

THE PROWLER

Quince Orchard High School — 15800 Quince Orchard Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878 —   @qohs_prowler

Amy Coney Barrett confirmed to Supreme Court

By RILEY SMITH
Staff Writer

After much dispute and criticism, Amy Coney Barrett was confirmed to the Supreme Court on October 6, filling the vacancy that was left following the passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. With a nearly complete partisan line vote of 52-48, Republican Senator Susan Collins of Maine was the only senator to cross party lines and vote against the confirmation.

Barrett is a former Professor of Law at Notre Dame Law School and was nominated by President Trump in 2017 to serve on the Seventh Circuit Court, where she has presided up until her nomination to the Supreme Court in September of 2020. Barrett's nomination was filled with controversy from the beginning, especially since the mostly maskless event at the White House for her nomination was a likely coronavirus superspreader event in which the President, former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, Senator Mike Lee, and many other notable figures caught COVID-19.

Democrats tried to prevent the nomination, with their main concern being that whoever won the 2020 presidential election should pick the justice to fill Ginsburg's seat. However,

Senate Republicans argued that as long as President Trump is in office, he has the constitutional authority to nominate a new justice to the court, no matter how close to an election they are. Especially considering how the Republicans shut down President Obama's nomination of Merrick Garland in March of 2016, Democrats were adamant to do the same, using Republicans' words against them. Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina said during the nomination process of Merrick Garland: "I want you to use my words against me. If there's a Republican president in 2016 and a vacancy occurs in the last year of the first term, you can say Lindsey Graham said let's let the next president, whoever it might be, make that nomination."

Justice Barrett self-identifies much with former conservative-leaning Supreme Court justice and constitutional originalist Antonin Scalia, for whom she clerked in the past. Because of this, many Democrats fear that from her nomination legal precedents such as the Affordable Care Act, Roe vs. Wade, and even the federal legality of gay marriage may be under threat. Formerly, with Justice Ginsburg, the court consisted of five justices nominated by Republicans and four nominated by Democrats. Now, with the confirmation of Barrett, the court stands with just three justices

nominated by Democratic presidents and the other six by Republicans.

Another point of contention has been Barrett's religious views. Although President-Elect Biden, a Catholic himself, has stated that her Catholic faith "should not be considered during the confirmation process," the religious group that Barrett belongs to, People of Praise, believes men are the head of a household and rejects gay men and women. Back in 2017, when the Senate was questioning Barrett for her spot on the Seventh Circuit Court, Senator Dianne Feinstein (D) stated when

questioning Barrett's faith, "The dogma lives loudly within you."

While many have hypothesized about how Barrett will rule and what influence she will have on the court, it is difficult to draw many definite conclusions on her judicial positions, as she served less than three years on the Seventh Circuit Court before being nominated to the Supreme Court. Barrett being President Trump's third pick for the Supreme Court also displays maybe one of the most powerful and lasting actions a president can take nominate a Supreme Court justice that will serve on the bench for years to come. With the question of court packing up in the air for the Biden administration, President Elect Biden has said that he wishes to put together "a national commission of bipartisan commission scholars," who will after 180 days come back to him with recommendations on how to reform the court system. Yet, it is still greatly unclear as to whether the President-elect will add seats to the court in order to restore its ideological balance, which hasn't been done since 1869.



Continuation of AP score analysis QO's AP scores and class admission requirements

By MADDY FREEDMAN
Senior Staff Writer

In the previous issue, we compared QO's AP exam scores to the state and global levels. But what do these findings really mean for QO?

Just last year, 2,622 AP tests were taken by QO students, with 61% (or roughly 1,599 students) earning a passing score of a 3 or higher. Now for any school, a passing score of over 50% should seem good, but when you look deeper into the breakdown of these scores we can notice some problems.

Starting with the highest enrolled AP class we have at QO, AP Language & Composition (casually known as 'AP Lang'). This class had 320 students, mostly juniors and some seniors, take the AP test last year, the equivalent of more than half of the entire junior class. However, the average AP score for this class last spring was a 2.73. Making the average not only below a passing grade but also 0.42% lower than the state's average and 0.23% lower than the global average. So why does QO allow so many kids to take this course?

To take AP Lang or any AP English

course at QO, all you need is a teacher recommendation. However, even if a student can't get that, a simple note from a parent saying they want their child in an AP English class is enough to switch. This relatively easy prerequisite — allowing almost anyone to enroll in an AP class — is reflected in the relatively low exam scores.

"There aren't enough options for students. Their only choice is Honors or AP [English]. If we had three levels, it would offer more opportunities for students to participate at a class that's appropriate for their learning," said AP English Language teacher Andrea Lo, after seeing the breakdown of the AP Lang scores.

After reaching out to Elicia Eberhart-Bliss, the head of the English department, for a further explanation of why the AP English classes are set up this way, she explained that: "The QO English Department's mission is to develop our students into independent learners who can communicate effectively, examine critically, explore openly, and engage empathetically," and how they do this is by "strongly encouraging students to enroll in AP English classes their junior and senior years regardless of their previous

grades in other English classes."

QO's policy allowing students to take AP English as long as there is a teacher recommendation seems to directly correlate to the scores, and that impact can be seen when comparing QO to other schools.

Looking at Winston Churchill High School, we can see that they had 343 kids take the AP Lang exam, which, although higher than QO's amount, can be attested to their larger population of students attending the school. Nonetheless, if you look at their breakdown of the AP Lang scores from last year, only 19% of students scored a 2 or lower, making their number of students passing 81%, while QO was only at a 56% passing rate.

With almost a 30-point difference in passing percentages, an anonymous senior student at Churchill said, "Our school definitely weighs the students' capabilities when seeing if they are

"There aren't enough options for students. Their only choice is Honors or AP [English]."

- Andrea Lo

prepared to take an AP course, and if they aren't, it's hard to switch into one." Churchill's policy results in higher scores but is more restrictive in terms of who can take an AP class.

Trends like this can be seen in a number of AP classes at QO: the rate of enrollment is very high, prerequisites are low, and test scores are average or somewhat below average compared to both global and state averages.

Yet we can see the exact opposite in QO's AP classes with smaller enrollment rates and more prerequisites required, like AP AB and BC Calculus. These classes range from 50-70 students, and those who take the class must maintain a certain GPA, take prerequisite classes, and, if they are not recommended but want to be in the class, have an appeal meeting. With a much higher bar to take a class like AP AB Calculus, the passing rate of QO students who take the exam is closer to 99%.

Trends like this don't just take place in the English and math department. The head of the science department, Jennifer Yeck, did not comment in time for the publication deadline.

News

Extra! Extra! All the election news you need!

PAGE 2

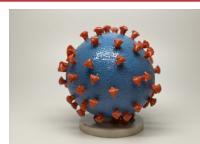


BEVERLY & PACK

Features

Read about QO student experiences with COVID-19

PAGE 5



NIH

Sports

See how Maryland Football is performing in the Big 10

PAGE 11



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

2020 Election Breakdown

By MIA RESNICOW and JAY MOTIWALA
Senior Staff Writers

Election Day in 2020 has turned into more of an election week, as the race was called in a matter of five days, instead of the typical singular night. The path leading to the results has been filled with controversy, anxiety, and faces constantly glued to the TV. Although, the American public knows one thing for sure. A winner has been declared for this election. How did we get here?

November 3 -

The night everyone had been looking forward to. Or dreading. Or completely ignoring. Election Night 2020.

President Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden both started off strong, each capturing their projected "safety" states before the night ended. Oklahoma, Alabama, Mississippi, and other historically red states were quickly claimed by President Trump, while Vice President Biden garnered electoral votes from California, Maryland, Delaware, and more. Democrats felt a twang of disappointment as potential swing states Florida and Texas were both called for President Trump that same night.

Election Day ended with speeches from both Vice President Joe Biden and President Donald Trump.

Biden told his supporters and the American people to "keep the faith"; meanwhile, Trump claimed he "frankly did win" the election and argued to stop the counting of votes in states where they hadn't finished counting yet, like Pennsylvania and Michigan.

November 4 -

The states still left to be called were Wisconsin, Michigan, North Carolina, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Nevada, and Alaska. Wisconsin was the first of the aforementioned states to be called, with its electoral votes heading to Biden. Michigan soon followed swiftly, also going to Biden. President Trump took to Twitter in a fury, claiming without stating evidence that the mail in ballots counted after election day were illegal and that he would be taking legal action against these states. The leads for President Trump in the rest of the states started to decline due to new mail-in ballots being counted, and the majority of those mail-in ballots were votes for Biden.

November 5 -

Biden gained leads in Arizona and Nevada, while still trailing behind in Pennsylvania, Georgia, North Carolina, and Alaska. At that time, Biden could have won just Arizona

and Nevada, and obtained the 270 electoral votes needed to be elected President. None of those states had been called yet by the end of the day, but Biden started closing his lead on President Trump in the states where he was leading.

November 6 -

Biden gained the lead in Georgia and Pennsylvania, two very important states for President Trump. The race was starting to shift towards Biden's favor more than ever at this point, with President Trump promising to take the election results to the Supreme Court. However, Biden's lead in Arizona started to shrink.

Interestingly, popular political website Decision Desk HQ already called the entire election for Joe Biden, stating that he had won the election with 273 electoral votes, with the deciding state being Pennsylvania.

November 7 -

On Saturday, November 7, former Vice President Joe Biden was announced to be the elected 46th President of the United States, with CNN, Fox News, The Associated Press, ABC News, and all other major media outlets corroborating the claim that

Biden had won Pennsylvania, and thus had won the election. The Associated Press claimed Biden won the election with 290 electoral votes, with the deciding states being Pennsylvania, Nevada, and Arizona, though Arizona was still being disputed. North Carolina and Georgia had not been called yet, but Donald Trump led in North Carolina and Joe Biden in Georgia.

Biden lead in the popular vote by over 5 million votes nationwide, a wider margin than any other elected president in US history.

President Trump did not concede to Biden the day the race was called, however it is normally the precedent for candidates who lose the race to concede the election within a day of the race being called. Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris both spoke at an event in Wilmington, Delaware, where they promised unity and solidarity as the forefront of their mission during their upcoming presidential term. The night ended with a fireworks show, and the Coldplay song "A Sky Full of Stars" blasting in honor of Joe Biden's late son, Beau Biden, who said that was his favorite song.

Has there really been fraud? Despite what President Trump has been tweeting, there has been no evidence of widespread fraud. In some states, there have been isolated incidents that were immediately resolved. For example, in Michigan, there was a technical error which led to duplicate results when ballots were scanned, but the error was fixed immediately. For additional transparency, the entire counting process was live streamed 24/7 and election officials held regular briefings to update the public.

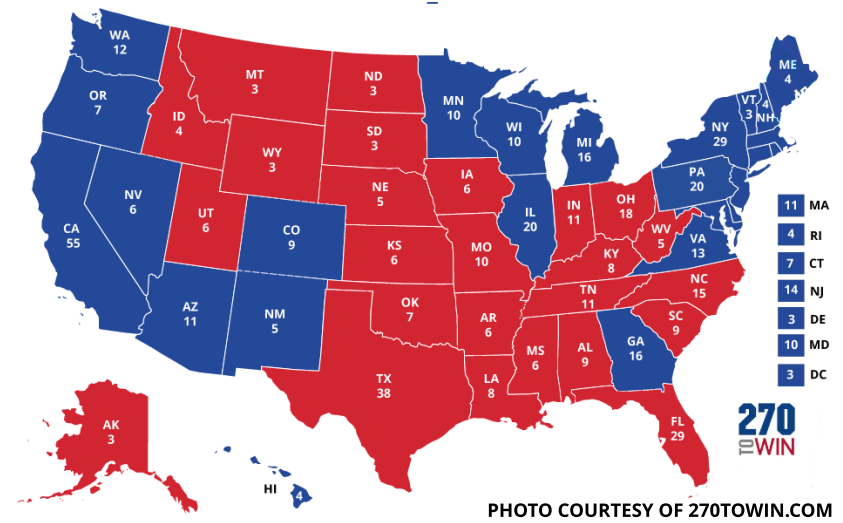


PHOTO COURTESY OF 270TOWN.COM

Many Americans are celebrating the victory of the Biden-Harris campaign and it may seem like the election is just about over. Technically, it's not.

Biden is the President-elect, but President Donald Trump refuses to concede, so what does this mean for the presidency? The race to 270 isn't technically over because of pending lawsuits in multiple states filed by the Trump administration on mostly baseless claims of voter fraud. With a right-leaning Supreme Court, Trump is more likely to have his demands met, but with the overwhelming number of states going blue this election, Democrats and Republicans for Biden aren't too concerned, with many of the lawsuits having already been thrown out by state-level courts. And although some states have ballots left to count despite being called, it is important that each and every ballot be counted to ensure a fair election.

Why is the number 270 so important to win? Every state has a set number of electoral votes based on population. For most states (except Maine and Nebraska), if the majority of that state's voter population votes for Candidate A, then Candidate A will receive that amount of electoral votes. Then, in December, the electoral college will meet and vote on the presidency based on their state's nominee.

What legal action is the Trump administration taking right now? Trump has filed many lawsuits against the states, but only a handful of them have led to significant change. In Pennsylvania, Trump gained victories as court rulings allowed for election observers to stand closer to election officials, ignoring COVID guidelines which the polling place was trying to follow, and the local officials were required to segregate some mail-in ballots. However, Trump's request to stop the counting of the mail-in ballots was denied in Pennsylvania. In Michigan, the Trump administration filed two suits over lack of transparency in the voting process, although judges there have not agreed with Trump. Two failing lawsuits in Nevada claimed that there were too many irregularities in the voting process while counting the votes, and to stop the processing of mail-in votes in Clark County. In Georgia, a judge dismissed a case in which the Trump administration argued that ballots received after 7 pm on Election Night (not mail-in ballots), were mixed with legitimate votes that were acquired before the polls closed. Finally in Arizona, a case was unsuccessful in any change where it was falsely alleged that some ballots were illegitimate due to them being filled out in Sharpie, and not pens. The Trump administration dropped that case, however they filed a separate suit in Arizona alleging that some ballots were incorrectly rejected.

Nevertheless, Trump continues to spread misinformation surrounding voter fraud, mainly on Twitter, that have sparked protests in front of many polling places, including Philadelphia, where Trump supporters are spreading his baseless accusations and more conspiracies.

Currently, Biden is pushing forward his agenda and ensuring the American people that he will be inaugurated on Wednesday, January 20. Biden is already hard at work creating his new administration, though he cannot do any presidential work yet. He has named members of his coronavirus task force, with former Surgeon General Vivek Murthy as the

chairman. Meanwhile, Trump's actions suggest he still has not committed to a peaceful transition of power by trying to stop the Biden campaign in its tracks. Doing things like blocking other world leaders from contacting Biden and replacing Pentagon officials with Trump loyalists, according to CNN.

While Donald Trump technically has the right to pursue legal action against Joe Biden and the election results, it is unlikely that his actions will change the course of this election. Trump will be the first president to have served one term since George H. W. Bush in 1992, when he lost to Bill Clinton.

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ABOUT

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Who does the money boost?

Booster Club remains a durable source of income for QO clubs and athletics

By SARA KLEMOW
Editor-in-Chief

QO students, parents, and faculty flocked to the building for the last time all together that school year. On March 14, clubs and sports teams worked together to deliver mulch to members of the QO community as part of the Booster Club's annual Mulch Sale fundraiser.

However, with the Mulch Sale occurring on the last day school was open due to COVID-19, it "was a little bit of a feat getting completed," said Jen Feinstein, Corresponding Secretary and Membership Chair of the Booster Club. "We've been kind of tied up since then." Booster Club has not been able to do their normal activities, but they are remaining active by moving their meetings to zoom and working to keep clubs funded.

The Booster Club is a parent organization in place "to help support extracurricular clubs, programs, and athletics... through grant requests," according to Feinstein. They raise money through membership, sponsorship, and concessions to help fund extracurricular activities. However, with school being online and no sports being played currently, how are they raising this money? Community nights. The Booster Club

has recently been working with local restaurants to raise money; students and families can order take out as part of these fundraisers due to COVID restrictions. So far this fall, they have held one at Panera, and another at California Pizza Kitchen. Keep a lookout for more community nights in the upcoming months.

A common misconception about Booster Club is that all the money goes to football. This is false. Booster Club does give money to QO athletics as a whole, given they fill out a grant request, but the football team has its own booster organization. The fact of the matter is that Booster Club has money to support all extracurriculars at QO. In the 2019/2020 school year, the Booster Club contributed over \$40,000 to various clubs, events, and activities — such as the new weight room, the new scoreboard for the QO gym, JUNTOS, the Robotics team, Last Minute Dance/Asian Culture/International Clubs, and QO's new wellness rooms. Even The Prowler receives funds from Booster Club every year to print its annual Senior Issue.

The Booster Club decided not to spend much money last spring because they wanted to be ready for when students return and focus on membership for the time being. "We are trying to be creative... and keep everyone [at QO] motivated," said

Feinstein.

If your club, athletic team, or other extracurricular program at QO needs funding from the Booster Club, all you have to do is fill out a grant request form. The form can be found on their website, under the 'About Us' and 'Forms' tabs, at qohsboosters.com.



NEEDPIX



The Executive Committee of QOHS Booster Club

In the 2019-20 school year, the QO Booster Club contributed over \$40,000 to various clubs, events, and activities.

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COVID-19 lockdowns cause obesity rates to increase

Maryland has the 10th highest childhood obesity rate in the U.S.

By NATALLIA GARCIA
Staff Writer

We've all had the urge to look through our fridges or pantries for snacks during these past few months of quarantine. Eating randomly would help cope with stress or even boredom. Plus, always being at home decreases the amount of physical activity we get in our daily lives. At home, you're either eating, sleeping, or simply not doing anything. What's the outcome of this? Pounds — we gain pounds.

The adult obesity rate in the U.S. has hit the highest record in American history this year. The current rate stands at 42.4% (passing the 40% mark), according to a nonprofit, non-partisan organization called Trust for America's Health in a report titled 'The State of Obesity 2020: Better Policies for Healthier America.'

Not only have adults been affected by the pandemic, but kids have as well. Jim Baugh, founder and president of PHIT (Personal Health Investment Today) America, noted that nearly half of grade schools have no physical education. "Kids are more sedentary than they've ever been," said Baugh in an interview with USA Today. Pediatricians predict that

childhood obesity will have a dramatic increase this year due to more eating and the closure of schools. This is not good news for children's health; becoming obese at a young age can increase the risk of heart conditions and kidney problems.

Maryland has the 10th highest childhood obesity rate in the U.S. According to a recently released study by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, almost 18% of children in MD between the ages of 10 and 17 are obese. It's no surprise that the childhood obesity rate in MD is the 10th highest; public schools are closed, and there's a lack of extracurricular activities.

But this issue isn't only happening in Maryland. Dr. Lisa Denike, a pediatrician for Northwest Permanente in Portland, Oregon, said one 11-year-old patient at his physical during quarantine was found to have gained 40 pounds.

Even though the boy doesn't have Type 2 diabetes now,

Denike said, "I suspect he will in the coming years as his parents already have it."

Denike recommends the following for combating pandemic weight gain: scheduled bedtimes and wake times, eating scheduled meals, and having time to get out and exercise. At least taking a 15-20 minute walk around the neighborhood can make a big difference.



SHUTTERSTOCK

Racism@QO: Alumnus shares experiences

Alumnus speaks heavily on disparities in educational opportunity

By ANYA SESAY
Staff Writer

She arrives early, with extra pencils and colored tabs to organize her notes. It's the first day, and students begin dragging in after her one by one. I'm early, she thought, excited about her abnormal punctuality. As the kids continue to enter the AP United States History classroom, she begins to lift her head and notice something. There are only two desks remaining and one minute until class starts, and she notices only one black student in the room with her. Surveying the room she finds other people of color, but she and this other student are the only two black people. She is the only black woman — so she finds. The bell rings and class begins.

The cycle repeats itself for every honors and AP class she attends that day, and for that year, and the years to come. She is hopeful though, for tryouts. Again, early; she watches stragglers come in to find that she is one of two black girls trying out. And the only one to make the team. By her junior year, one more black girl makes the team and remains until she graduates.

This anecdote may not be attributed to any distinct individual at Quince Orchard, but rather it is the story of so many black students who have been forced into the awakening of the de facto segregation — segregation not mandated in the laws, but still alive in practice —

prevalent in academia and, in particular, athletics at QO. At least, according to a 2020 QO graduate who has requested to remain anonymous.

"You don't see as many people of color in higher-level classes," she said, "and if there are, people aren't always as willing to reach out and welcome them in."

Rather than attributing this to the economic disparity among students, a common factor faulted for the racial imbalance among classes, she spoke to the implicit bias she perceived to be pervasive in academic culture. "[Certain groups] of color aren't as encouraged to be in those [higher-level] classes," she said. "There isn't enough done to integrate." She has witnessed teachers attribute minority students' academic struggles to laziness, without offering any help to them.

Whatever the reason may be, bias or not, there is a clear racial disparity with regard to AP classes at Quince Orchard. According to data provided to *The Prowler* by administration, 43% of Advanced Placement-level classes are made up of non-white students, while 52% of non-white students make up QO's population. Although it isn't clear how statistically significant this difference is, the gap widens as we break the numbers down by subject and racial identity. Black- and Hispanic-identifying students, for example, collectively make up about 46% of the school population, and yet are severely

underrepresented in Advanced Placement classes. Where they are represented the most — aside from the 68% taking AP Spanish Literature — is in AP Art History, where they make up about 34% of the class population. Where they are represented the lowest, generally in mathematics and niche art AP courses, they make up between 0% and 8% of the population. In contrast, Asian-identifying students, though also a minority group, are found to be over-represented in Advanced Placement classes. Even in the class with the lowest percentage of Asian students, AP Comparative Government & Politics, they still make up 13% of that class, which is proportional to their representation in the school's population (12%). And Asian students can represent up to 44% of an AP class population, excepting one outlier class.

And these disparities can skew these students' minds, the alumnus explained. "They don't feel comfortable reaching out because they feel like maybe they're not supposed to be [in upper-level classes]."

This person isn't alone. On the recently created Black@QO Instagram account, a number of current and former students have come forward to share their experiences being POC at Quince Orchard, and many of these students have prefaced their statements with a reminder that they were one of few minority students in their high-level courses. "More should be done," the alumnus said.

POC&

New column gives voice to groups often silenced in the movement for justice

By ANYA SESAY
Staff Writer

Justice. A word long perverted in the history of the United States for its constant double standard. It seems that for every movement of justice, a subgroup is left in disenfranchisement, forced to watch as the equality they fight for is handed to everyone but them. Even today, exclusionary practices still remain. In the 2020 fight against racial injustice, it's clear that some intersectional voices have been silenced, and forced to take a backseat to their more privileged counterparts.

Thus, this column is born. Each issue for the rest of the 2020-21 school year, a subgroup, belonging to a community of color, who has taken a backseat to justice will have their experiences highlighted and their voices heard. From women of color, to minority groups struggling with illnesses or disabilities, to marginalized members of the LGBTQ+ community, I will strive to make sure most every disenfranchised voice will be heard. Make sure to stay tuned and email me, Anya Sesay, at 408493@mcpsmd.net if you would like to participate in this project!



EMERCADO2020



What COVID-19 means for Black Friday

How will the virus impact shoppers' behavior?

By MADILYN RUBERY
Staff Writer

Many of us have experienced the thrills of attending Black Friday at our local malls and department stores, rushing with a family member or two just to snag an item for a low price once Thanksgiving dinner has come to an end. Many, however, have seen the cursed videos that would loom around the internet of people stampeding to get into a Walmart right as it opened. With Black Friday lurking just around the corner, what can we expect of this year's day of deals, and how will COVID-19 impact shoppers?

In an article written by Carolyn Crist for [WebMD](#), Crist explains the new policies Walmart has put into place in order to adhere to the COVID-19 guidelines: "Stores will be limited to 20% of the usual capacity, the company announced, calling it a 'reinvented' Black Friday experience. Shoppers will be required to form a single-file line before stores open at 5 AM on the Friday after Thanksgiving and follow directional signs to avoid others while shopping."

But will these renovations be enough to prevent a massive spread of the virus? Black Friday is known for its incredibly large crowds and herds of erratic people, which doesn't exactly

translate to a COVID-19 friendly event.

Junior Lara Tatarian believes that participating in Black Friday would be a bad idea, stating, "I myself will not be attending Black Friday this year due to COVID-19. I do not want to risk my health and then jeopardize my family's health as well. I would much rather be healthy and pay the full price for something rather than put myself and others at risk of catching the virus."

Thankfully for shoppers like Tatarian, Cyber Monday can be the perfect replacement, safe and within the walls of your own home. When questioned whether or not Black Friday should be cancelled all together, Tatarian adds, "I don't think it should be cancelled because it does help a lot of people with discounts for gifts, but people should put theirs and others health into consideration. If they're being safe and not trying on a bunch of clothes, touching everything, and properly wearing their masks, it should be fine."

Senior Calvin Corbouis leans a similar way as Tatarian, explaining that, "I'm not going to be attending Black Friday, as it will most likely cause hotspots for COVID-19 around malls and big stores." Corbouis also urges people to know the risks they may be taking as a result of attending a Black Friday event.



VOLODYMYR HRYSHCHENKO AT UNSPLASH.COM

"I'm expecting that Black Friday as we have grown to know it cannot exist in a COVID world." -Michael Brown

What is it actually like to get COVID-19?

Three QO students' experiences with the virus

By NATALIE PRICE
Editor-In-Chief

Almost 10 months ago, it first arrived here in the United States. Nearly 8 months ago, in-person schooling was shut down. Since then many small businesses have collapsed, restaurants are only at 50% capacity, and large-crowd events such as concerts are unheard of. The outbreak of COVID-19 will easily go down in the history books as the most impactful, devastating event in the year 2020. With 1.23 million deaths worldwide, the last thing any sane person wants is to be exposed to this virus. However, curiosity is a hard feeling to manage.

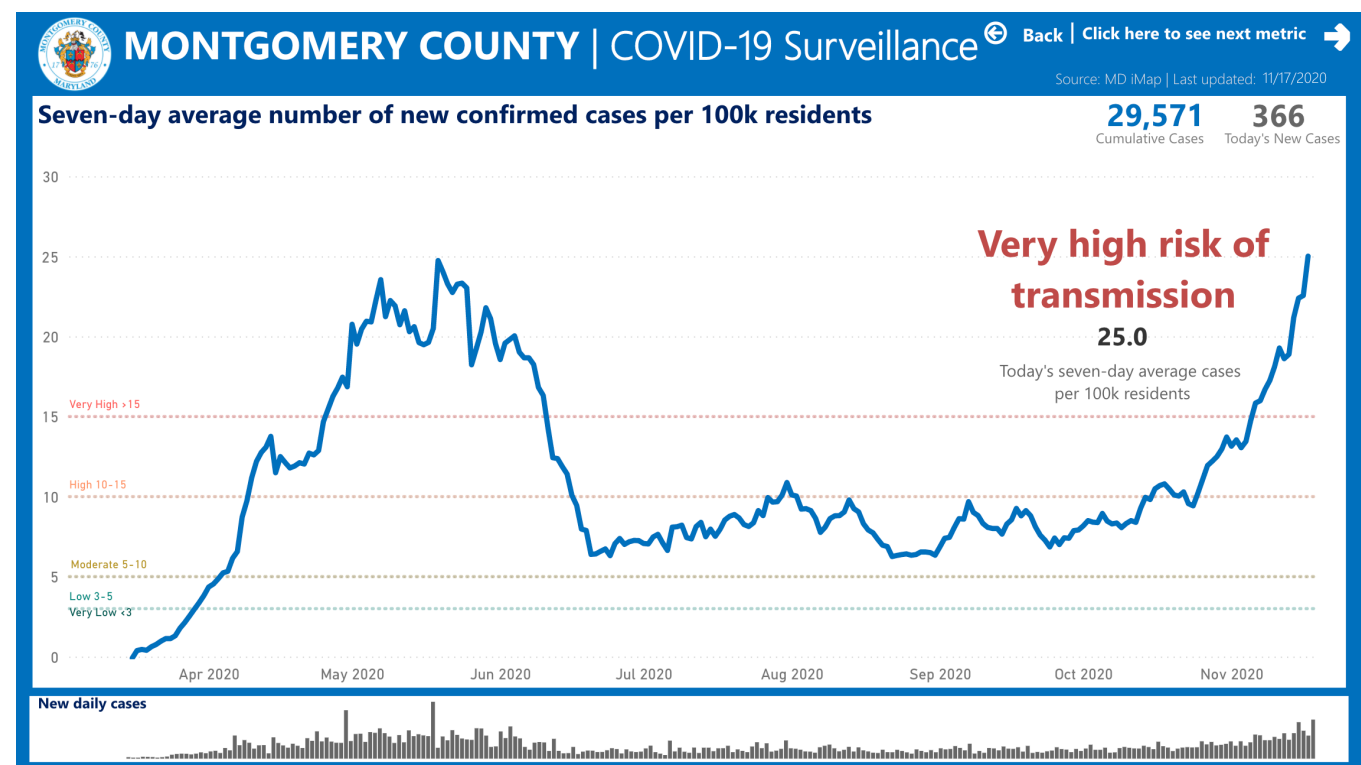
If you've been lucky and haven't had a positive test result, you probably can't help yourself from preparing for the worst and wondering: how would I actually feel getting the virus? It's a reasonable thought to have, considering sickness levels vary from minor flu-like symptoms to life-threatening hospitalization.

According to the Montgomery County Government COVID-19 Information Portal, there are over 29 thousand cases as of November 17, many of which are here in our community.

One of them is junior Julia Kavadias, who tested positive in October. Symptom-wise, Kavadias said that she just had a runny nose and felt extra tired. She described it as "kinda like that feeling when you first wake up in the morning to an alarm and you don't wanna get out of bed."

Conveniently, keeping up with school was not an issue for Kavadias due to it being all online. She was still able to attend and did not have to make a huge effort to get up or leave the house.

"It took me about a week to feel 100% fine again. I was really only sick like one or two days," stated Kavadias.



Since November, new cases in Montgomery County have increased dramatically, a similar trend to what we saw in May.

Another QO student exposed to COVID-19 is senior Emily Klaus, who again had a very minor experience with the virus. Klaus recounted her symptoms as extremely mild, as she didn't even know she had it until her test results came back positive.

"I then quarantined in my tiny room for two weeks until I tested negative," she explained.

Just like Kavadias, the COVID-19 experience was not too much of a burden on Klaus, either, as it was significantly easy to remain on top of school assignments and responsibilities.

Senior Jared Sabban was a third positive case. He, on the other hand, had a little bit of a harder time.

"I felt really sick and couldn't taste or smell my food," said Sabban. He described having the virus as an extreme case of the flu, as he had no energy to get anything done on the first few days.

As we see, the severity of COVID-19 is significantly variable. Some of these QO students were lucky, as they recovered quickly after testing positive for the virus.

However, as of November 16, 13.8 percent of all used hospital beds in

Montgomery County are COVID related. With that, we still urge you to make smart decisions regarding social gatherings, especially if you are — or know — someone who is immunocompromised.

And on the bright side, as upsetting as it is not being able to physically interact with your peers at school, we can see a positive outcome from online learning. It allows these students to continue going to class, despite testing positive, and get the help they need to be as successful as possible during this hectic year.

A Sampling of QO's Clubs and Honors Societies

By ANNA SOKAN and KAILY PAULINO
Senior Staff Writers



Environmental Club

- Works to create awareness of environmental issues, like protection, conservation, and restoration,
- Work hands on with them with an emphasis on educating and empowering students who are interested in environmental advocacy and awareness.
- Advisor: Ms. Haase
- Remind: @qoenv



Rock Climbing Club

- Build climbing skills
- Get stronger
- Learn how to train
- Advisor: Ms. Domeier
- Remind: @qoclimb



Woman In Engineering

- Providing a safe and welcoming environment for all people interested in Engineering.
- Explore ideas, trends, help with classwork, learn, and socialize!
- Advisor: Mrs. Adams
- Remind: @wieatqo

Cougar Minds Matter

- Our goal is to change QO's mental health culture and promote connections within students.
- Discuss mental health outlets, coping skills, share resources, and problem solve.
- Advisor: Mrs. McCormack, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Carver
- Remind: @cougarmm21



National Honors Society

- NHS is an organization of students who excel in scholarship, leadership, character, and service.
- NHS members help Quince Orchard High School and the surrounding community through acts of service.
- Juniors apply in the spring
- Seniors apply in the fall
- Advisor: Ms. Soykan
- Remind: @q0nhs



A Spotlight on QO's Quizbowl Team

By KAILY PAULINO
Senior Staff Writer

Quince Orchard High School's very own *It's Academic* team amazingly won its first Quizbowl match of the year last month on September 26. Every participant was confidently prepared for the tournament. Because of COVID-19, there were a few changes in the meetings this year, which affected how everyone prepared for success.

Senior Vivian Cao, senior Davis Yewell, and sophomore John Lewis, the most recent match participants, each prepared with club sponsor and social studies teacher Josh Schuman and the *It's Academic* gang by using packets from the National Academic Quiz Tournament (NAQT). "Practice is a less pressured-filled atmosphere," said Cao. They start by reading a question, and the fastest person who buzzes gets to answer first. If they answer correctly, they receive one point, but they get deducted one point and move onto the next question if they answer incorrectly. Pretty simple, right? Regardless, these participants go the extra step to study and try to prepare for these tournaments.

Outside of practice, Lewis studies and tries to come up with questions on his own that he thinks will be asked during practice or even tournaments. "Sometimes when I'm watching a show, I'll think about a quiz bowl question on that topic," says Lewis.

Yewell has another strategy: he drills with his friends on Discord and feels prepared for every match that comes his way.

The *It's Academic* team members all work together and make tournaments fun — even when not all are participating in the matches. Most importantly, the team members all look out for each other and make sure they are confident in questions that are in their 'field of knowledge.' Each player has a specialty topic and what they enjoy learning to answer each question asked fearlessly.

All in all, though, the best way to participate and answer a question correctly is to "not be afraid to press the buzzer, and just have a lot of confidence," Yewell said. *It's Academic* makes confidence look easy.



UNICEF

- In cooperation with governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UNICEF saves and protects the world's most vulnerable children, working to ensure child rights and providing health care, immunizations, nutrition, access to safe water and sanitation services, basic education, protection and emergency relief.
- Activate their local community by advocating, building community, fundraising, and speaking out for UNICEF's child survival work
- Advisor: Mr. Lasko
- Remind: @qounicef



How will the record-breaking weather this summer affect this winter?

Winter 2020 Predictions

By ANNA SOYKAN
Senior Staff Writer

As winter fast approaches, we are all wondering what the weather will look like. To answer that question, we need to first talk about what the weather has looked like the last couple months.

Multiple records were broken over the summer, including the hottest September globally ever recorded, and Death Valley in California had a record-breaking temperature of 130°F in August. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), about 20% of the U.S. was affected by moderate to extreme drought conditions. Add this all to the hundreds of forest fires this summer, and we can rank the 2020 summer as scorching hot!

The extreme weather conditions this summer were not limited to heat, with two Atlantic hurricanes making landfall in August, and the devastating derecho (series of wind and thunderstorms) that traveled 700 miles from Iowa to Ohio.

What do these tempestuous weather conditions suggest for future weather patterns? We know that NOAA creates an outlook for every season by using improved satellite observations, detailed computer forecast modeling, and expanding supercomputing capacity. According to NOAA's winter predictions, we should expect warmer, drier conditions across the southern tier of the U.S., and cooler, wetter conditions

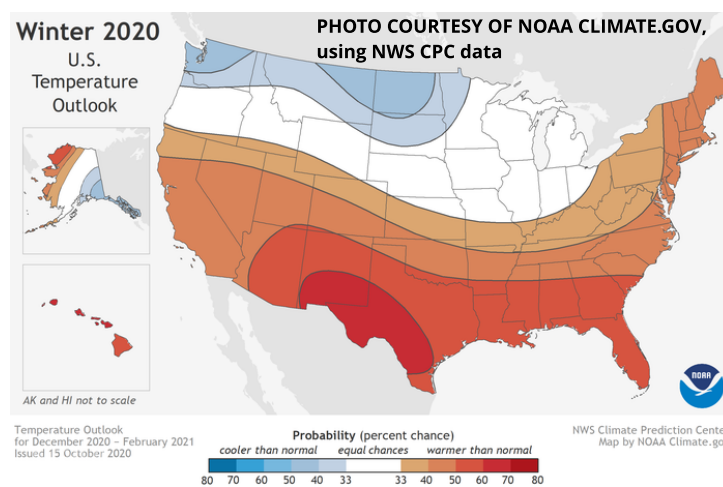
in the North due to the ongoing weather pattern in the Pacific: La Niña. La Niña is the colder counterpart of El Niño; in this pattern, strong winds blow warm water at the ocean's surface from South America to Indonesia. As the warm water moves west, cold water from the deep rises to the surface near the coast of South America. Moving into winter, more than 45% of the continental U.S. is experiencing drought conditions, and La Niña will only exasperate them.

Neil Jacobs, Ph.D., the acting NOAA administrator, states that the winter weather will range "from expansive and multi-hazard winter storms to narrow but intense lake effect snow." In other words, there will be more extreme storms in areas that are affected by "lake effect" snow.

Precipitation for this season looks to be wetter than average across the northern tier of the U.S., extending from the Pacific Northwest, across the Northern Plains, Great Lakes and into the Ohio Valley, as well as Hawaii and northern Alaska. On the other hand, drier than average conditions are predicted in the Southwest, across Texas along the Gulf Coast, and in Florida.

If you're an outdoor enthusiast who loves the winter season, you should know that the conditions from La Niña will bring snow to the west and near the Great Lake areas, while places like California will most likely get lower than average snowfall and warmer temperatures. So, if you want some killer skiing, head out west this winter, but remember to grab a mask!

In conclusion, this winter will be interesting with a mix of extreme weather conditions, but for the Maryland area, we can expect warmer than average temperatures, but average precipitation.



This map is predicting the average temperatures throughout the country for the 2020-21 winter season.

The Social Dilemma - are we devolving into chaos?

By STACY SHIN
Senior Staff Writer

The Social Dilemma, a docudrama focusing on the impacts of social media on society, was released in September by Netflix and received great amounts of attention. While trending on the top 10 of Netflix for a month after its release, the film includes interview clips of multiple ex-social media executives — including the President of Pinterest, the Senior Vice President of Engineering at Twitter, and the co-inventor of Facebook Pages — giving the inside look on these big name companies. This is accompanied by the fictional storyline of a teenager's life being engulfed by social media, and a personification of the artificial intelligence behind the screen that is trying to control his actions. It touches on topics like addiction, surveillance capitalism, artificial intelligence, and data mining.

The interviewees first acknowledge that these platforms have brought huge positive change for society — including finding organ donors and increasing the interconnectedness of people across societies — before deep diving into their many negative impacts. Beginning with their manipulative structure, humans' attention is sold as products to advertisers. Using artificial intelligence and illegal data mining to predict your behavior and exploit the weaknesses of the human brain to increase your screen time, they pull you into addiction. The more addicted you become, the easier it is for them to control your future behavior, and the more money those companies make from you falling victim to the personalized

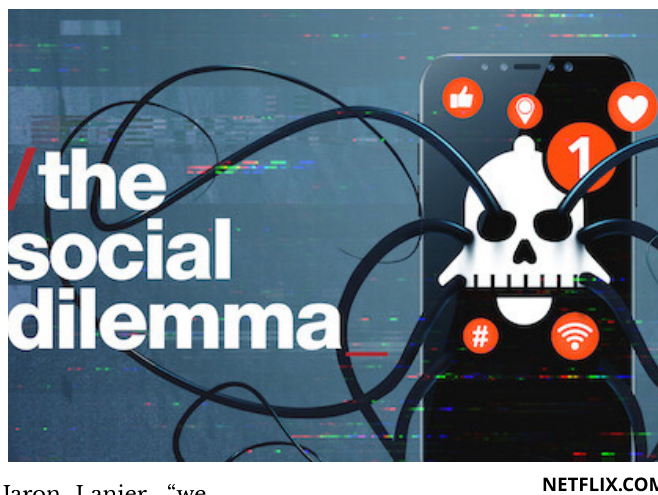
advertisements.

So, no, the Instagram ad of the Coach wallet you were just looking at on Google was not a coincidence. This imperceptible change in your behavior is the center of all these platforms and now, according to the well-known computer philosophy writer Jaron Lanier, "we have created an entire global generation... where the very meaning of culture is manipulation."

The film then focuses on the dramatic increase in depression, anxiety, and suicide in teenagers. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there has been a 189% increase in self-harm and a 151% increase in suicide for girls between 10-14 years of age since 2010, aligning with the availability of social media on phones starting in 2009.

Social media's role on the increase of political polarization is the next topic the documentary focuses on. The algorithm that powers these platforms collects data about your location, previous posts you've interacted with, and history to feed you content that reinforces your political viewpoints. This gives you a "false sense that everyone agrees with you because everyone in your news feed sounds just like you. And once you are in that state... you are easily manipulated," says Roger McNamee, an early investor in Facebook.

The final point of the film focuses on fake news. A former YouTube engineer who worked on its



NETFLIX.COM

recommendations says the algorithm is trying to find "which rabbit hole is closest to your interest," and therefore which one you're most likely to go down — regardless of the validity of the information in them. The film emphasizes the importance of this topic by showing a string of news clips claiming COVID-19 was created by the government, followed by clips of multiple individuals saying the virus is a hoax. Propaganda posts can then be used at the advantage of politicians to control what we believe is true. Renee Diresta, the research manager at Stanford Internet Observatory, refers to it as a "global assault on democracy." And if every person has a different truth, then society will devolve into a chaos that we are not able to solve.

The film ends with all the interviewees agreeing that people need to come together and recognize this as a major problem, to reform these corrupt platforms and end the path towards dystopia we are on. As the credits role, the interviewees list actions to protect yourself from social media: turning off notifications,

avoiding recommended YouTube videos, fact-checking before you share, and keeping an open mind about opposing views.

More skeptically inclined than encouraged, a month ago, I decided to delete all the social media apps from my phone: Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, Facebook, and Snapchat. The first day was nothing special; I had much to do that kept me off my phone. But the week continued and I found myself constantly picking up my phone whenever I had a minute to spare, only to find nothing to do. This quickly became annoying.

Thankfully, I grew more used to the lack of distractions and began to see some benefits. First, my average weekly screen time decreased by 3.46 hours. What initially struck me as an excessive amount of free time became very appreciated, and I started to complete my schoolwork much more efficiently. Second, I found it was much easier to fall asleep. Having previously experienced mild insomnia — going to bed at no earlier than 2:00 AM — this was a blessing. Instead of watching YouTube videos right before going to bed, causing me to lay awake for at least another 30 minutes after turning it off, I was able to doze off in half that time. Finally, I found my mental state at much more ease without the obligation of responding to my friends' Snapchats constantly lingering over my head, or having models' Instagram posts pop on my feed for me to compare myself to. Out of sight, out of mind, to put it simply.

I will admit I missed watching the brain-melting compilation videos of Kim Kardashian crying, but I do not regret deleting my social media and I strongly urge you to try this out as well!



REVIEW

The Trial of the Chicago 7 speaks to our current times

By MATTHEW MINTON
Editor-in-Chief

Political tension and gridlock. Riots and protests. Fights breaking out between police and protestors. Tear gas sprayed to disarm citizens. The fight for justice and equality. The question of prevalent, systemic racism in society coming to the surface, and the very beacons of American democracy coming into question.

Sound familiar? This is the context and background for the new political drama *The Trial of the Chicago 7*, which centers around the events of the 1968 Democratic National Convention, in which protests and riots arose between police and protestors who were speaking out against the Vietnam War. Five months later, a group of seven defendants were charged for crossing state lines with the intent of inciting riots and violence. The film stars Sacha Baron Cohen, Mark Rylance, and Eddie Redmayne — along with recent Emmy winners Yahya Abdul-Mateen II and Jeremy Strong — to round out an incredible cast who help to bring this powerful story to life by portraying the defendants.

What is most important about this film is its commitment to telling the truth of the story and uncovering what truly happened. With the Black Lives Matter movement and the news of protests and riots all over the news in the past year, the film and the story

behind it are more powerful and relevant than ever. Although it is assumed that the defendants on trial incited riots, as the film goes on, it becomes ever more apparent that the police have blame in the situation. It is not a one-sided issue where all the blame can simply be put on one side, and the film explores the gray area in an extremely intelligent and thought-provoking way.

Furthermore, writer Aaron Sorkin's trademark snappy and scenery-chewing dialogue keeps the film engaging despite being mostly set in one courtroom. The use of real-life footage integrated into the story along with the use of flashbacks all contribute beautifully to the pace of the film and help to keep the audience enthralled.

My only contentions with the film come with some of its visuals and lack of full character development. While the film is very well-written and engaging to watch, it could have benefited from more directional and visual flair — the film mostly looks like your average courtroom drama and doesn't do much to set itself apart. Also, Bobby Seale, co-founder of the Black Panther Party, who is unfairly put on trial with no access to a lawyer, is portrayed incredibly by Yahya Abdul-Mateen II. His character has some of the most compelling moments in the film, yet in the third act, the film fails to circle back to his character. Sidelining his character

hinders the full development Seale deserved.

Nevertheless, this is still an extremely powerful story brought to the screen beautifully by Sorkin along with a fantastic cast. When we look around and see the events going on in our world today, it can be easy to see how we have come so far. However, it is imperative that we also see how much more progress is needed; there is still so much injustice in the world. But, as the film ends on an inspiring and important note, there is still hope for a better future when we use our voices to speak out against injustice.

The Trial of the Chicago 7 is currently streaming on Netflix and comes highly recommended by this reviewer.



From left to right: Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, Ben Shenkman, Mark Rylance, Eddie Redmayne, and Alex Sharp

REVIEW

The People's Choice Awards, and how awards shows are adapting

By FIONA FEINGOLD
Staff Writer

The People's Choice Awards (PCAs for short), which occurred this year this past Sunday, November 15, are unique to other award shows because they are entirely fan-voted. Unlike the Oscars, the PCAs reflect the opinions of everyone, not just a select board of voters. Awards are divided into four categories: movies, TV shows, music, and pop culture. The music category is probably the most anticipated, as fans (or "stans") of artists can be very active in voting.

Many of the awards were presented offstage, but there were a few notable speeches, such as Tyler Perry's. Perry took home the People's Champion Award, which rewarded him for his generous philanthropy, and talked about the hardships he endured. The actor went from homeless and unable to pay his water bill to being one of the highest-paid men in entertainment and having an estimated net worth of \$1 billion, according to Forbes.

The performances by Justin Bieber and Chloe x Halle also stood out. Bieber performed his hit songs "Lonely" and "Holy." The former, one of Bieber's newest releases, is an acoustic ballad that details the dark side of fame. Meanwhile, the duo Chloe x Halle sang "Ungodly Hour," the upbeat title track from their new

album.

Demi Lovato did a great job hosting the award show. In the opening, the singer threw shade at how long the state of Pennsylvania took to count their ballots. "Don't worry, we decided to count everyone in Pennsylvania's vote first," Lovato joked, referring to the fan-voted awards. Lovato also took time during the show to answer viewers' questions, which covered a wide range of topics.

The PCAs allow us to discuss the transition award shows are making during the pandemic. One criticism is that they've lost their spontaneity. In order to stay safe and minimize the number of celebrities in attendance, winners are usually notified beforehand that they are going to win. This isn't a huge loss, but it is nice to see someone's face when they find out that they've won an award.

Additionally, the award shows are typically, well, awkward. For interviews, journalists and celebrities have to be six feet apart, and interviews are sometimes conducted in strange places, like seemingly empty lots. Some interviews take place online, where the interviewee will sit in a room and talk to the journalist on the screen. Also, during the actual awards show, there's very little interaction between an award presenter and the winner. Often, the presenter leaves the stage right as the winner comes on in order to stay safe. Sometimes, the winner will accept

their award live but from home, or in a pre-made video. When Mindy Kaling and Maitreyi Ramakrishnan accepted *Never Have I Ever's* award for the Comedy Show of 2020, Kaling even mentioned how weird it was that she couldn't hug Ramakrishnan.

On a positive note, there has definitely been an increase in artists taking time during award shows to advocate for important issues. For example, while accepting the Drama TV Star of 2020 Award, Mandy Moore said, "Let's continue to wear masks, socially distance, wash our hands, and be kind to each other."

Later in the show, Tracee Ellis Ross empowered viewers to make a difference in their communities: "Our action creates our destiny. Donate, get involved, stay engaged people!" While celebrities in past years have also used speeches to bring awareness to certain topics, it's definitely become more common in 2020.

There are definitely pros and



Singer Demi Lovato hosted the awards.

cons to the new format of award shows, but you can bet that dedicated award show fans will still devote their Sunday evenings to them anyway.

Virtual fall season is a success despite few hiccups

By JULIA DIETRICH
Staff Writer

Each of the fall sports teams used the five weeks of the 2020 virtual season differently. Girls volleyball and cheerleading opted to use their time to work on skills and team building, girls soccer took the opportunity to go over film, boys soccer used the time to help players adjust to the new expectations that come with a new head coach, and cross country chose to spend their time doing week- and season-long challenges. However, all teams chose to combine JV and varsity into one team.

Cheerleading decided to let their seniors take the lead and design their season.

"I just kinda told them: this is at your fingertips," said varsity cheerleading coach Nakeya Fleming. "I wanted the seniors to take [the] lead because I think if the underclassmen saw how engaged they were, it would kinda bleed into everybody else."

During a preseason meeting, the seniors decided to host a bow-making competition for the team and made plans to use breakout rooms to teach the sideline cheers and dances, explain how to properly stretch, and go over the rules and expectations, as well as any changes the players wanted to make to them. They also did team-building activities.

Girls volleyball also chose to spend their time doing workouts. They met three times a week to work on specific skills and abilities, such as being able to tell what the opposing team is going to do.

Girls soccer also focused on the

mental component, as they spent their time going over film and explaining to the players what they should look for when they watch film on their own. They also focused on the mental health of the athletes instead of longer workouts, since most of the girls have been playing on club teams throughout the COVID-19 shutdown and are continuing to do so.

"We're probably a little bit different from some of the other teams because all of my girls are playing on their club teams, training several days a week and playing on the weekend," said varsity girls soccer coach Peg Keiller. "They have the opportunity to play in person right now and I don't want to take that away from them."

Cross country had a similar situation, as many of its athletes had been consistently running 10s of miles each week since the lockdown began. (Disclaimer: The author of this article is a member of QO's cross country team.) The team built upon members running outside of meetings and centered its season around a five-week-long challenge of running 100 miles for returning members and 75 miles for new members. They also did challenges each week, including running for an hour and seeing how far each team member went and a virtual 5K.

"Running a virtual 5K by ourselves last week felt very odd, especially since we couldn't have any team workouts," said four-year cross country athlete and senior Benji Dubin.

Finally, boys soccer had the unique challenge of getting players adjusted to a new head coach during

the virtual season. They decided to spend the season laying down new expectations for the team and going over what playing soccer in college is like.

"We just talked to them a lot. We told them what they needed to work on, what we expect from our teams, and what they wanted out of the high school experience," said boys soccer coach Sean Keiller.

Most of the teams also opted to have a sport-specific guest speaker, with cheer, volleyball, and girls soccer having alumni who are currently playing in college come and talk about their experiences.

"Probably the highlight, at least for me, was a couple days ago in the last week of the season. I had a bunch of my former girls who went on to play in college come to talk about the transition," said Peg Keiller. "To see them help guide this next set of kids through was very fun for me."

Cheer and volleyball both invited coaches from different colleges as guest speakers. Cheer had the dance coach from Loyola University Maryland, and volleyball had the coach from a D3 school.

"It was nice for especially our juniors and seniors, who are starting to think about college and what they might want to do, and if cheerleading is something they might want to take on when they get there," said Fleming.

"[The coaches] were helpful for preparing me for what to expect in college and how I can juggle academics and practice at the same time," said volleyball player and senior Grace DiMartini.

Boys soccer had wanted to continue their talks about what

playing in college is like by having the soccer coach from Howard University come and talk, but they were unable to make it happen.

"I think it would have been amazing for the kids, but we could just not get it to work," said Sean Keiller.

Despite the workouts and guest speakers, both coaches and players noticed there was a lack of excitement that they would normally experience when they're in person.

"I felt that it could have been better from the engagement side," said cross country athlete and sophomore Hailey Baker. "When you're in person they push you to run in groups, it's very centered around running in groups, but we couldn't do that this year."

"Everybody would be kinda quiet, you know, the seniors would say a couple things and the girls would kinda respond," said Fleming. "It's awkward."

"When in person, there is usually very high energy at practice and everyone is very vocal. This wasn't really the case virtually, because people rarely talked and if they did there wasn't much to say, which made it hard," said girls soccer player and sophomore Lizzie Gelman.

However, the lack of engagement doesn't seem to have affected the coaches and players' view of the season.

"I think it went pretty well. We were able to work with what we had at home and made the best out of the season," said varsity volleyball player and junior Bianca Gutierrez.

NBA announces 2021 season plan amid worsening pandemic

By BEN STROBER
Editor-In-Chief

March 11, 2020: Commissioner Adam Silver announces the NBA will be suspending its season due to the ongoing outbreaks of COVID-19. This left many teams concerned that they would not be able to compete in the playoffs and fight for a title. This was a troubling time for the NBA as they were losing millions in revenue. It was starting to seem like the NBA was going to have to cancel the rest of the season.

But by June, the NBA had a plan to save their season. They were going to Disney World for a COVID-free bubble for the playoff teams. Teams were then able to compete for around 3 months and had a full playoff schedule. This left superstar LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers victorious as the 2020 NBA champions.

The bubble was a good temporary solution: However, it

was very hard on the players who were missing living normal life with their families. "To be in the bubble, you really have to love playing basketball," James said while in the bubble.

Other players such as Marcus Smart, Anthony Davis, and Lou Williams all made comments on their struggles of being in the bubble. Now that the struggling 2020 season has finally been completed, the attention to starting a whole new season now becomes an issue.

The NBA has been proposing season ideas, but it has been difficult for the players to come to an agreement. With the season only having ended in late September, players do not feel starting the season in December is enough recovery time. The plan announced is for a 72-game season to start December 22, but it's still not clear whether the games will be played at a bubble or not. It doesn't seem likely the players would want to agree to this again.

"It's hard for us," said Clippers coach Doc Rivers. "We are just trying to live our lives and be with our families at the end of the day."

James also made the statement that "there are bigger things than basketball."

Another thing to consider is that the NBA Draft was now just two days ago. With the current plan, this leaves just over a month from when the teams draft to the start of their season.

Another issue now is that NBA free agency has been on hold. Teams will be looking to add pieces to their teams with little time before the season is set to start. The NBA trade talks just started earlier this week and it's already caused pandemonium around the league. These times are clearly unprecedented and it's going to be interesting to see how things play out over the next month.

Lastly, in the event that the games are played in normal arenas in the teams' home cities, will fans be able to attend?

Commissioner Silver believes so. "I think it's very realistic," he said. "There have been significant advancements in rapid testing since the onset of COVID-19. We're fairly optimistic that the market will generate more and better forms of faster testing."

Other professional sports such as the NFL and MLB have shown success of having limited capacity crowds so far, which is a good sign for the hopes of having fans in the NBA season. With the season set to start in 32 days, many things are going to happen rapidly around the league. Even with the current uncertainty, promising things are in the foreseeable future for the NBA and its fans.

*"There are bigger things than basketball."
- LeBron James*



Maryland Football Starts 2-1 In Big Ten Season

By ADAM GOTKIN
Staff Writer

An embarrassing blowout, a crazy overtime finish, one of the biggest wins in program history, and a COVID cancellation, all in the first half of the season. No analogy for 2020 can be more perfect than **Maryland Football's** season so far.

Coming into the season, second year head coach Mike Locksley had something to prove. There was no question in Locksley's recruiting ability, bringing in local stars such as Rakim Jarrett and in this upcoming class, QO's own senior Demeioun Robinson, but Locksley's coaching ability was put into question. Before the 2020 season, Locksley had accumulated a head coaching record of 6-40, and the team ended last season losing seven games in a row. But because of the recruiting success, no one had questioned the hiring yet. But that changed after the week one loss to **Northwestern**.

No one was expecting a Maryland win to start the season, as they were 13-point underdogs, but fans were at least expecting to see a somewhat close game. The first drive for the Terps showed promise as the team drove the field easily, got inside the Northwestern 15, and kicked an easy field goal. After that, though, things took a turn for the worse. The next four drives of the game went touchdown Northwestern, Maryland interception, touchdown Northwestern, Maryland interception. The Terps were down 14-3 in the first quarter. The misery didn't stop there: Northwestern kept rolling all over Maryland's defense and the Terps offense couldn't do anything, only accumulating 23 yards over four drives, three of which ended in punts and one in a fumble, to finish the first half with Northwestern leading 30-3.

The second half of the Northwestern game didn't get any better for the Terps. The Wildcats were able to shut out the Terps while putting 13 more points on the board to win 43-3. And after one week, Maryland fans all over were calling for Locksley's head. Everything that could

have gone wrong, did. Taulia Tagovailoa threw three interceptions, and the Terps couldn't even get 65 yards rushing, allowing Northwestern to rush for 325 yards.

After the week one atrocity, Locksley pinned the struggles to one key compartment. "For us to be a good team, we've got to play with great discipline," Locksley stated in the post-game press conference, "and playing with great discipline means protecting the football, and we didn't do that today."

Going into week two, Maryland had what was thought to be an even tougher task than the last week ahead of them: welcoming in fellow 0-1 team **Minnesota**, who has one of the best quarterback-receiver duos in the nation with Tanner Morgan and Rashod Bateman. In addition to this problem that the Terps were going to have to face defensively, the ongoing quarterback controversy was elevated with Tagovailoa's struggles the week before. Many fans were making the case for the team to switch to Lance LeGenre, the former star of the Netflix show *QBI*, to take over as the starting quarterback however, Locksley issued a point of confidence in his starter the week of the game. "He earned the right to be our starting quarterback," he said. "Did the things that we thought would give us the best chance to win."

Locksley made sure to assure that if the team was able to fix its key problem of discipline, the Terps had a chance to win. On national television, they were going to have to prove that last week was a fluke, and that they could compete in a rough Big Ten schedule.

To start the game off, the Terps did exactly what they needed to do, driving down the field and scoring a touchdown, to eclipse their scoring the prior game in just one drive. The offensive production, however, didn't stall after the first drive like it did the week before. The Maryland offense was able to score touchdowns on their next two drives following, with explosive plays from the likes of Tagovailoa and receiver Jashaun Jones, to take a commanding 21-7 lead in just

the first quarter.

But Minnesota wasn't going to allow the Terps to run away with things. On the back of Mohamed Ibrahim, the Golden Gophers' star running back and Good Counsel alumnus, they were able to strike back for three straight touchdowns of their own to take a lead of 28-21 going into half time, assuring that this game would become a shootout. Then after a back and forth second half, the game went into overtime, tied at 38.

Maryland was the first team with the ball in overtime and was able to put the pressure on Minnesota after Tagovailoa ran it into the end zone from two yards out. Minnesota, now down 7, needed to strike back and keep the game moving along. The first play started off promising for the Golden Gophers, getting a first down on a pass to Bateman. Then after a five yard rush and penalty, Ibrahim was able to push it in from just two yards out. That brought on Brock Walker, Minnesota's normally reliable kicker, to bring it into the second overtime. But he wasn't able to connect, and the Terps rushed the field, celebrating their first win of the season, and their first in over a calendar year.

Maryland was able to knock off Minnesota 45-44 off the back of a bounce back game from Tagovailoa, in which he threw for 394 yards and three touchdowns, and ran for 59 yards and two TDs. The win brought in much needed momentum and became a testament to Locksley's coaching ability. This momentum would need to carry over into the next game, as the Terps would face their rivals, **Penn State**.

Penn State at 0-2 needed a bounce back game versus Maryland. Maryland was looking for a signature win against a team that they were historically 2-40-1 against. Taulia would need to recapture his magic from the week before.

And that is exactly what he did, throwing for 282 yards and three touchdowns as the Terps knocked off Penn State 35-19 in one of the biggest wins in school history. In addition to the stellar performance from Taulia,

freshman Rakim Jarrett broke out for 144 yards and two touchdowns, also winning Big Ten Freshman Player of the week and the 247Sports True Freshman of the Week. Outside of Tagovailoa and Jarrett on offense, Jake Funk, the redshirt Senior Damascus Alumnus, has proven himself as a force to be reckoned with now that he's finally healthy. Funk ran for 80 yards and a touchdown vs the Nittany Lions and was able to open up the offense, by forcing Penn State's defense to not be aggressive as they would have liked to be.

The Terps defensively were able to hold the Penn State's rushing offense to under 100 yards, a drastic improvement from the first two weeks of the season where they gave up over 250 yards each game. This defensive strongpoint was able to outweigh the Penn State passing attack which went for 340 yards. In addition to this, the Terps defense was able to get their first takeaways of the season, with two interceptions and one fumble recovery.

With that momentum of two huge wins, the Terps then were scheduled to host the ranked three team in the country, **Ohio State**. However, due to positive COVID cases in the team, the game was canceled without a chance for it to be rescheduled due to the already small schedule. The team hasn't been able to practice in the last week, quarantined at The Hotel at College Park. This outbreak is a huge disappointment to the program which was on a roll and hoped to bring that energy to Ohio State and try and shock the world for the third straight week.

The COVID outbreak for the Terps didn't stop after the Ohio State week. After 15 players and coach Locksley tested positive this week, the Maryland Athletic Department canceled this weekend's game vs. **Michigan State**. Maryland will look to get everyone healthy in this upcoming week to be back, ready to practice for their game on the 28th at **Indiana**. After that, the Terps will round out their season playing two December games against **Michigan** and **Rutgers**.

Caps bring in The King, improve defense

By JAKE ZAIDERMAN
Staff Writer

The Capitals had their fair amount of struggles last season, mainly on the defensive side of the puck. Now, this offseason they have lost Stanley Cup-winning goaltender Braden Holtby.

Holtby had been with the organization for the past decade, winning the Vezina Trophy for the league's best goaltender in 2015 and then winning the Stanley Cup in 2018. He was tied for the franchise leader in shutouts with 35. The Capitals weren't too worried about letting Holtby go with top prospect Ilya Samsonov in the works. They did, however, need to get a solid backup with Samsonov being so young and raw.

Henrik Lundqvist — who was bought out of the final year of his seven-year, \$59.5 million contract he signed with the New York Rangers in December 2013 — was now available on the market and seemed like a perfect fit with Washington. Lundqvist, 38, is 459-310-96 with a 2.43 goals-against average, a .918 save percentage, and 64 shutouts in 887 NHL games over 15 seasons, all with the New York Rangers, according to the Capitals website. These are numbers that make Lundqvist the hall of famer-to-be he is.

"For a few weeks now, I've been doing my homework on all different scenarios and options for me, and I have to say, the Capitals, they checked every box," Lundqvist said, as he signed a one-year contract with the

Capitals worth \$1.5 million. General Manager Brian MacLellan has high praise for his new goalie, saying, "Henrik has the competitive drive and the ability to help our team compete for a championship. We feel he will be an excellent fit for our team and provide leadership to our organization and our young goaltenders."

Longtime fan and Quince Orchard hockey player Jack Mendelow feels good about the signing, "I feel optimistic about the Capitals chances since it now gives Washington a nice goaltender option going into the 2020-2021 season."

The Capitals now had to shift their focus to defensemen on the open market. With the cap space they had, they signed Justin Schultz, Trevor

van Riemsdyk, and Paul LaDue. Schultz, a right-handed defenseman, adds depth with an offensive mind for the second power-play unit which was needed. When news broke that Michal Kempny tore his Achilles and would be out 6-8 months, Washington needed to bulk up an already thin defense. That is when van Riemsdyk and LaDue were both signed, adding the physical and defensive approach Washington needed and for a cheap price for both signings under \$1 million.

The Capitals will take these newly acquainted pieces and with a new bench boss, try to make another run for the Stanley Cup and the first for King Henrik.

Athlete of the Month

Profiles of Two QO College Athletic Commitments

BY KENDALL LUMSDEN
Senior Staff Writer

FOOTBALL

Demeioun "Chop" Robinson, 2021



Senior Demeioun "Chop" Robinson started playing football at a young age and fell in love with it from the start. He knew right away that he "wanted to continue to do what I love throughout my whole life." Robinson received numerous offers from top schools such as Alabama, Clemson, Oregon, Ohio State, Tennessee, Maryland, etc. Robinson reminisces on "work[ing] my whole life to get where I'm at", but recalls all the attention to be a bit overwhelming not knowing which school would be the best for him. He was top ranked for his position in the country and had all eyes on him. After anticipation all across the nation, he decided to commit to University of Maryland due to the "many great opportunities even if football doesn't work out.. It's home and nothing is better than home."

Will Simpkins, 2021



Senior Will Simpkins grew up watching his brother play football in high school, inspiring him to do the same, little did he know it would be something to change his life. He played in high school following his brother's footsteps, but deciding "to go onto college was my choice because I am ready to take any challenges at the next level," Simpkins said. Simpkins obtained multiple scholarship football offers throughout the ACC, but knew that University of Virginia would be the right place to continue his career because he describes the feeling of the campus and the idea of playing as a Cavalier as the "most comfortable" and fitting for him.

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