

# PAW PROWLER PAW

Quince Orchard High School — 15800 Quince Orchard Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878 —   @qohs\_prowler

## 'He the judge, jury, and executioner'

*Former Minnesota police officer convicted for the murder of George Floyd*

By MIA RESNICOW  
Senior Staff Writer

One of the most-watched trials in decades concluded on April 21, where Derek Chauvin, a former Minnesota police officer, was convicted for the murder of George Floyd. This verdict postdated a three-week-long trial where dozens of eyewitnesses testified and hours of videos capturing Floyd's murder in broad daylight were played over and over again.

Protests and riots have occurred all around not only America, but the world, demanding justice for Floyd and countless other victims of police brutality. To some this may seem like justice, but, to many, it is only a first step to fixing the inequalities of our justice system. Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, who oversaw the prosecution, said at a press conference that the verdict was "accountability, which is the first step toward justice."

The body camera footage and countless other videos taken by witnesses showed Chauvin pinning Floyd on the street with his knee on Floyd's neck for nine and a half minutes while Floyd was handcuffed, depriving him of oxygen, prompting Floyd to say, "I can't breathe" and call out to his mother. Floyd continued to

plead with the police, saying, "I am not a bad guy" and "I will do anything you tell me to." Floyd posed no threat after he had stopped resisting arrest and told police officers that he couldn't

convince the jury that Floyd's death was from his drug usage. However, the medical examiner for the case, Dr. Lindsey Thomas, and many other experts testified that, as Thomas

murder, and second-degree manslaughter. The jury found him to be guilty for all three and was denied bail. Sentencing is yet to be determined as of this article's publication.

Although Chauvin was found guilty, other officers were involved at the scene of Floyd's death and await their own trials. Tou Thao, J. Alexander Kueng, and Thomas Lane are each being faced with two charges: aiding and abetting second-degree murder and aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter. Their joint trial is scheduled to begin on August 23. Lane first approached Floyd in his vehicle after getting a call about a man allegedly using a counterfeit \$20 bill. After he was cuffed, Chauvin and Thao arrived at the scene.

Donald Williams, a bystander of the fatal arrest, took the stand on the first day of Chauvin's trial. Williams explained that Thao "controlled the people." He ordered bystanders to stay back and prosecutors said he "put his hands on the citizen[Williams] to keep him back."

After about eight minutes into the video played during the trial, prosecutors said that Floyd had stopped moving. At that point, Keung checked for Floyd's pulse on his wrist. Keung said, "I couldn't find one."



A courtroom illustration of Derek Chauvin watching a video of the scene outside the Cup Foods during Floyd's arrest.

enter the car because he was claustrophobic.

While the prosecutor used heartfelt witnesses to testify and video footage of the event as evidence, Chauvin and his lawyers tried to

stated, "there's no evidence to suggest he would have died that night, except for the interactions with law enforcement."

Chauvin was charged with second-degree murder, third-degree

## From Ridgeview to Superintendent

*Dr. McKnight approved as Acting Superintendent for Montgomery County*

By JAY MOTIWALA  
Senior Staff Writer

Dr. Monifa B. McKnight — the former principal of our local Ridgeview Middle School — was approved to be the Acting Superintendent for Montgomery County Public Schools effective June 1, 2021.

With current Superintendent Dr. Jack R. Smith aiming to retire, Dr. McKnight was chosen to replace him as Acting Superintendent, and later as the Interim Superintendent starting in July 2021. (The title of Acting Superintendent is given to Dr. McKnight since Dr. Smith's first year in his term does not end until June 30. The Interim title encapsulates the entirety of his second year as Superintendent, which would start on July 1.)

McKnight has been a fixture in school systems throughout multiple counties in Maryland for over a decade. She first started out as a public school teacher, moved up to an

Assistant Principal, and then she arrived at Ridgeview Middle School (RMS) as their Principal.

She garnered much praise for her actions as the Ridgeview Principal, even winning the Maryland Middle School Principal of the Year award by the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals, and the Maryland State Principal of the Year award by the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 2015.

After 2015 — her fifth year as the principal for Ridgeview Middle School — McKnight accepted a position as the Director of Secondary Leadership Development Programs for MCPS. She also served as a Campus Principal Ambassador Fellow for the United States Department of Education in 2016, working alongside former United States Secretary of Education John King.

McKnight then went on to work as the Chief School Management and Instructional Leadership Officer for the Howard County Public School System, followed by the Deputy

Superintendent for MCPS before being approved as the Acting Superintendent.

She was approved to this position during a Montgomery County Board of Education Business meeting on March 11.

At this meeting, McKnight said that she was "honored and humbled" to have been selected as the Acting Superintendent. She ensured that she will do everything that she can to "make the education for our [MCPS] students even better."

She also pointed out that she appreciated how MCPS has provided "equity in a meaningful way to our [MCPS] students," and that she wishes to continue that trend.

Past students from Ridgeview Middle School remember Dr. McKnight fondly, and share their enthusiasm for the future.

"The entire Ridgeview community loved her," said senior Abigail Kramer. "She was always cheering us on as students and really cared about our education."

Junior John Guerigian also echoed those same sentiments. "She was very dedicated to MCPS and serving her students and faculty," Guerigian said.

Current Quince Orchard seniors who went to Ridgeview only had Dr. McKnight for two years, while current QO juniors only had her for one year, as the 2015-2016 school year was her last year at Ridgeview. And while that means that those students never had her for the full three years, her impact and presence was still very much felt by them.

"I'm proud of her for advancing to Acting Superintendent," Kramer said. "She definitely deserves that position."

Guerigian said that he is "proud that a former RMS principal got the job."

Many students agree that it is wonderful to see a familiar face at such a high position of power in MCPS, and many are eager to see what developments are made under her leadership.

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Read about the divisive hijab ban in France

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GOLF



# France's controversial hijab restrictions

*Proposed 'separatism bill' meant to fight extremism intrudes into religious freedoms*

By SARA KLEMOW  
Editor-in-Chief

France's National Assembly, the lower house of their parliament, approved a bill in February dubbed as the "separatism bill" to separate radical Islamists from the French population, strengthening respect for French values. The bill was introduced to safeguard France in response to a series of Islamist terror attacks over the past year. However, the specific regulations worry French Muslims (the second largest religious population in France) that their religious freedoms are being taken away.

"The bill mentions neither Muslims nor Islam by name," according to Elaine Ganley at the Associated Press, "Supporters say it is aimed at snuffing out what the government describes as an encroaching fundamentalism that is subverting French values, notably the nation's foundational value of secularism and gender equality."

Most regulations are security-based, such as the hate speech offense that detains anyone who spreads personal information about public sector employees with the intention of harm. The specifics of what "harm" exactly is — towards



Muslim model Rawdah Mohamed posted this image on social media describing the hijabi ban as a "hateful rhetoric" and an "enormous failure of religious values and equality" by the French government.

reputation or physically — is not clear as of yet.

Other regulations include: ending home-schooling that is not exempted by health or disability (meant to put a stop to clandestine

schools with their own agenda that may not align with French values), rules against polygamy and virginity certificates, stricter financial control on foreign money sent to religious organizations, and policing places of worship if authorities deem it to have "hate preachers."

The regulation that has sparked the most controversy is extending the ban on religious symbols. The 'neutrality principle' "prohibits civil servants from wearing religious symbols like the Muslim hijab and voicing political views," according to Peter Yeung at Al Jazeera. Originally, the neutrality principle only applied to public sector

employees, but this addition to the bill would expand the ban to contractors who service the public sector (for example, transportation workers).

However, on March 30, the French Senate (the upper house of parliament) amended the bill to have tougher restrictions. Regulations on religious symbols in public were added under an amendment, stating "prohibition in the public space of any conspicuous religious sign by minors and of any dress or clothing which would signify inferiority of women over men." This would mean that, if the bill was passed, girls in France could not consent to wearing a hijab until they were 18 years of age.

#HandsOffMyHijab has been trending on social media to speak out against this law, with posts expressing that women have as much of a right to not wear a hijab as they have to wear one, no matter their age. The bill also sets to ban Muslim women from attending their children's school trips while wearing the hijab.

The bill will now go back to the National Assembly with the new amendments for another vote, before it can become law. Critics of the bill are urging the Assembly to remove these measures, especially those against wearing the hijab.

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## EDITORIAL POLICY

The Prowler gladly accepts comments, concerns, and letters to the editor from staff, students, and community members. Letters may be mailed c/o The Prowler to the school address above, or they can be emailed to QOHSproowler@gmail.com. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

## 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 should take Journalism A & B with Ms. Cooley-Klein to qualify for the Newspaper Production class.

# Left or right arm?

*Everyone 16 and older is eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine*

By NATALIA GARCIA  
Staff Writer

Are you 16 yet? Desire to receive the Covid vaccine?

Here's some good news for you: Governor Larry Hogan announced on April 6 that all Marylanders 16 and older are eligible to get vaccinated. People ages 16 and 17 can only receive a Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, while vaccines made by Moderna and Johnson & Johnson are authorized for use in adults 18 and older.

QO senior Kylie Parker decided to get the vaccine and experienced the whole process. Parker explained that her appointment process was problem-free and quite simple. For her first shot, she only had to wait five minutes and for the second, they immediately attended her at Holy Cross Hospital.

Right before receiving her first dose, Parker said, "I was definitely a little emotional because I knew that this was what the past 14 months have been leading up to and I was doing something good for myself and for the public, so it was a really empowering feeling as well."

Also, Parker explained why she decided to get the vaccine. "This was not only the right step for me but by choosing to take it, I was protecting a lot of other people who are more vulnerable." Overall, she was really glad that she took the vaccine and had a great experience.

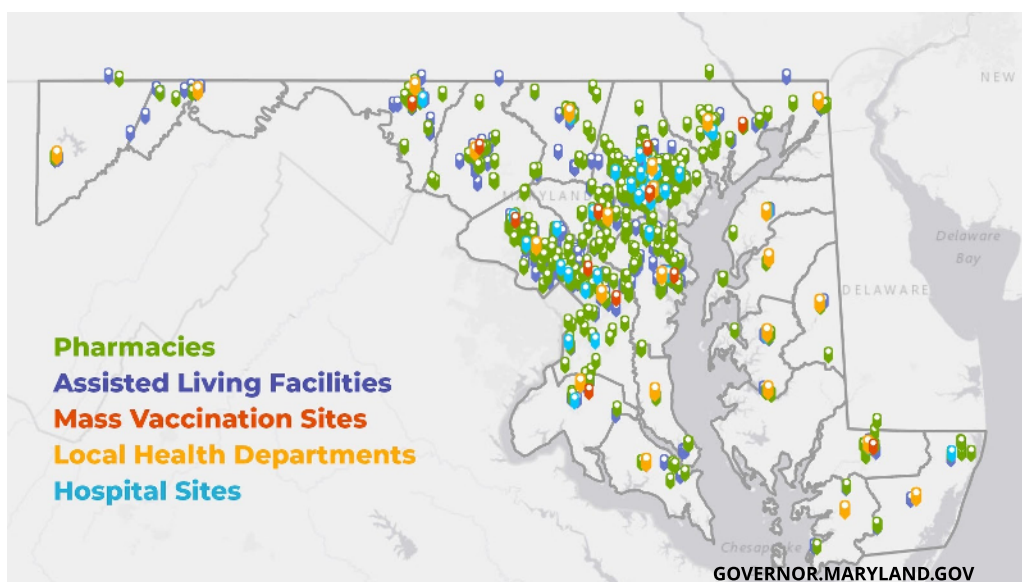
Next, we also had QO sophomore Chase Pantezzi get his doses at the M&T Bank Stadium mass vaccination site. Pantezzi's appointment process

was as well easy and exceptional. When he got his first dose, he experience mild arm sore, however on his second dose, Pantezzi didn't expect the symptoms to hit hard. After about ten hours, he felt very tired and woke up at four or five in morning with a fever. People are different, there are some that experience mild, harsh or no vaccine symptoms.

Pantezzi explained why he decided to get the vaccine: "So I could see my grandparents and not have to worry [about spreading the virus to them]. Now I'll definitely have peace of mind."

Lastly, he rated his overall experience. "An eight out of ten because getting the vaccine was a pretty easy process and the drive [to Baltimore] was worth it. The only reason why I give it an eight [was due to the] side effects of the second dose."

As more and more young adults get vaccinated, the FDA has recently been preparing to authorize the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for 12-to-15 year olds. According to NBCNews, clinical trials showed that the vaccine was safe and 100 percent effective for that age range. So far, no decisions have been completely made but chances are very high that adolescents will be eligible to receive the vaccine.



This map shows all of the vaccination sites in the state of Maryland. There is a mass vaccination site in Montgomery County at the Germantown campus of Montgomery College.



# Brandy Melville's size exclusivity

## *One-size-fits-all clothing to only fit the "standard beauty" size*

By *MLA KAUFFMAN*  
Journalism Student

Brandy Melville is an international chain clothing store that has taken the world by a storm and found its way into many teenage girls' closets. It's inexpensive and has all of the current fashion trends, which explains why many girls are obsessed with the store. But if you take a step back, you'll recognize that Brandy Melville only caters to a certain type of person: skinny girls who can fit into a size extra-small or small. The sad reality for many girls wanting to wear Brandy Melville is that the company simply doesn't want them wearing their clothes.

One-size-fits-all can be deceiving. This size is typically used to promote inclusivity. But how can something that is meant to fit all sizes, even though only people that have a smaller and slimmer physique can actually fit into it, actually fit anyone? It's pretty simple: it can't. This prevents people that don't fit the company's "standards" of their one-size-fits-all from wearing their clothes. In reality their clothes are really just for some, not all.

Brandy Melville only sells one-size-fits-all clothing. Their clothes are only catered to fit people that the company considers "capable enough" based

on their body type.

Brandy Melville has a negative impact on our society where the slim and skinny are praised, and body image is such a prevalent issue. According to The National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders (ANAD) "9% of the U.S. population", or 28.8 million Americans, will have an eating disorder in their lifetime." Brandy Melville's morals are only worsening this problem. According to the New York Times, "...young women weighing themselves and breathlessly calculating when they would lose enough weight to fit into the brand's crop tops and 24-inch jeans." They are contributing to the inaccurate and fatphobic idea that skinny equals beauty.

The company makes this loud and clear because their clothes are only meant for the smaller, petite, and skinnier girls that are only a small fraction in the world population. This is extremely exclusive and represents all of the things wrong in diet culture and today's society.

The company sets its intentions straight by only having models that fit their ideal look. Popsugar further explained this when writing "The models on its Instagram seem to confirm it, with pictures of thin models across the board and no diverse body types of any kind."

Brandy Melville will have to make some serious adjustments and changes to become even somewhat inclusive to the large population of the world that doesn't fit into a size extra-small or a small. With all this said, it is extremely important that we hold them accountable until those changes are made.



*They are contributing to the inaccurate and fatphobic idea that skinny equals beauty.*

**BRANDY MELVILLE**  
**ONE SIZE FITS SMALL**  
THIS IS YORK

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# College applications breakdown for juniors

By KAILY PAULINO  
Senior Staff Writer

With the school year coming to an end, we are proud to finally send away our seniors to their favored schools and welcome the new upcoming senior class of 2022! Every senior goes through the stress and anxiety of college applications, and having COVID-19 in the picture makes it a lot more overwhelming. Though, hopefully, it will all go back to normal for the class of 2022 when preparing for college applications. We all understand that this is stressful for most students trying to plan their future. These seven helpful tips will help guide juniors in the college application process:

**1. Do your research.** Look into many schools throughout your high school career. There are so many different universities, and it's best to apply to schools that will help you in the future with your career and also fit into your criteria. Every student is different and looks for what fits with them when it comes to schools — some may want a big or small school, some may want a Division I or academically selective school, etc. Think about which schools you want to be your safety, reach, and top schools. If you can, visiting schools helps give an idea of the type of environment you want, so explore as much as you can!

**2. Start early!** It is so important to give yourself space and a time frame for everything in the process. I recommend applying to schools around junior and early senior year. Colleges accept applications from juniors so it's great to start early to avoid all the deadlines and stress when you're a senior. Remember, the more schools you apply to, the more options you will have. Though keep in mind the application fees add up for every school you apply to. Also, take any standardized testing such as the SAT/ACT to try to boost your application. With COVID-19, this year's seniors had the choice to share their scores with schools, though just because something is optional, it shouldn't mean you should slack off and not try to boost your form.

**3. Organize.** Making a chart and being able to keep track of all your ideas and lists is great to be able to lay out an overview of your plan and know your deadlines. Also, make copies of everything you must provide in case an accident happens — always better to be safe than sorry. Set up to-dos and record on calendars to work on a little every day or so. A little goes a long way.

**4. Be Responsible.** It is critical to prioritize and to stay on top of all the supplement materials the schools ask of you. You must provide all the information they ask of you and follow their instructions carefully. If you miss something, even if it is the

smallest bit of information they ask of you, the school may reject you or not consider reviewing your application, which is devastating.

**5. Contact.** Applying to schools is impossible to do on your own, so be ready to send several emails. When it comes to letters of recommendation, for many schools you need at least three: one from your counselor and two from your teachers. Selecting teachers to write your letters of recommendation is crucial and plays a big part in the application process. Something to keep in mind when choosing a teacher to write you a letter of recommendation is if you participated and were productively involved in their class, if you respected one another, if they teach or are involved in a subject you're interested in majoring in, and if they are reliable enough to send in their letters of recommendation on time. Another supplement material schools ask for is a transcript of your high school career. You must be able to contact your school for copies of your high school transcripts. One last thing, don't be afraid to ask for help! You can't be a teacher without a college degree, so all of your teachers have gone through the same process of applying to college and are willing to help students in need. They won't hesitate when you ask for help when writing your personal essay.

**6. Essay.** Now everyone gets worried about writing a personal

essay. This is the main part of the application that a school considers when examining your accomplishments. To start off, pick a prompt or focus on something different from the provided prompts, write many drafts, then proofread and revise the statement until it is the best it can be. Say as much as you can and don't be afraid to open up. Something to keep in mind when writing for any composition is to simply write everything out in the correct order to deliver your message clearly and in an engaging way, then worry about the word count afterwards.

**7. Apply.** Applying is very exciting and very stressful at the same time. Once you have all the supplement materials, given as much information as possible, and followed the school's application instructions thoroughly, you are ready to hit submit! During the waiting process, relax and recover from all the stress that was building up and, if possible, go on any college visits.

With that, consider these tips and put as much effort as you can into your applications. There are so many resources out there, including QO's CollegeTracks and your guidance counselors, that will help you in the process of applying to colleges. Recognize that this is the process to start a new and maybe the best chapter in your life, so make the most out of it and try not to worry too much.

## The long awaited return to in-person learning *After a year of remote schooling, all grades are back in the building*

By NATALIE PRICE  
Editor-In-Chief

On April 8, the first wave of seniors paraded through the main floor hallways of Quince Orchard, celebrating their last "first" day of high school. Marching in all red, seniors displayed their QO spirit and became the first large group of students back in the building since the COVID-19 shutdown over a year ago. A week and a half later, students from all four grade levels made their entrances back in the building and began learning in-person again. After an unprecedented year filled with much uncertainty, the QO community has finally achieved some level of normal.

Of course, the in-person experience has been vastly different for each grade and each student. Freshmen are walking the halls as a Cougar for the very first time, finally getting a glimpse of what it feels like to go to high school. Sophomores are getting a second look at the building they spent less than a year in. Juniors are being hit with a wave of superiority, at last experiencing the power that comes with being an upperclassman. Seniors walk the halls with nostalgia, remembering all of their memories from the last 4 years. For them, it's about seeing their friends and teachers, and taking advantage of every last second before they graduate.

While the in-person experience isn't by any means the same as a normal year, it's not all that far off either. Aside from wearing masks, the biggest difference is the extremely reduced size of each class. Despite these differences, students of all grades still seem to be enjoying the return to in-person learning.

Freshman Caroline Spurgeon said, "It is easier to understand what teachers are talking about in person

because they are right there and that makes it easier to interact." As a first-year QO student, Spurgeon initially had a difficult time trying to find some of her classes, but was eventually able to figure it out.

"I also like that it's easier to pay attention because there are less distractions," explained Spurgeon.

The face-to-face interactions of in-person learning are definitely the biggest benefit, and after a whole year of using Zoom, kids are eager to get back to seeing their peers and teachers every day.

Sophomore Niklas Sievers agreed that it's fun being able to see teachers and friends in the building.

"I wish I was able to see all of my friends, but seeing a couple friends definitely helps," Sievers said.

However, even with increased vaccination rates and the overall reduction of cases, COVID-19 has still made its mark on the return to in-person learning. Students and staff are obviously wearing masks when in the building, and must comply with social distancing standards.

Inevitably, not all students are satisfied with the overall in-person rules. Senior Jack Taliano said, "I don't like how there are only a couple of kids in each of my classes."

Similarly, junior Emilia Hodge suggested, "I wish that some of my classes were more interactive because in some of them I feel like there is no difference between the class in school vs. out of school." However like everyone else, Hodge was thrilled to see her friends during the school day.

Like many things, the school situation isn't perfect. Yet students are making the most of it and have recognized that every second spent in the building is one less second spent isolated in their rooms. This school year has undeniably had its many ups and downs, but the return to in-person learning seems like a step in the right direction that we all needed.



Top: A group of QOHS students return to the building to lead freshmen tours for returning 9th graders. Bottom: Principal Thomas takes a selfie with students while transitioning between classes.

# Find Your Aesthetic

What's your favorite color?

Bright, bold

Pastels

Dark, neutral

What is your music taste?

Are you an introvert or an extrovert?

What are your hobbies?

Rap, alternative

Pop

Extrovert

Introvert

Reading

Sports

## eboy/egirl

Ekids are generally described as a flirtatious group of people that typically wears black colors and chains.

## vsco

vsco girls tend to listen to soft pop and dress up daily to take pictures with friends at any outings.

## academia

Usually these people tend to dress up comfy in neutral and warm colors and read daily. They enjoy learning and keeping to themselves.

## athletics

Athletes are super extroverts and loves the outdoors. They typically have fun with their friends playing a friendly competitive game.



# David Dobrik: What happened to YouTube's "golden boy"?

By *FIONA FEINGOLD*  
Staff Writer

According to Social Blade, a website that tracks social media statistics, David Dobrik has lost 100,000 subscribers on his main YouTube channel in the past month following allegations of sexual assault and misconduct concerning him and members of "the Vlog Squad."

The first allegation comes from Seth Francois, a former member of the Squad. Francois was tricked into kissing fellow member Jason Nash while he was blindfolded. Since he couldn't see, Francois didn't realize he was kissing Nash until afterward. Francois said that he "was touched by someone [he] did not consent to."

The video has now been taken down and Dobrik apologized on his podcast's YouTube channel, explaining, "I missed the mark with that one and I'm really sorry." In his second apology video, which was published on his main channel, Dobrik apologized for this phrasing

and said, "It was cowardly of me to say in my last apology that I 'missed the mark.'"

In another deleted vlog, Dobrik films Vlog Squad member "Durte Dom," or Dominykas Zeglaitis, making sexual jokes about a group of women, including repeated mentions of a "threesome." Since then, one of the girls in the video has come out with rape allegations against Zeglaitis in an article from Business Insider. The victim, who has chosen to stay anonymous, was allegedly raped by Zeglaitis the night that vlog was filmed and has said that she was too drunk to consent. In that same article, Trisha Paytas, who dated Nash, confirms that Dobrik asked Nash to buy the girls alcohol. Paytas has also accused Dobrik of filming her and Nash having sex without her consent.

This isn't Dobrik's first controversy. A video resurfaced in June 2020 of Dobrik saying the n-word. Soon after that, he was also called out for mocking Asian accents in two videos with his then-girlfriend, Liza Koshy. In both videos, they were

trying Asian candy and Dobrik pretended to read the Japanese packaging, even though he obviously had no idea how to speak Japanese. When Koshy protested, he said that "it's not racist. That's like the sounds I hear when they talk." Koshy responded with, "No, it's not racist as long as I keep saying no." Both videos have since been deleted.

Dobrik addressed his racist past on his podcast VIEWS, but didn't mention either incident specifically. He said, "Every video I make, every Instagram I post, everything I do, I just wanna cheer somebody up. ...with that being said, I feel like, on a handful of occasions, I've just missed the mark on that. And that really, really bums me out. And that kinda sucks, that it took me so long to understand...I'm going to do better actively, and I'm gonna do that consistently." Critics of Dobrik observed that he posted this apology on his podcast, as opposed to his main YouTube channel, or even his Instagram or Twitter. However, in his most recent YouTube apology, he

said, "I've put myself in a lot of situations where I've needed to apologize for my past actions, and I've never done this correctly, and I've never done this respectfully, and my last video is a testament to that."

So what's going to happen with all of this? There are a few possible outcomes. Dobrik could be completely "cancelled." He could lose all of his authority and fade away into the category of forgotten influencers. There's also the possibility of this completely blowing over. Until now, Dobrik was beloved by many, and some of his fans will likely be hesitant to unsubscribe from him. However, these allegations are much more serious than other YouTube scandals, as Zeglaitis could be arrested.

Only time will reveal the public's response, but Dobrik's reputation has already been affected. YouTube has demonetized all of his channels, as well as Zeglaitis's. Some of Dobrik's former sponsors, such as Frank's Red Hot, Chipotle, Bumble, and Seat Geek have already announced that they will no longer partner with Dobrik.

## My unpopular opinions

By *STACY SHIN*  
Staff Writer

Pineapple is in the top 3 best pizza toppings

Rare steak is disgusting — might as well just bite out of a cow

Bacon is severely overrated

Vanilla is the most boring ice cream flavor

6ix9ine should not be popular

Orange juice with pulp > orange juice without pulp

Oatmeal is underrated

Subtitles are a necessity

It's okay to not have a developed music taste. Don't be ashamed of listening to Top 50 hits.

Captain America is the most boring Avenger, but has the best movies

Traditional Thanksgiving food is just not that good

Spam is delicious

Frosted sugar cookies from the grocery store don't actually taste that good

Babies shouldn't be allowed in movie theaters

Sparkling water tastes like bubbly battery fluid

It's okay for your favorite soccer player to be Messi or Ronaldo

No one cares about the Grammys except for the artists themselves

Chocolate does not belong on any fruit besides bananas

Cold showers in winter are better than hot showers in the summer

Writing in cursive is easier than writing in print

## VIEWPOINT

# The cons of online learning

By *MADDY RUBERY*  
Staff Writer

As we near the end of the 2020-2021 year, the first ever majority-online school year in history, we've come to many conclusions. How we must adjust to an online environment, how we miss being in school, and most importantly, how much online school can suck. As a junior at Quince Orchard who has been completely virtual for the duration of her school year, I feel the need to indulge mine and my peer's experiences with the MCPS community.

Junior year has been labeled as one of the most difficult years a student can experience before reaching the college level. But this year's juniors are not getting the typical run-through. Even after a year, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to hold a firm hand around our society. Schools everywhere have been forced to lock their doors and demand students learn from their homes — this has been proven to be both beneficial and detrimental. Without the risk of school days being super-spreader events, what could possibly affect students negatively?

"I think online learning has had a pretty big impact on my mental [well]being because you get less hands-on help from the teachers," says junior Emma Lee Freeman. "You just feel more alone in the whole process."

Although Quince Orchard has partially opened its doors to select students who chose to attend in-person learning, the majority of the school population remains online. It can be difficult to connect with teachers and peers when the only interaction you have is through a chat or brief conversations in breakout rooms.

In certain circumstances, I could

have between 3 or 10 assignments due on the same day, not to mention the quizzes I am required to complete at the end of every week. This, on top of home life and extracurricular activities, can make life extremely stressful. After a while, work just seems to stack up, until you're stuck playing an endless game of catch-up for the rest of the quarter.

"It makes students stressed when assignments pile up and they have a list of overdue items, compared to in-person school where teachers can be empathetic, help kids through their work and life's obstacles as well," Freeman adds.

According to The Beacon, in a study conducted in June of 2020, 75% of college students reported feeling more anxious or stressed due to online learning.

The feeling of stress and loss of motivation doesn't just go one way — teachers are also on the receiving end.

"I have attempted to make connections and I have invited interaction through emotion boards, but I feel there are many missed opportunities with the current online learning," says Spanish teacher Charlene Gonzalez. "Students can hide and refrain from speaking and communicating in the chat."

Not only is it extremely difficult to connect with teachers, it can be just as hard to understand students as well. With both sides

experiencing a lack of connection, online learning was bound to be difficult in one way or another — but there are ways we could face our dilemma.

Talk with your teachers! It won't hurt to unmute yourself in class one in a while. But the same can be said for teachers; listen to your students and try to understand what they may be going through. A student you think to be lazy may just be busy fighting their own battles.





## REVIEW

# The American Landscape and Dream in *Minari* and *Nomadland*

By MATTHEW MINTON  
Editor-in-Chief

An everyday, middle-aged woman travels alone in her van. She nicknames it Vanguard, a symbol of protection. Amidst the loss and grief she faces, she rarely breaks down and cries, or announces her pain. We can see it all in her face, as she travels the American midwest following economic hardship. It may seem aimless, but her journey is significant as she connects with her fellow nomad community and searches for inner peace.

In the highly acclaimed and awarded film, Frances McDormand portrays Fern in *Nomadland*, which recently took home Oscars for Best Picture, Best Director for Chloé Zhao, and Best Actress for McDormand's titular role. *Nomadland* is a film that has particularly grown on me, as the film gives a unique and introspective look at living off the radar with no permanent habitat. By the same token, the film fully acknowledges the economic inequality and feeling of being left behind that Middle America often faces. Despite some criticism for showing scenes in an Amazon warehouse and not fully condemning Amazon for its treatment of warehouse workers, *Nomadland* is not a film that

glamorizes poverty. It instead gives a space for the viewer to understand the Nomadic community and the peace and beauty one can find in a slower lifestyle, while emphasizing everything they have lost in their lives to get to that point. Amidst the beautiful, stunning landscapes captured by cinematographer Joshua James Richards, we never lose sight of a personal connection to the characters and their feeling of being left behind by corporate, capitalist systems.

*Minari*, which was nominated for six Oscars, winning Best Supporting Actress for Yuh-jung Youn, is another story set amidst the American landscape. Following a Korean family who immigrated to the United States and settled in Arkansas to start up a farm, *Minari* follows the journey of cultural assimilation, family connection, and finding a community in a new place. The film is gorgeous and I was moved to tears by this family's journey to fit into a new environment. The soulful, goosebump-inducing score by composer Emile Mosseri along with the wonderful performances from the cast were treats to witness. It all felt so authentic with a very simple story that lended itself to an emotional connection that I'll never forget experiencing for the first time.

As somebody who avidly watches and studies the Academy Awards every year, seeing films like *Nomadland* and *Minari* be awarded is extremely promising from both an artistic and equitable point of view. *Nomadland* is an independent, female-helmed small budget film featuring slow, artistic, documentary-style film-making — the type of film that often goes overlooked by award shows. *Minari* is led by an Asian cast, a historically underrepresented group by the Oscars, and takes a slower pace in its storytelling. Now, we just saw *Nomadland* sweep the Golden Globes, Critics Choice, the BAFTAs, and the Oscars, with Zhao becoming the first woman of color to win Best Director (and only the second woman ever). Moreover, Youn's Supporting Actress win for *Minari* marks the first nomination and win for a Korean actress, while Steven Yeun's Best Actor nomination is the first for an Asian American and East Asian in the category.

While both films depict very



different facets of society and time across the vast American landscape, we can see the profound merit in comparing both works of art. We may all travel our own paths in life and are inevitably shaped by our own unique experiences, whether that be culturally, economically, or socially. We may find ourselves realizing that our path is different from what those around us are doing — and that is okay! What is important is that we never lose sight of our purpose because, as illustrated in the comparisons between these two beautiful little films, the journey that we are all on amidst the great landscape that is our universe is the journey we are meant to take.

With my final words on The Prowler, I leave you all with one quote from *Nomadland*: "I'll see you down the road."

## REVIEW

# Fishy or Fact? Netflix's new controversial documentary

By ANNA SOYKAN  
Senior Staff Writer

In March, Netflix released a documentary starring and directed by British filmmaker Ali Tabrizi titled *Seaspiracy*. It quickly gained attention around the world for uncovering corruption and misleading information in the fishing industry, as well as highlighting the huge impact it has on the environment. Throughout the documentary, the word "sustainability" kept coming up. The major question was "Can you have sustainable fishing?" The answer to this at the end of the film was that you can't. Here is where the controversy starts.

Watching the film is said to be "mind-blowing" by many people on social media — including Chris Froome, the seven Grand Tour-winning British cyclist and Bryan Adams, a vegan Canadian rock star. However, some of the interviewees say their statements were taken out of context.

In the film, Mark Palmer, the associate US director of the International Marine Mammal Project, which is responsible for the Dolphin Safe Tuna label, seems to be saying that there is not a guarantee backing the Dolphin safe label due to little oversight on fishing boats. Palmer has since stated that "the film took [his] statement out of context to suggest that there is no oversight and

we don't know whether dolphins are being killed. That is not true."

Professor Christina Hicks, an environmental social scientist at Lancaster University who was interviewed for the film, tweeted: "Unnerving to discover your cameo in a film slamming an industry you love and have committed your career to."

These responses are alarming when the claims in the film are so large. Some of the statistics in the film include that 46% of the Great Pacific Garbage

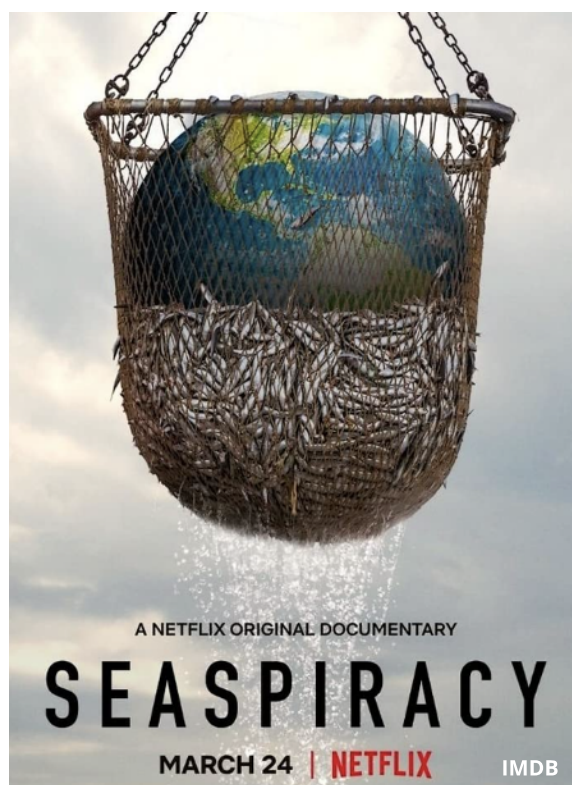
Patch is made up of fishing nets and only 0.03% is plastic straws, and also that the equivalent of a garbage truck load of plastic is dumped in the sea every minute.

The most controversial claim is

that the oceans will be empty by 2048; however, this claim is based on a study in 2006 that has since been said to be outdated. Bryce D. Stewart, a marine ecologist and fisheries

biologist at the University of York in England, wrote on Twitter that the film "regularly exaggerates & makes links where there aren't any." Stewart continues in an interview with Inverse Magazine, saying that the biggest error in the film was saying sustainable fishing doesn't exist. He explains that "in the

most recent assessment by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, it was calculated that almost two-thirds of fish stocks were being harvested sustainably (65.8 percent) and that 78.7 percent of all



landings of marine fisheries come from biologically sustainable stocks." However, he goes on to say that it does not go without problems. When asked what he would change about the movie, Stewart states that it needed to be much more scientifically accurate and diversify the pool of interviewees. "We needed to hear from the seafood industry, from managers, and from NGOs in a non-selective way," Stewart explained.

In conclusion, although the film was surprising and eye-opening to watch, it should not be one's only source of information on the fishing industry. Other documentaries on the topic that are much more informative and scientific based are the 2009 film *End of the Line* and a low budget film called *Troubled Waters*, which is available on YouTube.

"Unnerving to discover your cameo in a film slamming an industry you love and have committed your career to."

-Professor Christina Hicks





# NCAA March Madness's sexism scandal

By **JULIA DIETRICH**  
Staff Writer

When the women of the 64 teams of the Women's March Madness Tournament arrived at San Antonio, they were appalled by the disparity between the treatment of the men and the treatment of the women in the competition. The men received better food, more welcome gifts, or "swag bags," and were given a complete weight room, while the women received a table with a few yoga mats and a tower of weights. The men's teams were also being given COVID-19 tests that were considered to be more accurate than the tests the women were being given. Many of these players and their coaches spoke out about the disparity, but a video captured by University of Oregon player Sedona Prince gained the most traction.

However, Prince's video was not what first gained traction. Before Prince posted her video on TikTok, other pictures of the disparities between circulating on Twitter. They created enough buzz that Lynn Holzman, the Vice President of Women's College Basketball, released a statement stating that the reason for the weight room disparity was due to a lack of space.

It was this statement that prompted Prince to record and post her video showcasing the differences between the men's weight room and the women's weight room. She acknowledged Holzman's statement

before showing the world the empty, unused space that surrounded their weight room and practice court.

"I saw [the disparities] in pictures, but when I saw it I was just like, man, I gotta put this out there," Prince said in an interview with CNN.

Prince uploaded the video to her TikTok account before eventually posting it on her Twitter account. Prince's original TikTok has over 11 million views and her Twitter repost has over 17 million views. Many of the viewers who watched the video shared their disgust with the NCAA's lack of equality.

"It's the 21st century; you don't expect these things to happen. It's 2021. You don't expect people to be so blatantly separated just because of their gender, and it's something I think we have been making big strides for and it's upsetting that a big organization had this scandal," said Kai Judge, a Quince Orchard junior and former basketball player.

The video gained even more popularity as NBA and WNBA players, such as Steph Curry and Sabrina Ionescu, and other big names in sports media, such as Jay Bilas and Sarah Spain, called out the NCAA for their sexism and called for change.

And change they got. After the outcry the NCAA was able to turn the empty space that was shown in Prince's video into a gym the size of the men's gym.

"I didn't really know if there was going to be a change or not, but now that there has been all the rest of the girls here are excited to use our new

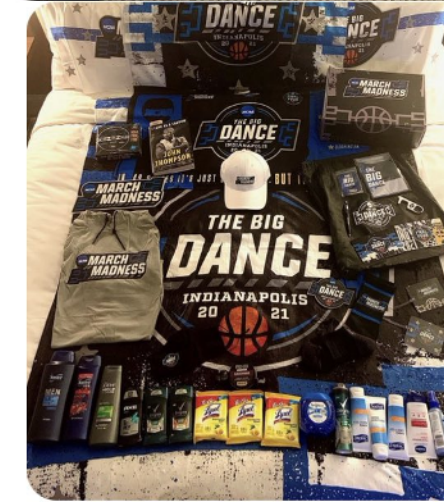
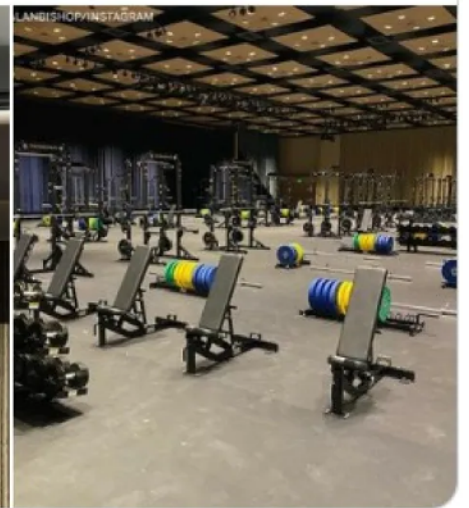
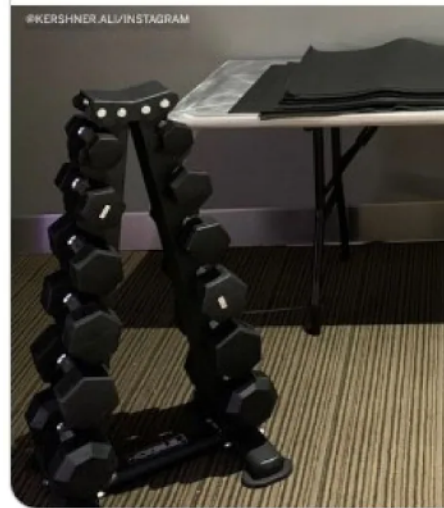


PHOTO CREDIT: AJ MCCORD, REVOLT TV

weight room," said Prince.

However, many coaches and athletes believe that more needs to be done to ensure there is not a repeat of the disparities that took place during the 2021 NCAA Tournament.

"I don't know if it's going to

happen again, or if it's happened in the past. This could have happened every year and teams just weren't able to speak up about it, we just don't know," said Judge. "I think I'm going to be pretty wary about this for now on."

## VIEWPOINT

# DeAndre Hopkins: What makes him the best and why?

By **EMMANUEL KING**  
Journalism Student

Over the years as receivers come and go, there's always a debate of who's the best of the best. Who runs better routes? Who catches better? Who's faster? Who's the most consistent? With all the choices in the NFL there are a lot of opinion based and maybe biased opinions on who tops off the list.

In my opinion, out of the great receiving core the NFL has, the best receiver in the league as of right now is DeAndre Hopkins of the Arizona Cardinals. You can't compare receivers to him and his drive to be great is none like the others. When you line up against Hopkins, his goal is to make you never want to guard him ever again — he's going to make you respect him. The mindset of Hopkins is like no other, when he was on the Texans the Arizona coach came up to him and told him he was the "best receiver in the game," and Hopkins replied "I know."

When Hopkins made #8 on the NFL's Top 100 players list of 2020 they interviewed corners and safeties he's gone against. In the interview,

Patriots star cornerback Stephon Gilmore was sure about his answer when asked out of all the players he's gone against, who he respected most? He responded "Hopkins... a lot of receivers don't have that dog mentality and he has that." Respect isn't something that you earn overnight, he has proven to all of the best defenders in the league that he is not

the one to play with. He had 11 starting quarterbacks when playing for the Houston Texans which also proves that he is one of the most consistent receivers and from the famous phrase we all know: consistency is key. After getting traded to the Cardinals, ESPN's Michelle Beisner-Buck interviewed Arizona's quarterback Kyler Murray about

DeAndre Hopkins. He told Michelle "He's crazy to see in person... He's really I believe the best receiver in the league." Now tell me, who knows a receiver more than their quarterback?

Very few may say Tyreek Hill is the better DeAndre Hopkins because he has speed over him, but as a receiver speed can only do so much. Yes, Tyreek Hill has speed but in everything else Hopkins rules over him with his height, route running, and catching ability. Some may say Julio Jones is a better receiver than Hopkins because they have the same dog mentality; Julio is taller and faster but he isn't as consistent with his performance as Hopkins is. It's all proven in the statistics, Hopkins is in 2nd place with receptions and in 3rd for amount of yards.

With so much competition to be the best in the NFL's stacked receiving core, to be labeled in the Top 10 is a major accomplishment itself. DeAndre Hopkins has proven himself to be the best of the best because of his consistency and mentality. Those two things are what can make any athlete great and that is why I give him the title of #1.



BLEACHER REPORT



# Matsuyama ends drought, becomes first Japanese man to win a major

By JAKE ZAIDERMAN  
Staff Writer

The Masters is one of the greatest events in the sports calendar every year. In a normal year, its precise placement has it right after March Madness and in the middle of the NHL and NBA playoffs. This year was different: Only six months after Dustin Johnson shot an unheard-of 20 under par in November to secure his first green jacket, The Masters was back in its original position in April.

A new champion, however, would be crowned this time around, with Hideki Matsuyama of Japan winning his first tournament since 2017. He also was the first Japanese man to win a major.

Entering the final round on April 11, Matsuyama held a four-stroke lead over the field and saw that go up and down throughout the course of the day. Will Zalatoris, Jordan Spieth, and Xander Schauffele were all chasing Matsuyama for the coveted green jacket. Matsuyama was paired with Schauffele as the two were the leaders following Saturday's action.

"My plan this morning was to wake up about 9:30," Matsuyama revealed afterward to CBS Sports. "But needless to say, I arose much earlier than that and couldn't go back to sleep."

When the clock struck 2:40 pm, Matsuyama and Schauffele teed off. Matsuyama was even through the first seven holes with a bogey on hole one and a birdie on hole two. It was the first time all weekend that he bogeyed the first hole, and the second time he birdied two.

Schauffele, too, was a mess throughout the first five holes. After a par on one, he birdied two but followed it up with back-to-back bogeys on three and four and a double-bogey on five. They were neck in neck after the front nine with Matsuyama leading the way, but the three others were still hot on his tail.

Schauffele started the back nine hot with birdies on four of the first six holes. Spieth almost matched him with three birdies on the first six. Zalatoris lost one stroke on the first six, but alas Matsuyama was still in front as he also lost one stroke on the same stretch.

Coming into the home stretch of the final three holes, Matsuyama was still on top by a couple strokes. Zalatoris and Spieth finished their rounds with scores of -9 and -7, respectively. All eyes were on Matsuyama, Schauffele, and Zalatoris. Although Matsuyama bogeyed sixteen, it wasn't crucial due to Schauffele's triple-bogey that all but put him out of the running.

It was now a two-man race be-

tween Matsuyama and Zalatoris. Since Zalatoris's round had finished, all Matsuyama had to do was score a bogey or better on eighteen. The tee shot was perfectly placed on the fairway. His second shot, however, was placed a little more right than expected and landed right in a bunker. The follow-up shot was one of the best he could've asked for as he put five feet away from the hole. As the ball rolled off his putter, it broke left, setting up a crucial bogey shot. If he missed, he would be forced to make his next shot to set up a playoff with Zalatoris. Matsuyama didn't seem phased by the moment as he fastly approached the ball and hit it in with ease, securing his first major championship.

Matsuyama went to hug his caddie Shota Hayafuji and made his way up towards the clubhouse where the festivities were just beginning. As that was happening, Hayafuji took the flag off the eighteenth pin, placed it back and bowed.

"This year has been a struggle," Matsuyama said to Masters writer Bill Fields. "No top-10s, I haven't even contended, so I

came to Augusta with little or no expectations. But as the week progressed, as I practiced, especially on Wednesday, I felt something again. I found something in my swing. And when that happens, the confidence returns. I started the Tournament with a lot of confidence."

As Matsuyama was celebrating in Augusta, Georgia, nearly 7,000 miles away in his homeland of Matsuyama, Ehime, Japan, it was 8:00 AM but people were indeed celebrating. Athletes from around the sport congratulated Matsuyama. Adam Scott, who in 2013 became the first Australian to win the Masters, had very high praise for Matsuyama while talking to ESPN: "He's a bit like a Tiger Woods [is] to the rest of the world, Hideki in Japan." That is one of the greatest comparisons a golfer can ever get.



HUNTER MARTIN, MASTERS.COM

## ESSAY

# The Prowler: The best years of my life

By BEN STROBER  
Editor-In-Chief

September 2017, I walked into Quince Orchard High School, a 4'11" boy with one passion. From the minute I walked into QO, I knew exactly what I wanted to do. I wanted to be a sports writer. The only issue I ran into was that I had no clue where I was going to start the pursuit of this passion. Every day, I watched ESPN and would dream to myself of one day being just like them and being at the top.

In the second week of school, I attended the Club Fair in the courtyard. I walked around mindlessly, unsure of if there was anything for me. Suddenly, my eyes lit up when I saw a sign for "The Prowler." I quickly walked over to ask what the club was. It was at that moment I realized that this is exactly what I needed to do. I patiently waited for course registration so I could sign up for the Newspaper Journalism course.

The following year began, and I started the journalism course. It was at this time when I had the pleasure of meeting one of the most helpful people in my lifetime. I'm talking about Ms. C-K, of course. For those of you who never had her as teacher or mentor, you surely missed out. Ms. C-K in her class taught me all the essential skills and tricks needed to be a good journalist. As the year went on, I could see improvements in my writing already. Step by step, I was

gaining new skills to add to my articles every week. Towards the end of the year, I got my first taste of what it was like to be on The Prowler when I wrote my first article about current issues with the Washington Football Team. Looking back, I was very proud of that article I wrote. However, when I read it today, I can see how much I have grown as a writer.

September 2019, holy shoot I'm a junior already? Time was flying by in high school and now was the time to finally write for The Prowler. Early on, I was able to experience working as a team with my fellow writers in the sports section. One of the greatest things about being on The Prowler was the way we all would collaborate and work with one another. Whether it was in section meetings, or all staff meetings, I loved being able to bounce ideas off other people to create the best possible stories for the paper.

As the first couple issues passed, I was slowly but surely improving with each one. During the third issue, I wrote what I believed to be my best article that I have ever written. I wrote a story about the football team's playoff loss and the events that led up to it. It was tough for me to write things about the team that may seem negative, especially as a longtime fan. However, to be a good journalist, you can't write to please everyone. The true story must be told. It was at this moment I felt that I was coming into my own and really starting to feel like a journalist.

My junior year was a great

learning experience for me. I was grinding hard in school and grinding even harder for The Prowler. If things weren't tough enough, they got tougher. The COVID-19 pandemic left a lot of uncertainty for The Prowler as we wondered how we were going to finish our final issue. In spite of the challenges, we as a team overcame the obstacles of 2020 and left our mark in the history books as we published our first-ever issue done on google slides. We weren't able to use our normal publishing software at the time so we had to make it work anyway we could.

As the summer quickly went by, time was running out. I couldn't believe the fact that I was already a senior. Where did the time go? It felt like just yesterday when I saw the sign for The Prowler at the Club Fair. All of a sudden, I'm the Editor-In-Chief for the sports section. Everything I had worked for in the past years led up to this moment.

Only one problem got in the way: We still had to work virtually. Being virtual for most of my senior year was definitely upsetting for me, but it only made us stronger as writers and individuals. My team and I had to work harder than ever before to communicate and work on the pages from home. I'm extremely proud of everyone in the entirety of The Prowler for all the challenges we overcame together this year. I'm especially thankful for Ms. C-K. Without her guidance and positive attitude, we may have lost all motivation as the hopelessness caused

by the pandemic attempted to set in our brains. The school year of 2020-2021 has been a year like never before. Never did I expect my senior year to go this way. However, I've accepted these challenges and used them to better myself and prepare for the future as a journalist.

All this hard work and perseverance in school didn't go to waste. Here I am now, less than one month away from graduating and moving on in my life. My hard work allowed me to get accepted into my dream school for journalism. Next year, I will attend the University of Maryland and be a part of the 60 other students in the entire journalism program. With all the things I learned on The Prowler, I know I will be successful in college and happy. I plan on writing for the student paper there called The Diamondback. Thanks to my experience in high school journalism classes, I know what I can bring to the table in College Park.

With time running out for me here at Quince Orchard, I don't even know how I can possibly thank everyone who made me who I am today. To all those in The Prowler and all of my friends who supported me every step of the way, I promise I won't let you down!

Four years later, that one dream is still the same. It's time to make it happen. Through hard work and my passion to make it big one day, I know anything is possible. Thank you for everything, Prowler family. I love you all.



# Athletes of the Month

By KENDALL LUMSDEN  
Senior Staff Writer

**GIRLS LACROSSE - Emma Christensen** is our one returning senior. Despite the challenges we have had last season and heading into this season not knowing if we were going to have a season Emma has always stayed upbeat and positive. During our virtual winter season she continued being a leader to her team. Emma is beyond excited for a senior season before she goes off to play at Virginia Tech next year! She has brought such high energy and positivity to our season so far!

**BOYS LACROSSE - Jack Brick** is just a freshman, he has provided an instant spark that the boys lacrosse team needed. Already racking up a starting spot on the defense, Jack has shown tremendous skill and leadership to his teammates in spite of his young age.

**GIRLS TRACK - Manie Mevo** exudes positivity and confidence and has been an incredible teammate so far. She has been instrumental in helping coach Goodman run practices by leading warmups and helping explain workouts.

**BOYS TRACK - Donovan Brown** is a newcomer to QO track and field, but not track and field overall. He brings an energy to practice that lifts all of his teammates to a higher level. He takes the time to help teammates learn new skills and improve their technique.

**GIRLS TENNIS - Vaishnavi Iyer** is a senior that has played all four years. She has always had lots of energy and this year being a senior has taken on the role of captain very seriously. She enjoys pumping everyone up, has positive comments towards teammates and always has a smile on. It's great to see that COVID-19 didn't crush her spirit. She helps lead stretches, always willing to take or carry equipment and has become the role model of the team.

**BOYS TENNIS - Patrick Young** always shows up to practice motivated and ready to play to his potential. This is his second year on the team, as he is a sophomore, and is already familiar with the team culture. He has kept a positive attitude through these recent tough times and continues to keep a positive spirit.

**SOFTBALL - Sierra Romero** has worked hard in the off-season to balance softball, school and work, but she always comes with a positive attitude and spirit to every practice or event. She encourages her teammates everyday in every drill we do, often being the first one to lead a drill. She also pushes her teammates to grow and learn in every drill we do.

**BASEBALL - Cameron Patt** has continued to stay motivated and positive throughout the virtual seasons. He has continued to display his dedication to the team and sport which is really important in getting through these tough times. The team constantly looks up to him for a boost of positive energy.

**COED VOLLEYBALL - Andrew Brown** is a consistent radiator of positivity at practice, encouraging the team to do their best. As a senior, the team looks up to him for inspiration and motivation, and they are never let down.

**BOYS VOLLEYBALL - Benjamin Porter** continues to show his dedication to the team by taking on a leadership role at practices. He never fails to play at his full potential because he would never let down his teammates.

## Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League

### *The hidden gem of the DMV*

By ADAM GOTKIN  
Staff Writer

Every summer, many of the country's top college baseball players flock to the DC area to play in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League. The league has produced many MLB players including Brian Dozier and Hunter Renfroe.

The CRCBL is named yearly as one of the top collegiate baseball leagues in the country. In the most recent league rankings it was put in the 5th spot, which will still be fantastic is a drop from its past ranking as the 3rd best league in the country.

The league hosts many of the top underclassmen players in the country. Players from top programs such as Alabama, Vanderbilt and LSU

consistently decide to spend their summers in the DC area.

The league currently has six teams with seventh expansion team coming next year. Now, three of the leagues six teams play in Montgomery County, (Gaithersburg Giants, Bethesda Big Train and Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts) two play in NOVA (FCA Herndon Braves and Alexandria Aces) and one team plays in DC (DC Grays). The expansion team will be based out of Olney, MD in Montgomery County and will play their first season in 2022.

The league's seasons span from early June to Late July or the first couple days of August. The teams play around 40 games each summer with an all-star game in the middle of the season.

The league has been dominated

by the Bethesda Big Train since the start. The Big Train have lifted either the regular season or post season title (both in many years) in 12 out of the leagues 15 years of existence. The Big Train in 2019 were named the 6th best team in the country, the only team outside of Cape Cod, MA in the top 8.

Unfortunately due to the COVID-19 pandemic, like many things the CRCBL had to cancel the season last year. This put a huge strain on the teams and the league financially. Many of the leagues teams have been struggling to stay afloat. The teams have had no source of income this past year, without a season and without the ability to host youth summer camps.

This upcoming season will be crucial for the league and it's teams to

stay alive. The league hasn't yet announced any official plans for the season, though things are expected to be relatively normal. The improving COVID numbers and vaccine numbers should make it possible for teams to have a smooth season, and if things keep going the way that they are, teams are hoping that they might even be allowed to have lots of fans at the games this season.

