
Senior Staff Writer

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, Japan have been postponed for the first time in the games' history, to the summer of 2021. This change is only the fourth time since the first modern Olympics were held in 1896 that the Games have been affected due to outside forces. The other three times were cancellations during the first and second World Wars. The Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games will now take place on July 23, 2021.

The 2021 Olympic Games will now take place from July 23 to August 8. These Games will offer five new events that have been added at the request of the Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee: Baseball/Softball, Karate, Skateboarding, Sport Climbing, and Surfing.

Additionally, there are going to be 165 events for men, 156 for women, and 18 mixed or open events. Tokyo is on track to be the most gender-balanced Olympic Games yet, with a predicted 48.2% participation by women.

The first modern Summer Olympics were held in Athens, Greece in 1896 with 14 countries participating, and they have been held at least every 4 years since; except for during WWI and WWII. The US has hosted the Games, summer and winter, a combined 8 times in St. Louis, Los Angeles (twice), Lake Placid (twice), Squaw Valley, Atlanta, and Salt Lake City. The ninth is soon to come with the LA Summer Olympics in 2028.

These games next year in Japan

will be the country's fourth time hosting the Games, previously hosting one other summer games and two other winter games.

The Opening Ceremonies that will take place next year are anticipated to be the most watched ever, with billions of people expected to tune in to celebrate.

The Tokyo Games are also said to be the most innovative to date, bringing positive reform to the world by building on three core concepts: Achieving Personal Best ("Striving for your personal best"), Unity in Diversity ("Accepting one another"), and Connecting to Tomorrow ("Passing on Legacy for the future"). Japan is ensuring that these core concepts are shown through every aspect of the Games, especially through their motto, "United by Emotion."

While the world does have to wait another year for these Games to be here, the wait is looking like it is going to be worth it.

The Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games will now take place on July 23, 2021.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

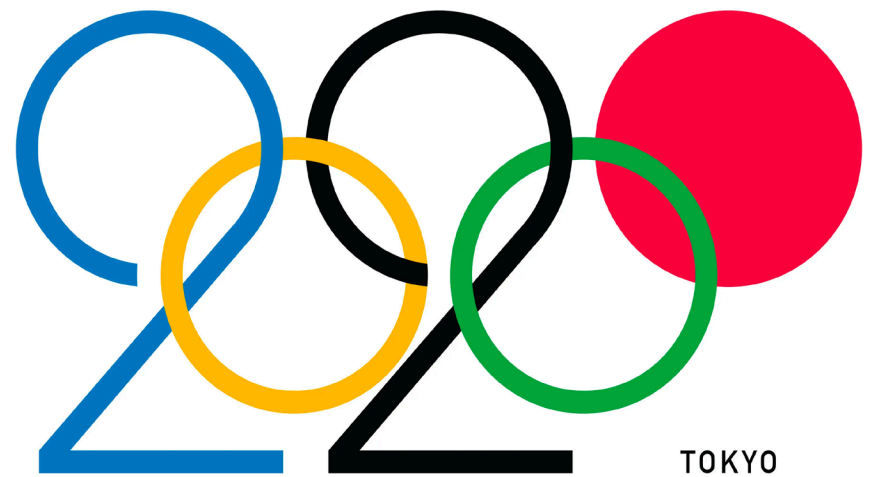


IMAGE COURTESY OF SNOPE.COM

Virtual is the new reality

NBA, NHL simulate games to replace cancelled matches due to COVID-19

By **KENDALL LUMSDEN**
Staff Writer

Video games: an important aspect of modern pop culture. You can commonly find teenagers using them as an excuse to procrastinate homework, laundry, or anything else they are asked to do. But how often do you see them being live streamed on television with commentary by fifty-year-olds?

Take-Two Interactive's NBA 2K20 and EA Sports' NHL 20 are being used to simulate one-hour games following the existing Washington Capitals and Washington Wizards schedules. The simulations are being broadcast on NBC Sports Washington in place of previously scheduled events, which were cancelled due to COVID-19. The games feature commentary from regular announcers, which increases the life-like nature of the situation.

Sophomore Adam Gotkin recalls the production of these simulations as "very odd". He explains that the Capitals simulations get actual play-by-play commentary, but the Wizards games use the "bland" 2K commentation. He also recognizes that there isn't really room for improvement because there isn't really that much they can do about it.

In an interview with NBCSW, Senior Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and General Manager of Monumental Sports Network Zach Leonsis understands the disappointment from fans that they are unable to watch their favorite teams every night, and he hopes that "these fun and engaging video game simulations will entertain our fans and help provide a greater sense of normalcy during these



PHOTO COURTESY OF NHL.COM

challenging times." NBCSW Senior Vice President & General Manager Damon Phillips also believes that "if the video game version of Bradley Beal and Alex Ovechkin live up to their real-life counterparts, fans should be in for a fun experience."

Gotkin didn't believe the simulations successfully represented how the teams would play in real life due to the fact that the Wizards were winning these games and "as much of a Wiz fan as I am, we are horrible and wouldn't win."

The virtual Capitals pulled off a 5-3

win over the St. Louis Blues in their first virtual reality game on March 24. The game included a Nicklas Backstrom hat trick and an exciting third period that led the team to their first virtual game victory. Gotkin describes the Backstrom goal as his "favorite moment" as it included a "funny" post-game interview with the real-life player about his artificial hat trick.

Since then, the artificial intelligence version of 2018 Stanley Cup champions have continued their digital season undefeated. The Stanley Cup playoffs were

scheduled to begin (in real life) mid-April.

"I can't wait for sports to get back to normal," Gotkin explains. "I've never wanted something more in my life. I'd take a playoff drought of thirty years for each of my favorite teams if it meant sports were back to normal."

The future is unknown for sports and daily life in general, so fans have been enjoying reruns of memorable games and celebration parades, hoping to be able to experience more moments like them in the future.



COVID-19 Sports Cancellations: Perspectives of Seniors

By **BEN STROBER**
Staff Writer

Dear seniors,

Although your final season may have been cancelled due to the coronavirus, there are still many great moments in your careers to reflect on. Moments spent with your team are always going to be a memory for the rest of your lifetime. We at *The Prowler* are deeply saddened by the events that occurred this spring and have had many of our own staff lose their final season. We feel your pain! Here are some reflections by seniors on each of the spring sports teams.

BOYS LACROSSE

Will Spano '20

"I'm going to miss going out on the field every day and playing with my boys. It feels bad to lose my senior season, but I'm thankful for the memories I had my first 3 seasons with QO Lacrosse."

GIRLS LACROSSE

Zene Howard '20

"I was looking forward to a great final season with the team. Never take things like these for granted! I'll miss everyone and all my fellow laxers the most."

SOFTBALL

Aniko Alexander '20

"It was really disappointing to have the season cut short like this, especially since it was my last one. But I know the team will come back stronger than ever next year and that they're going to do great things. Playing for QO softball will always be my favorite memory from high school!"

BASEBALL

Griffin Snyder '20

"I'll never forget the times I had playing baseball here at QO. I'll miss Gasaway the most and throwing across the diamond."

BOYS TENNIS

Eric Blackman '20

"It sucks to not get to have your senior season. I always had lots of fun on QO tennis and I'll never forget the memories I made."

GIRLS TENNIS

Hanna Chan '20

"It's a huge bummer that we lost our final season...because that means no more Dunkin' runs before matches...no senior night to have my family and friends walk me down, even if it lasted for a few minutes. I'm going to miss the team bonding the most; I loved having something to look forward to..."

TRACK & FIELD

Kyra Lyles '20

"I can't believe it's over! All the time running here at QO has been amazing. Can't wait for the next chapter of my career."

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Joshua Lum '20

"I am very disappointed about the loss of the season, especially as a senior because this could be the last time I play volleyball."

COED VOLLEYBALL

Lena Mastracci '20

"I am definitely disappointed that my final season ended so quickly. I'll miss the chance to play with my sister, who is a freshmen this year, and senior night with my amazing teammates. I'm so thankful for the experiences I've had and friends I've made playing the last couple of years."

VIEWPOINT

Jantzen's Journal: My time on *The Prowler*

By **JANTZEN FOCHT**
Editor-in-Chief

It is August of 2016. The warm winds of an autumn day pass over me as I sit on my porch, watching *Pardon the Interruption* on my phone. In what has become a daily routine for me during the past few weeks of summer, I have gotten accustomed to two things in my life: watching ESPN for long stretches of the day while drinking Kool-Aid, and being constantly asked about my future by my family.

At this point in my life, like many freshmen, I have seriously no clue what I want to do with myself. I kind of have the idea that I may want to do physical therapy as an occupation as an adult, but I'm not sold on it yet. Then, as I sit down

to enjoy my flavored drink, my mom asks me, "Well, what extracurriculars may you want to do?" At first, my mind darts to athletics, but as I look into the screen on my lap, I envision a different life involving sports. That fall, I would make one of the best decisions of my life, and take Newspaper Journalism to become a sports journalist for *The Prowler*.

Fast forward three years later, and I have become the Editor-in-Chief of the sports section, and have accomplished all the goals that I set for myself. In my time here, I've covered numerous newsworthy events, from the Cougars winning the State Championship, to the Nats' long-awaited World Series run. Yet, as I sit here, writing what will be my last piece as a *Prowler* journalist, I am most happy that I was able to connect with my

community, and showcase the lives of the athletes that we as a school cherish.

For some, high school will be the last time they ever step onto a field or court, and to give an in-depth look into their lives and tell their wonderful stories is what this profession is all about. Especially considering that this spring, so many of our world's high school athletes missed out on their season, I loved that I was able to showcase their talents for the past three years. Whether you were an avid reader of mine, or just read a few of my articles, I hope that my writing in some way made you laugh, smile, or helped to get you through your day.

As a guy growing up loving every aspect of sports, obsessing over my sports heroes, and knowing a plethora of useless sports trivia facts, *The Prowler* gave me

the opportunity to explore my passion for all to enjoy. I sincerely thank everyone, including the staff I have worked with, my past EICs, and Ms. Cooley-Klein, for taking me under their wings, and shaping me into the journalist I am today. With everyone's help, I was able to hone my raw potential into the craft I currently write and report with today.

If you are interested in reporting the news surrounding QO, working with your community, or even writing editorials regarding your opinions on the world, I strongly suggest writing for this publication. It's certainly been worthwhile for me, and led me on the pathway towards becoming a better writer, but more importantly, a better informed and connected citizen. It's been an awesome three years, QO.