

The Huskian

SWEET HOME HIGH SCHOOL

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PAGE 1

History of Valentine's Day

BY: MEAGAN BAHAM

We all know Valentine's Day as the holiday of love, where we give our loved ones chocolates and cards. We all recall giving a card to a classmate, family member, or friend. We also all have gone to the store and seen aisles of chocolates during this time of year. Have you ever wondered about the history of all of these traditions, and wondered who St. Valentine was, and why was he important?

St. Valentine was a Roman Catholic priest who was born in 226 A.D. Although St. Valentine continues to be recognized as a saint in the Roman Catholic Church, they do not celebrate him on any particular day. Throughout history, there's been around a dozen different saints with the name of Valentine, but the one we all recognize and know is officially Valentine of Rome. St. Valentine lived during the reign of Emperor Claudius II, who was infamous for persecuting Christians around 270 A.D. Part of his persecution of the Christians included making any Christian marriage ceremony illegal. St. Valentine would break the law and marry Christians as a priest of the church. Claudius II ended up arresting

him and sending him to prison where he was beheaded.

There are multiple stories and legends on what Valentine did while he was in prison. One legend historians believe is that while he was in prison he befriended the jailer's blind daughter. The night before he was beaten with sticks and beheaded, he reached through the prison bars and touched his lady friend's eyes. Afterwards, with the healing power of Christ, she was able to see. Later that night he wrote her a letter and it was signed "From your Valentine." On February 14th, in the 3rd century, Valentine was beheaded.

With the history of the icon of this holiday there is also the history of the traditions of this holiday. Why do we give mainly chocolate and not other candies? Some people in the past, especially war veterans, would keep their Valentine's Day cards in a chocolate box. Along with that it is also considered an aphrodisiac, meaning that chocolate makes you more desirable.

You can see both red and pink during Valentine's Day, but why these colors? Red is known as the color

SEE **VALENTINES DAY**, PG. 4

Love Languages

BY: MALIA HEWITT

With Valentine's Day upon us, you will want to show appreciation to the people you love, especially that one special person. Understanding the five love languages might help you find out the best way to communicate your love with your "special someone". Not only can you use the love languages with your romantic partner, but also to improve relationships with friends.

The five love languages help us to define the different ways that we prefer to accept love and appreciation. They include words of affirmation, quality time, receiving gifts, acts of

service, and physical touch. Words of affirmation mean simply giving a compliment to your partner, such as "You look nice today" or "You never fail to make me laugh." By using this language you can show your love through your words. Quality time with your partner is obviously important, but what this actually means is no phones, no TV in the background, just you and your partner talking and bonding, laughing together and giving your undivided attention to each other. Receiving gifts from your partner can be a good way of showing your appreciation. Giving flowers, chocolates

SEE **LOVE LANGUAGES**, PG. 5

Featured in This Issue:

Snapshot of History



BY: MADDIE PEEKS

Pg. 3

Kaitlyn's Stuffed Churro Cookies-Kitchen



BY: KAITLYN VICTOR

Pg. 9

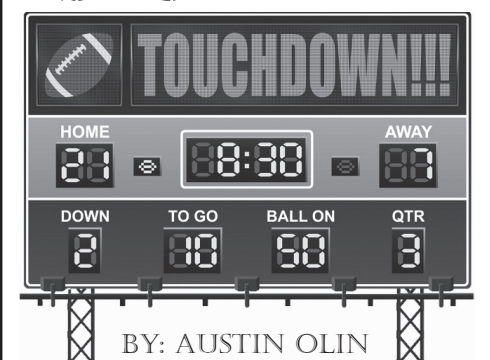
#REDFORED



BY: MALIA HEWITT

Pg. 12

STATISTICAL STUPIDITY



BY: AUSTIN OLIN

Pg. 17



St. Valentine

GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH



-US Withdrawal from Syria-

BY: MADDIE PEEKS

“Our boys, our young women, our men — they’re all coming back, and they’re coming back now,” President Donald Trump announced in December of 2018. This statement was made public through Twitter, and designed to tell the American public that the United States would be withdrawing all 2,000 American troops from Syria. His decision was largely brought about by his public desire to remove US troops from this particularly messy foreign conflict. So far, Trump has ordered that the action be completed within 30 days, though it has only recently begun. A jolting decision, it has brought about storms of protest and praise, both inside and outside America.

In order to fully understand the impacts and consequences of this decision, we need to go back to 2011 when the Syrian Civil War began. As this conflict is the direct cause of the convoluted situation in the Middle East, it tells us exactly why we got involved and who the Assad government is. It began when Bashar Hafez al-Assad gained power due to the death of his father and brother (who was next in line for the presidency). However, upon securing said power, Assad began to enforce neo-liberal and capitalist policies upon the people of Syria. When the people of Syria reacted badly, Assad turned towards mass suppression to enforce his rule. As discontent grew, the Arab Spring protests escalated into an armed conflict, forcing those in the region to react and certain world powers to take up sides.

The United States government claims we

entered Syria because the Assad government was using chemical weapons against civilians. However, the truth may lie much deeper than that. This point of unrest was a perfect time to weaken the Syrian government, a long-standing goal of the US. By keeping Syria weak and divided, we are able to maintain a steady hand in that region and don’t have to worry about the Assad government gaining enough power to be a formidable enemy.

This may be why Trump’s many military advisors warn against the pull-out, in fact, many warn that leaving the conflict will have drastic consequences. To make matters worse, both the Pentagon and the White House have yet to give clarification on how the withdrawal will proceed. Our biggest fear, however, seems to be based upon strategic losses. Both Russia and Iran will rise to exert a large amount of influence, something our national security policy warns against. In a letter to the American public, Senators Lindsey Graham, Joni Ernst, Marco Rubio, and Jeanne Shaheen state that Trump’s decision is a “premature and costly mistake that not only threatens the safety and security of the United States, but also emboldens ISIS, Bashar al-Assad, Iran and Russia.” This means that once we leave, these countries are most likely going to retake the area, and ISIS may regain the power it previously lost. This means a solid defeat to the American cause within Syria.

By leaving the area we will also abandon our loyal ally, Syria’s ethnic Kurds, who

SEE **U.S. & SYRIA**, PG. 7



American troops boarding a plane to come home.

GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH

Sleep: *The Secret to Life*

BY: CHLOE TYLER



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Sleep plays a vital role in many of the things that we do in our everyday lives. Resting affects athletic performance, concentration, productivity, happiness, immune func-

tions, emotions, and many other things. The amount of sleep that the body gets is an excellent indicator of overall health. It is critical that the body gets food and water, but the body also needs a healthy amount of resting.

At every age, there is a certain recommended amount of sleep. From birth to about eleven or twelve, the human body demands more of it. On average that is about 11 to 14 hours a night. However, as you grow older, your body requires less and less sleep. If you oversleep, the body will feel more tired and it could also lead to depression. Throughout middle school and high school, you need 8 to 9 hours a day. As an athlete, you need more sleep to help your body recover. As a highschooler, I know it can be tough to get the right amount of sleep with morning practice, jobs, homework, the early school start, and stress. One of the ways you can counter this is by “power sleeping” on the weekend, where you get extra sleep either by sleeping in an hour, or by taking a nap.

There are four main benefits to getting a healthy amount of sleep. Firstly, sleep improves brain function. This includes being able to efficiently learn, retain information, and have better social interactions. When you don’t get enough sleep, you have slower cognition, lower social processing, memory problems, and difficulty concentrating. Secondly, sleep improves physical health. It helps to regulate blood sugar levels, keep your immune system functioning, improves the health of the heart, decreases stress, and keeps your productivity high. With the appropriate amount of sleep, your reaction time improves, which makes it much easier to prevent mistakes in any task. The third benefit of sleeping is regulating your weight. When the human body is sleep deprived, our appetite hormones change. Levels of leptin, the hormone that lets your stomach know when you’ve eaten enough, drop. In addition to that, the levels of ghrelin, the hormone that causes appetite, increase. Lastly, sleep improves skin quality. “When you get into stage three or four of sleep [deep sleep] your body makes human growth hormone, which is often referred to as the body’s natural anti-aging hormone,” says Cheryl Myers, a natural beauty expert. So, when someone says that they need to get their beauty sleep, they technically aren’t wrong.

Most of us know that getting a good night’s rest is

SEE **SLEEP**, PG. 6

FEATURES

SWEET HOME HIGH SCHOOL

ISSUE 4, VOLUME 79

FEBRUARY 13, 2019

PAGE 3

A Snapshot of History

Betty Grable - Frank Powolny

BY: MADDIE PEEKS

In the 1940s, Hollywood actress Betty Grable became the most popular pin-up girl of World War II due to a cheeky photograph designed to celebrate her prowess on the silver screen. The photograph displays Betty in a tight white bathing suit against a plain gray background. She peeks coyly over her shoulder, giving off a mischievous smile. Accentuating her “million dollar legs”, this particular photo soon became the most popular pin-up during WWII. It inspired thousands of young men to continue the fight overseas by showcasing what exactly they were fighting for: a back-home gal and a model pair of gams.

Betty Grable was a marvel, a superstar. She commanded the big screen throughout the 1940s, a celebrated sex symbol and every man's dream. She was such a star that Hollywood paid her around \$300,000 annually (that would be \$4.2 million today), making her America's highest-paid woman in 1946 and 1947. Besides being a box office champ, it was largely her legs that won her this money and fame. Perfectly chiseled, they were insured for one million US dollars, a fortune at the time. After she finished her newest movie, Sweet Rosie O'Grady, in 1943, FOX Studios chose to capitalize off her wonderful legs by commissioning their chief portrait and still photographer, Frank Powolny, to do a bathing suit photo-shoot with Betty. The idea was to gain media attention by accentuating her best asset, and in conse-



quence, gain publicity for her new movie as well. Though Frank was no “spring chicken” when it came to portrait photography, this particular session didn't go well at the start. He was looking to achieve something new, and it just wasn't going the way he envisioned. After many disappointing shots, it finally happened. Frank requested Betty turn her back to the camera,

and she obliged. “How about this?” Betty questioned, turning her face towards the camera. It was then that Frank snapped two photos, the second of which became famous.

Upon its release, FOX Studios saw its potential. They went straight to the US military and persuaded them to allow five million postcards of the photo to be distributed among American soldiers fighting in WWII. After this, the photo exploded into popularity, becoming the most requested picture in movie history. Maybe it was her figure, maybe it was the idea that she was the ideal “back home gal”, but whatever it was it was a hell of a motivator. War bond sales soon exploded skyward. It was painted on planes, bomber jackets, and barrack walls. Soldiers even kept copies of the photo on them at all time for good luck. But why was it

SEE **SNAPSHOT**, PG. 4

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The Importance of Wolves

BY: SHAYLA SANDERS

Wolves are known for their bravery, beauty, and as the proud ancestors of the modern dog. However, some take the love of wolves to a new extreme with poaching. Some wolves are also killed because they sometimes hunt livestock. Although, it's our own fault they turn to such eating habits as we humans have reaped their dens and hunting ranges for hundreds of years now. They only have 2/3 of the land they used to have worldwide and 10% in North America.

In North America, wolves almost became nonexistent because of an eradication policy designed to protect livestock. In 1926, wolves in Yellowstone were killed off. Life became a little easier for some farmers, but local animals suffered. Without the wolves to hunt the elk, their population exploded. The elk ate young trees and tons of vegetation that other herbivores depended on, which decreased their numbers. Coyotes and other scavengers had less to eat, which resulted in hungry coyotes and would sometimes drive them towards cities; which put young children and pets in danger. Beavers also needed many of the young trees, that the elk feasted on, to build dams. Without beaver dams, the literal structure of the landscape changed. Once wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone in 1995, the elk population declined and the ecosystem balanced out. The beavers built dams, other herbivores had more vegetation to feed on, the foxes and coyotes had their natural prey back, and wolves proved that they are a vital part of certain habitats, especially ones that contain elk.

It is believed by some of the public

that wolves are overpopulated and must be hunted to keep their numbers in check. Wolf Conservation Center explains, "The idea that state-sanctioned killing of wolves is necessary to control wolf populations is one of the most widespread assumptions in large carnivore management. However, research demonstrates that wolves limit their own numbers. As apex predators, wolves keep their own numbers in check. Self-regulation in large carnivores like wolves ensures that the largest and the fiercest do not overexploit their resources. According to a recent work published in OIKOS, population control is what distinguishes wolves and other "apex predators" from the rest." The overall population of wolves worldwide has been quite steady lately, except for Red Wolves and Mexican Wolves. There is an estimated 30 Red Wolves living in the wild, and they are currently found only in North Carolina. 40 Red Wolves live in captivity or are used for experimental population and study. There are about 113 wild Mexican Wolves left, making them, and the Red Wolves, one of the most endangered mammals in North America. They are both part of the endangered species list. Because the wolf population is on the rise, some may think that it's okay to start hunting again. But if we hunt them to near extinction, the consequences could be disastrous.

The mistreatment of these wild wonders that some call "beasts" is astonishing. With the numbers steady for most common wolves, they have a chance of staying on our planet for a while longer, which is much more than can be said for tigers. The future for Red and Mexi-

can wolves however is looking bleak. Wolves are vital to certain ecosystems and shouldn't be wiped out. You can help though; by reading this and making others aware of the wolves' current situation, you can help change the negative perception surrounding them and help others realize what a valuable and necessary contribution they make to our natural environment.



GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH

History of Valentine's Day

FROM PG. 1

of love and romance. Red is also the color that represents Cupid, the mythological god of romance who shoots his arrows into young lovers and sealing their passions together for life. Pink is similar to red because it also represents love but, unlike red, pink represents love with everyone; friends, family, your partner, and everyone else close to you.


Valentine's Day has some great traditions and interesting history. Although, the history of St. Valentine was a little morbid, this holiday ended up being the holiday of love. Whether it is love from a friend, family member, or significant other, this holiday celebrates it all. And if you ever get a little jealous of someone, or think it might be a bit of pain getting your special someone a gift, be thankful that at least for you, if not for St. Valentine, it won't cost you your head.

Snapshot of History

FROM PG. 3


so popular? Well, simply put, it was a good distraction. The photo provided comfort from the horrors of war by bringing up positive emotions that kept them thinking about more positive times. That is, she just reminded them of home.

Not only did this simple photograph shoot Betty Grable to the top of the movie business, it also cemented her into history as the most popular pin-up girl of World War II and a source of comfort for American soldiers overseas. Wars are hard to win without morale, and Betty Grable sure provided a source of determination for the men that were fighting for our country.



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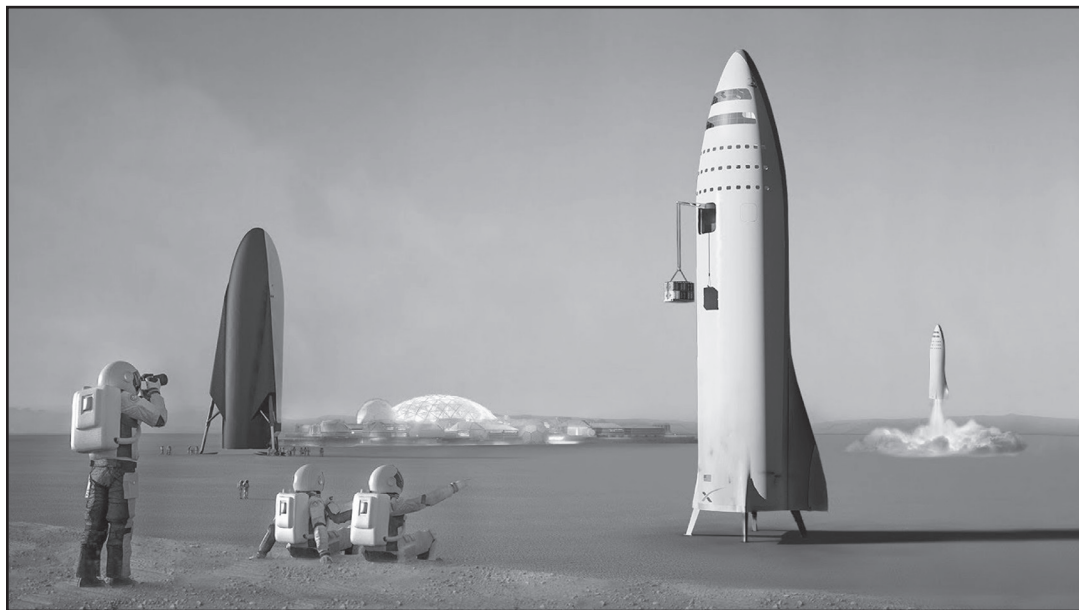
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Mission to Mars

BY: SHAYLA SANDERS



GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH

Our solar system contains eight planets orbiting a gas giant. Around them are endless amounts of planets and stars, all different; yet somehow similar. Our solar system seems to be unique compared to other systems we've observed. We have a "Goldilocks Zone". A Goldilocks Zone is a habitable area within a solar system. Our system has two planets within this zone: Earth and Mars. It is a fact that Earth has life and sustains it, and in recent research it has been discovered that Mars may also contain life. Currently, no lifeforms have been detected. However, there is water under the surface. Some think that because there is water, there may be life forms of some kind living within the reservoir. The reason why there aren't any creatures on the surface of Mars, is not just because there isn't any water on the surface, the soil doesn't have any nutrients and the entire planet is basically a giant ball of rust.

For some time now, there's been talk about if we could live on Mars. Earth is decaying and there's only one other planet that is known to be capable of sustaining life. However, there are quite a few complications. One problem is technology. We may be on the cusp of having the technology for long term space travel, but currently we do not have it. The difficulties include how to store enough fuel, food, and other necessary supplies for astronauts on what would

be an over 4-year mission; two there, and two back. Let's say we do figure this out, there is still the problem of radiation. It has been studied that astronauts who spend long amounts of time in space can have side effects from radiation. Side effects include: increased cancer risk, nausea, vomiting, skin burns, cataracts, changes to the bone, muscle, and cartilage micro-architecture as well as anxiety, fatigue, damage to the hippocampus, and many others. Oh, and if exposure is long enough, death. NASA has addressed these problems by stating, "It is unlikely that the radiation risk problem for space exploration will be solved by a simple countermeasure, such as shielding or radio protective drugs."

NASA has taken the lead in U.S. space exploration, but now Elon Musk's SpaceX is making its way to the top. SpaceX is a private company founded in 2002 by Elon Musk. Their goal is to advance space technology to enable humans to live on other planets. Since Mars is the closest habitable planet, that's their target. SpaceX announced on their online webpage that, "Our aspirational goal is to send our first cargo missions to Mars in 2022. The objectives for the first mission will be to confirm water resources, identify hazards, and put in place initial power, mining, and life support infrastructure. A second mission, with both cargo and crew, is targeted for 2024..." SpaceX is currently support-

SEE **MISSION TO MARS**, PG. 6

Love Languages

FROM PG. 1

or jewelry can go a long way; however, any gift that is personal and from the heart will surely be appreciated. Acts of service can be as simple as washing the dishes or doing a task before your partner gets to it, they will most likely be pleasantly surprised. Physical touch is the last of the love languages, and is a good way of showing affection.

To find out what your significant others' main love language is, you can give them each a try and see what he or she appreciates more, or values the most. You might also discover your partner's love language by observing what they do the most. If they give you a lot of compliments, words of affirmation is most likely their language. Although your sweetheart's primary love language may be words of affirmation, this does not mean that the other languages aren't important to a lasting relationship. You can still show love by doing the dishes or spending quality time with your partner.

If you don't have a romantic partner, don't worry! Love languages can also improve your relationships with coworkers, family, and friends. Maybe you have a friend that you've been arguing with more than usual. You can use the love languages to your advantage, and start to work more on that friendship to bring it back to the fun friendship it was before. Love languages are a useful tool to help preserve relationships

between parents, friends, coworkers, and romantic partners. The next time you notice your relationship is on the rocks, or you are struggling to have a healthy bond, try out the five love languages. You might find that it will bring happiness to those you interact with. The author of "The Five Love Languages" Gary Chapman, mentioned in the book how you can use this tool to maintain a "full love tank." In an article by Stephanie Watson on WebMD, she and her husband tried it out on their own, and at the end of the article, she said how their "love tank" was full due to the languages. This shows how these simple tasks do have the capacity to work.

The next time you are struggling with a relationship, maybe try out one of the love languages. By putting a little extra effort into that relationship, you might get a better result by effectively showing your gratitude for that person. When your friend is getting on your nerves more, try to use your words to communicate with him or her. Say something nice to them, words can go a long way. When your mom says you don't do enough around the house, the next time you see the sink is overflowing with dishes, take some time out of your day to do them. Random acts of kindness are never a bad thing to practice, and you might just discover the love language that works best for you and others.



Which Love Language Do You Speak?

GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH

FEATURES

PAGE 6

ISSUE 4, VOLUME 79

FEBRUARY 13, 2019

SWEET HOME HIGH SCHOOL

Sleep

FROM PG. 2

crucial, but we neglect it. The main reason for this is that people stay up on their devices. According to The Statistics Portal, about 63% of people in the United States own a mobile phone, 87% have a computer or tablet, and 80% have at least one social media account. A solution to this is to completely turn off your device; this will reduce the temptation to check it. The next reason that people aren't getting enough sleep is stress, and that can be caused by homework, tests, problems at home, or whatever keeps you up and tossing and turning. Sometimes the stress is so much that you are so focused on falling asleep that you can't "turn off" your brain to sleep. There are many ways to help decrease stress and fall asleep. To help fall asleep you can drink some tea that doesn't have caffeine, take a bath, read a book, use the "4-7-8" breathing method, practice meditation or yoga, or listen to relaxing music. One that most people don't know about is watching what time you eat and what you eat. Try to eat at least two hours before going to bed, and stay away from heavy meals. This gives your body nutrients and makes you feel better before falling asleep. Another reason people don't get enough sleep is having too much

caffeine or sleeping medications. If this is the reason you aren't falling asleep at a healthy time, cut back the intake of these types of substances.

There are many natural elements that can affect your sleeping. The most common sleep disorder is insomnia. Typically, insomnia involves having trouble falling asleep, staying asleep, and trouble waking up early. Some symptoms of insomnia are depression, lack of energy, change in mood, and behavior disturbances. Some causes for insomnia are medical, psychiatric, stress, and worry. About 10% of all Americans suffer from insomnia, some without even knowing it. Another sleep disorder is sleep apnea, which is when a person's breathing stops for an extended period of time while sleeping due to a blockage in the upper respiratory system. This is because the throat tissue collapses in, blocking airflow. About 20 million people suffer from this in America alone.

Sleep is necessary for survival. If you struggle with getting enough sleep, try out some of the previous methods. Sleep is very important, and if you do not get enough, it affects you and the people around you. To get the most out of your everyday life, get a healthy amount of rest at night.



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Mission to Mars

FROM PG. 5

ed by private investors and donations from interested individuals.

Another company with its eye sights fixed on Mars is Mars One. They aim to establish a settlement for humans. They plan to send several unmanned missions before sending a highly trained crew. Funding may be an issue, but people can support them on their website.

Government funding will support NASA for any future endeavors to Mars. Billions of dollars are spent on NASA every year for different projects. President Trump issued this goal for NASA, "The directive I am signing today will re-focus America's space program on human exploration and discovery. It marks a first step in returning American astronauts to the Moon for the first time since 1972, for long-term exploration and use. This time, we will not only plant our flag and leave our footprints -- we will establish a foundation for an eventual mission to Mars, and perhaps someday, worlds beyond."

There is sure to be more research on Mars before any humans are sent, but it seems to be in our sights for the future. How long it will take? We don't know, but it'll most likely be another decade or so. Either way, it will be an exciting adventure not only for scientists, but the average person. It has the potential to eclipse the historic 1969 moon landing and finally establish a permanent human outpost in space beyond our close Earth orbit.

Small Flower with a Big Meaning

BY: HAILEY GREEN

Love is in the air as Valentine's Day is just around the corner. This is the time of year where people are easily attached to the idea of romance, as well as being attached to the idea of giving someone you care for a token of your love in the form of a gift. One of the most popular things to receive on Valentine's Day are flowers; the most popular being roses, but why? Yes, roses are beautiful, but what do they symbolize, and what makes them so special?

The meaning of a rose is quite complex. The flower itself symbolizes a promise; a promise to new beginnings and hope. While that would make sense in the spirit of Valentine's Day, their thorns reflect a different meaning. Though most florists take out a rose's thorns; they represent a sense of defense, against loss and thoughtlessness. Now, that may seem like a strange opposing theory, and make someone wonder why we would give these to the ones we hold dear. Maybe that's the beauty it's trying to portray; nothing is perfect. Love is about overcoming hardships because it can bring you closer as a couple and respect each other as individuals. The thorns help to represent a defense against the hardships that can tear two apart.

The color of the rose itself changes the meaning, and may even change the demeanor of the gift as well. Every rose shows a sense of love, but not the same type. The red rose is the most popular Valentine rose. A single red rose can simply express "I love you very deeply" and this is the most obvious expression of the rose that we know. In the 18th century, a rose language was created as a language between two lovers who were forced by society to keep their feelings a secret. Another facet of the red rose is desire; it is to be passionate and gives a sense of love that will last the test of time. As represented in The War of The Rose, they also express courage, and power. Historically, the

red rose is what Cleopatra used to carpet her bedroom; they conveyed a sense of warmth and protection.

While other roses are quite beautiful, white roses have a special significance. They bring the most significance of innocence and purity, they're also known as the bridal rose. The white rose took a huge leap in popularity during the Victorian Era, where suitors would send a bouquet of white roses to a woman as a token of their love. Queen Victoria was actually one of the first to use white roses in her wedding. In ancient times, the white rose was believed to be associated with the goddess of love, Aphrodite. The myth tells that she pricked her finger on a white rose and turned them all red. White roses even hit history and are linked to the Virgin Mary as she was referred to as the Mystical Rose of Heaven. Even today, white roses are still the most common flower to be seen down the aisle.

Pink roses have a heavy significance of love and gratitude; they carry undertones of elegance and grace. They are also known as the island rose because they were the only rose allowed to bloom in Jerusalem. Jerusalem's name comes from the Hebrew word "shalem" which is now "shalom" which means peace, thus giving the pink rose a serene image. The pink rose used to be the most dominant species of wild rose. In the 18th century they were first cultured commercially and the color range was between a pale, almost white, to a deep crimson red. While more shades developed, each began having their own meanings. Pink roses are one of the most popular colors, only coming in a strong second to red. Today, pink roses hold a special position. Any recipient of them can be taken aback by their beauty and can feel special and loved.

While sending any yellow flower can send a light hearted message, the yellow rose really takes the cake with its serendipitous and optimistic his-



GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH

tory, making it the perfect package. The love of roses worldwide was in full swing by the 18th century, but it was only cultivated by shades of pink and white. When they finally found it growing wild in the Middle East, the European love affair of yellow roses had risen. The early yellow rose didn't have the sweet scent that roses are commonly known for, however, that wasn't to be tolerated. A sweet and spicy scent was cultivated and introduced to the yellow rose, finally letting it bask in aromatic glory.

All in all, roses are truly stunning flowers which represent the beauty of love with a touch of flare. Around Valentine's Day, people get attached to the idea of being a recipient of these flowers because not only are they stunning, but they can represent many different aspects of love. The complex and intriguing history of the rose, and its many different varieties, only adds to the statement of love you are making when you bestow them on your heart's desire.

U.S. & Syria

FROM PG. 2

have been committed allies in fighting the Islamic State. For years Turkey has been trying to steal away the Kurd's cultural identity, referring to them as "mountain Turks who lost their language." Because of this, the Kurds have long sought to create their own independent state, and the war in Syria has recently allowed them to do so. They carved out their own space in Syria, and we, the United States, promised them that it would be theirs. This frightens Turkey, who believes that an independent Kurdistan will threaten Turkey's territorial integrity, compelling their desire to decimate the Kurds before they grow too powerful. In addition, without the US to assist the Kurds, the Assad government is apt to attempt to take back the territory it lost, most likely with the help of Turkey and Russia. By pulling out, we effectively leave the Kurds vulnerable to attack from all sides as Turkey, Russia, ISIS, and the Assad government will most likely decimate their population and drive them from Syria. By abandoning them, we will also cripple our efforts to gain local fighter groups as allies in the future. However, Trump has warned Turkey that an attack on the Kurds will have dire consequences.

There are always two sides to a story. America is a strong country. By pulling our troops from the ground, we aren't abandoning our efforts in Syria.

American ambassador Robert Ford even says that our limited ground presence would not have been enough to fulfill all our goals. He states that we can accomplish the same things we were accomplishing before by conducting airstrikes instead. As a Yale graduate and a member of the Middle East Institute, he believes that the fight in Syria should be predominantly between Syrians. In addition, the pull-out will also improve our relationship with Russia. Since the Cold War, Russia has had a strong political bond with Syria, and our fight against the Assad government has weakened our governmental ties with Russia. Conflicts between our forces and Russian forces on Syrian turf have also caused tensions between the two countries. By leaving, we will allow Russia and Turkey to conduct a Syrian Constitutional Committee, which may bring about a resemblance of peace to Syria and consequently improve our relationship with the Russian Federation.

In conclusion, our limited influence in Syria will have consequences, whether they be good or bad. With the United States involved, peace within Syria is not possible. By withdrawing our troops, however, a ceasefire may now have a chance, slim as it is. Our relationship with Russia will be less strained, but if Turkey attacks the Kurds our relationship with the Turkish government could suffer. If attacked, the Kurds most likely will be killed in droves and treated as traitors, all the while being forced into cultural genocide. Finally, the pull-out may cause history to repeat

itself. In 2011, when President Barack Obama withdrew American troops from Iraq it allowed for ISIS to rise to power, causing the US to return to the region shortly after. By leaving, we may just allow a bigger problem to grow. However, only time will tell what the true outcome will be. As of now, all we can do is cross our fingers and hope Trump knows what he's doing.

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The Modern Maze

BY: AUSTIN OLIN



GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH

Escape rooms are a new type of thrilling activity that is spreading throughout the world, and people can't seem to get enough of them. The concept of an escape room is quite simple, yet it never ceases to entertain. You are "locked" in a room and have to interact with your environment to solve puzzles and escape. This sort of puzzle-game has been around a long time, dating back all the way to Greek mythology with the story of the Minotaur in the labyrinth. Throughout modern history, this type of entertainment has taken a lot of different forms. What once started as hedge mazes moved its way into corn mazes and has recently taken the thrilling form of haunted corn mazes. People are constantly seeking more interaction and excitement, and I believe that this is the next link in its "evolutionary chain," so to speak. To understand how escape rooms have developed into the booming industry that it is today, we are going all the way back to the original fan base: the gamers.

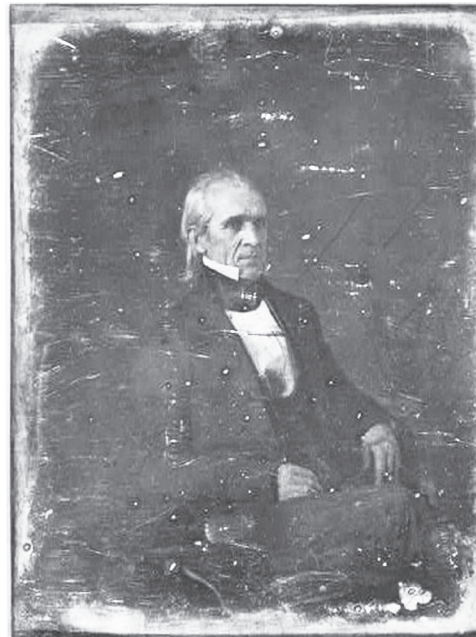
In 1988, John Wilson created a game called, "Behind Closed Doors." It was a text-based adventure that had players enter text commands to escape a restroom. It was one of the first "escape games" ever created and due to its success it launched a completely new genre of gaming that was popular among early gamers. Many game companies quickly caught on to the growing trend and most of them found a decent amount of success, how-

ever the 2004 release of "Crimson Room" would blow them all out of the water. The maker, Toshimitsu Takagi, released Crimson Room in Japan and he quickly built a huge fan base. By 2005, hundreds of millions of people had downloaded the game, and the numbers kept growing. People wanted thrilling adventures that they could feel a part of, and Takagi gave them exactly that. Gamers felt like they were actually in the simulation of being locked in a room and navigating their way to safety. It was from this wildly popular game that the birth of physical escape rooms would come.

In 2007, a man by the name of Takao Kato would create the first ever "Real Escape Game." Kato felt inspired after watching a classmate play an online version of an escape room and he wanted to try to bring it to real life. He started out hosting small events in clubs and bars throughout Japan and he quickly found himself overwhelmed with customers. Realizing the potential that this sort of attraction had, Kato would go on to create Scrap Entertainment Inc. Japan was not the only place that escape rooms thrived. Scrap Entertainment began setting up escape rooms across the world starting with Singapore in 2011, then San Francisco in 2012. Today they have locations in multiple countries including Romania, Hungary, and Switzerland. Kato wouldn't be the only person to catch onto this trend. In 2013, the first American SEE **ESCAPE ROOMS**, PG. 11

This Week in History...

BY: REBECCA JONES



GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH

February 14, 1849: James K. Polk is the first U.S. President to have his photograph taken.

February 11, 1852: The first British public female bathroom is opened in London.

February 13, 1866: Jesse James holds up his first bank, stealing \$15,000.

February 14, 1895: Oscar Wilde's "Importance of Being Earnest" opens in London.

February 12, 1914: The first feature-length film shot in Hollywood, "The Squaw Man", is released in the U.S.

February 13, 1917: Dutch exotic dancer, Mata Hari, is arrested in Paris on suspicion that she is a German Spy.

February 15, 1936: Hitler announces the construction of the Volkswagen Beetle.



GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH

February 11, 1942: The "Archie" comic book debuts.

February 12, 1947: French fashion designer Christian Dior presents his first influential collection, "New Look".

February 12, 1950: Albert Einstein warns against the Hydrogen bomb.

February 13, 2000: The last original "Peanuts" comic strip appears in newspapers one day after Charles M. Schulz dies.



GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH

Dealing with the Devil?

BY: EVAN DAVIS

Throughout musical-history there seems to be a popular trend of musicians making deals with the Devil. Robert Johnson is by far the most widely recognized example of this, as many believe Johnson sold his soul to Lucifer in exchange for the Delta Blues. While Johnson may be the most popular example of soul-dealing, he is not the first. The first person to make a claim was Giuseppe Tartini, composer of the “Devil’s Trill Sonata”. Upon examination of Tartini and his encounter with the Devil, the very root of this phenomenon is clear.

Giuseppe Tartini’s story begins during the early 18th century in the beautiful town of Ancona, Italy. Tartini was a youthful aristocrat, a dreamer and a philosopher, but not a musician. In fact, Tartini had never even held an instrument for the first 16 years of his life. However, that all changed when Tartini witnessed the violinist Francesco Maria Veracini perform. While Tartini was not familiar with the violin, he was determined to master it in hopes of playing as beautifully as Francesco. To achieve this, Tartini plunged himself into isolation for nearly 500 days with nothing but a violin and the determination to succeed. Tartini emerged a new man with the wondrous Devil’s Trill Sonata, a captivating, intriguing, and above all else, a beautiful piece of music. The song carried Tartini into the limelight of many theatres and is still revered by violinists as one of the most infamously difficult scores to play.

Later in the 18th century,

when Tartini was nearing the end of his life, he confided in a long time friend of his, the astronomer Jerome Lalande, the truth behind his Devil’s Trill Sonata. “One night, in the year 1713 I dreamed I had made a pact with the devil for my soul. Everything went as I wished. My new Servant anticipated my every desire. Among other things, I gave him my violin to see if he could play. How great was my astonishment on hearing a sonata so wonderful and beautiful, played with such great art and intelligence, as I had never conceived in my broadest flights of fantasy... I awoke immediately [and] grasped my violin in order to retain, in part at least, the impression of my dream.” Tartini died the following day after his confession.

While the verity of Tartini’s statement is still hotly debated, many consider Tartini’s dream to be attributed to his isolation. When the brain is in plunged into prolonged periods of isolation it will produce internal stimuli which triggers emotional, and often vivid hallucinations, to stimulate a sense of contact with someone or something beyond you. This form of psychosis is often found in individuals who have been stranded or lost for a period of a year or longer. However, Tartini did receive food and other necessities on an almost daily basis, so this explanation holds little ground. Another argument is that this vision was a cause of sleep paralysis, as Tartini mentions that the Devil visited him in a dream. While this is possible, it’s unlikely, as sleep paralysis is a sensational

Kaitlyn’s Kitchen

-Stuffed Churro Cookies-

BY: KAITLYN VICTOR

If you are in a cozy mood and want to curl up with a blanket while hiding away from the cold, these quick and easy cookies are the perfect thing for you! With a crispy, flaky exterior, and a gooey caramel filling, these cookies are perfect for a night where you just want to take it easy with a cup of hot chocolate.

Ingredients:

- 2 Pillsbury pie crusts
- 12 soft caramel candies
- ¼ cup butter (unsalted, melted)
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon

Directions:

First, preheat your oven to 400 degrees F and line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Set aside, and roll out each pie crust and use a small circle cookie cutter to make 24 circles. You may reuse the crust by combining all end pieces, and rolling it out again if necessary. Once you have all 24 circles, grab one, place a caramel candy in the middle, and brush the edges with water. Next, place another circle of pie crust on top of that and press the edges with a fork to seal the two pieces together. Once sealed, repeat 11 more times, and place 6 cookies on each of your two lined baking sheets. Then, bake each sheet one at a time for 8-10 minutes, or until the edges are golden brown. While the cookies are baking, grab a medium sized bowl, and in that mix together your sugar and cinnamon. Set this aside until the cookies are done. Once the cookies are fully baked, allow them to cool until warm on the baking sheet. Once the cookies are cooled enough, brush with melted butter, and roll in the bowl of sugar and cinnamon. Lightly shake off any excess, and enjoy!

BEFORE:



AFTER:



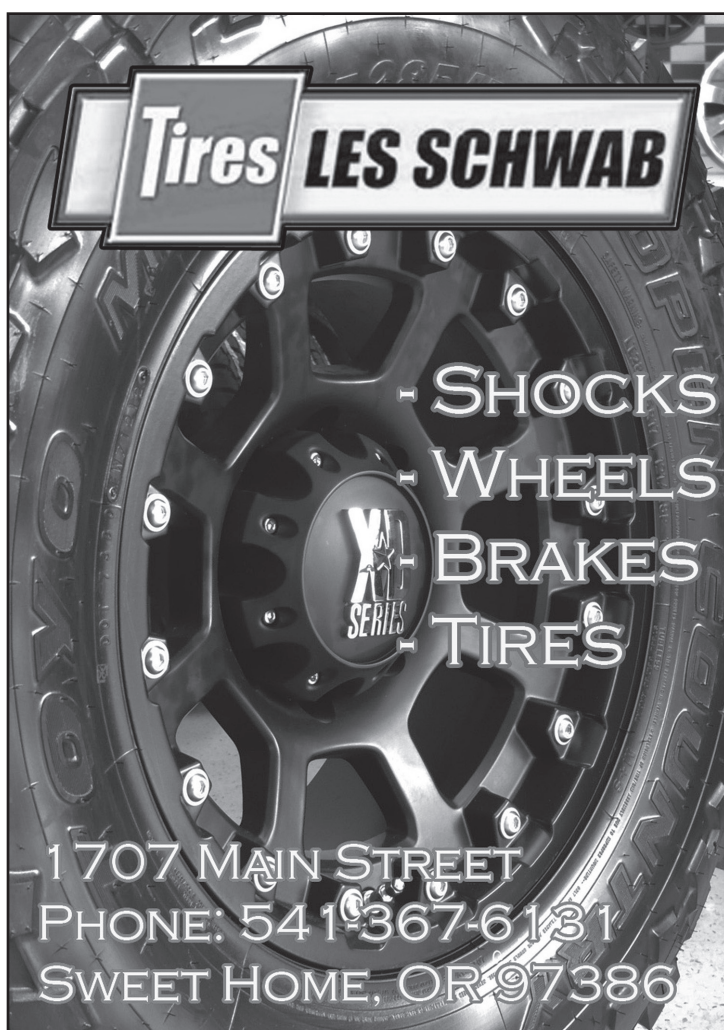
Reviews:

- “It tastes like it just came out of a bakery!” - Jerusalem 9/10
- “Eat them before they’re gone.” - Evan 10/10
- “Trust me, you want one.” - Sidney 10/10
- “Ommmnommm!” - Gremblo 10/10 gremblo

SEE DEALING WITH THE DEVIL, PG. 10



GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH



Health Benefits of Chocolate

BY: MADDIE PEEKS

With Valentine's Day approaching fast, we all have love on the brain, and what goes best with love? Chocolate. Whether you're giving, receiving, or both, you're likely to get at least a taste of this up-and-coming superfood. Multiple studies have shown many different health benefits that come with the consumption of dark chocolate. Sadly, milk chocolate is left out of the equation because of its high sugar and low cocoa content. However, dark chocolate gives your brain an increased release of hormones, is much better for you, and makes you feel good about yourself for choosing a healthier snack. Even more, your body will be thanking you for choosing such a guilt-free Valentine's treat!

What makes this food so super? Its nutrition label will tell us. As we go higher in cocoa content, you begin to see that dark chocolate is loaded with nutrients such as fiber, iron, magnesium, copper, manganese, potassium, phosphorus, and zinc. With all this enrichment there are bound to be health benefits, as our body uses these minerals to function. In addition, since dark chocolate is made from the seed of the cocoa tree, it is one of the best sources of antioxidants on the planet. In fact, studies show that this "superfood" contained more antioxidants (such as polyphenols, flavanols, and catechins) than any other tested fruits. These compounds work to make our heart healthy and lower our risk of infections and cancer. However, the benefits go even further.

As mentioned above, dark chocolate may be part of the recipe for a healthy heart. It's shown that consumption of cocoa powder can lead to a significant decrease in oxidized LDL (low-density lipoproteins) cholesterol in men. This is important because LDL can lead to a build-up of "bad" cholesterol in your arteries. In addition, this same study showed that chocolate led to a build-up of HDL (high-density lipoproteins) which are considered the good kind of cholesterol, as they protect you from the buildup of LDL. This is because the antioxi-

dants in cocoa that enter your bloodstream protect you against oxidative damage. In addition, dark chocolate also reduces insulin resistance, which is commonly connected to heart disease.

Another big benefit that comes with this remarkable treat is better, lower, blood pressure. The flavanols in dark chocolate stimulate the lining of our arteries into producing nitric oxide. Once it is produced, nitric oxide sends signals to the arteries, telling them to relax. This allows blood to flow easier, therefore reducing blood pressure. Many controlled studies have produced these same results, proving that chocolate is positive for our circulation. However, the effects tend to be mild, but something is better than nothing, so why not enjoy yourself while being good to your body?

In addition, this tasty treat is also connected to better cognitive function, i.e., it prevents memory loss. Italian researchers found that the flavanols in cocoa positively affect the circulation of blood in the brain and boost the speed of processing visual imagery. Since different areas need more energy to complete tasks, they also need the improved blood flow chocolate can provide. This is especially important for older adults, as research suggests, because they already are at risk of cognitive decline. Scientists at Harvard Medical School found that hot chocolate supported brain function in the elderly, and a 2014 lab study showed that cocoa extract can reduce or prevent damage to neurological pathways connected to Alzheimer's. As the Italian research team says, "Dark chocolate is a rich source of flavanols. So we always eat some dark chocolate. Every day."

All in all, let's not only celebrate love, but also celebrate our bodies this Valentine's Day. Cocoa is good for your blood pressure, brain, and heart, so your body will be celebrating you right back. Give some dark chocolate to your parents, siblings, friends, and most importantly your lover. Maybe even save some for yourself because, before you give your heart away, it pays to make sure it's healthy.

Dealing with the Devil

FROM PG. 9

hallucination triggered to awake the senses by visualizing a tangible threat, not a more or less helpful entity. The answer to this historical debate may very well lie in the music itself.

In the Devil's Trill Sonata, Tartini utilizes a type of note called a tritone. A tritone is performed by playing three parallel notes in unison to produce a sound that is truly unique. The tone is unnatural to the human ear, yet captivating at the same time. The note was considered unholy and taboo to play during the medieval ages of Europe, as it was thought to be a note of evil, hence its true name Diabolus Musica. Tartini's command of these tritones not only captures the audience, but also adds a truly unique ambience to the theatre. After Tartini's use of tritones many musicians soon began to dabble in the form, resulting in a new age of classical music spearheaded by musical giants such as Camille Saint-Saëns. Looking at the structure of the score and the heavy use of tritones, it's very obvious the intent of the song was to capture the audience. Centuries later, this very type of stylistic approach was implemented by rock-n-roll bands such as AC/DC and Led Zeppelin. The common theme these musicians hold, although separated by centuries, is the aesthetic in which the songs are presented.

Some might say that the similarities only further prove that the Devil was involved; however, that is not the case. The fact that these musicians have done so well in the musical business is due to the image that they're selling to the people. Tartini sold a Devil's Trill Sonata to an audience of eager Italian romantics while AC/DC sold A Highway to Hell to a generation of rockaholics. What we can glean from these two musical masterminds, centuries apart from each other, is this: marketing matters. Perhaps Tartini knew that, and spread a rumor of soul-swapping before he passed away so his legacy would outlive him for a millennium to come.



GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH

D.C.'s Hercules

BY: CHLOE TYLER

We have all heard about Hercules, known for his strength. He is the son of Zeus, king of the gods, and Alcmene, a mortal that Zeus fell in love with. Hercules was strong, confident, brave, and adventurous. He has been around since the time of the ancient Greeks. Aquaman however, is a fairly new character, also known as Arthur Curry. His father, Tom Curry, fell in love with Atlanna, Queen of the Atlantis world. He is known for his arrogance, confidence, and his heart of gold. In my opinion, Aquaman and Hercules are more alike than most people think.

Aquaman and Hercules have many similarities. One thing that they have in common is super strength. Hercules has class 100 strength meaning that he can lift up to 100 tons or 200,000 pounds. Normally, an adult man can only lift about 400 pounds. Aquaman has a strength class of 200 or 400,000 pounds in the water. Although, if he is on land, his class of strength is about 80 or 160,000 pounds. Another similarity is the way that they were born. Aquaman's mom was the queen of Atlantis and she fell in love with a human. Hercules' dad was Zeus, god of thunder, who fell in love with a mortal. This means, Aquaman is half Atlantean and Hercules is demi-god (half god, half human). This is also why they both have "powers". They also both married non-humans. Aquaman married Mera, the princess of the Xebel kingdom of Atlantis. Hercules married Megara, the daughter of Kreon, the king of Thebes. Another main comparison between the two is their arrogance and confidence. Aquaman lives on the land and he has friends like any other person. Sometimes people don't make the best decisions when they are with their friends. Aquaman drinks a lot, he is slow to change, and his arrogance has gotten him in trouble many times. Hercules did so many stupid things that he had to pray to the god Apollo for guidance. Apollo told Hercules that he had to serve the king of Mycenae for 12 years. Throughout these twelve years, he had to perform 12 labors. He had to slay the Nemean Lion. Then he had to kill the nine-headed Lernaean Hydra. Thirdly, capture the Golden Hind of Artemis. After that, he caught the Erymanthian Boar. Fifth, clean the Augean stables in a single day. Followed by slaying the Stymphalian Birds. Next, he captured the Cretan Bull.



GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH

He also stole the Mares of Diomedes. Then he obtained the girdle of Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons. Tenth, he gathered the cattle of the monster Geryon. After that, he had to steal the apples of the Hesperides. Lastly, he had to capture and bring back Cerberus, the three-headed dog that belonged to Hades, the god of the underworld.

Even though Hercules and Aquaman are a lot alike, they do have some differences too. Like the fact that Hercules is a demi-god and Aquaman is just half Atlantean. Also, Hercules has been around a lot longer because he is part of the Greek mythology. Another difference was in how they were raised. Aquaman was raised by dolphins until he saw his father working on the lighthouse. Then, his father took him in and taught him to act more like a human. Hercules, on the other hand, was raised by Amphytrion and Alcmene, the cousin and grandchild of Zeus' son Perseus. Even though they both have tremendous strength, they aren't both known for this. Hercules is mostly known for his strength and numerous adventures while Aquaman is mostly known for being able to breathe underwater and swim at tremendous speed.

If someone were to compare Hercules to another person or creature, they would probably choose to compare him to Mr. Incredible, the Hulk, or Superman. Aquaman is definitely very strong, but that is not the main similarity. The main similarity is definitely their arrogance; no other superheroes or gods are quite as conceited as these two. This is why they are so appealing to humans. It shows that they are not perfect, they're perfectly human, they make mistakes, but they always work past them. Even though they aren't all the way human, they show what being human is all about.

Escape Rooms

FROM PG. 8

company was formed in Seattle, Washington; from there the escape room business rapidly spread throughout the US. In 2014, there were around 22 locations in America; today there are over 2,300 locations with the numbers continuing to grow. Along with the growth in popularity, a new horror movie by the name of "Escape Room" recently came to theaters on the 4th of January. This is obviously an extreme version of an escape room, although it shows just how far this activity has come in recent years.

Personally, I am a huge fan of escape rooms. I have been to three different locations and every time that I complete one I always want to go to another. Perhaps the most enjoyable part about these rooms is that they take teamwork. I love having a fun time with my family and this is one way that everybody can be involved and have a purpose. Based off my experiences, the average time that you are allotted to figure out a way to escape has been about an hour. Within that hour, you have to find combinations to locks, search the room for clues, and work your way through a series of puzzles in order to find the final combination or key to finish the mystery, and escape the room. Many locations now offer 2 to 5 different rooms with varying difficulty to give everyone the thrill that they are seeking. You can find these rooms in Portland, Salem, Eugene, and just about every major city. Just do a search for "Escape room near me" and you'll be sure to find one that strikes your interest.

As far as price goes, these rooms aren't too expensive, however they aren't cheap either. The average price of all the rooms that I've been to was about \$25 dollars per person. This doesn't sound too bad, but when you have to pay for a whole family, the price may seem a bit high. It's not something you can do every day, but I would definitely recommend it to anybody who enjoys a good mystery or wants to try something new and exciting with their friends or family.

It's interesting to see how this type of entertainment has evolved into what it is today, yet it is even more exciting to look at the future of escape rooms. Some places are beginning to add other horror aspects to these rooms such as paid actors and rooms that "come alive," so to speak. Just look at how far haunted houses and haunted corn mazes have come over the years. As long as there are mysteries to solve, and people to scare, escape rooms can only get better from here.



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History's Darker Half

BY: EVAN DAVIS



Armenian genocide victims.

GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH

Throughout the course of human history, few events reach the level of atrocity as the Holocaust. However, in the 20th century during the First World War, the systematic extermination of the Armenians by the Ottoman Turks is another example of unadulterated human cruelty. The Armenian Genocide began in 1915 and resulted in the death of over 1.5 million Armenian civilians. The genocide is often noted by historians as the Armenian Holocaust. However, there lies a key difference between the Jewish Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide. Germany was forced to recognize the Holocaust and its victims; Turkey has yet to do so.

In 1915 the First World War had already been underway for a year and the Ottoman Empire, modern day Turkey, was unstable. The Balkans, a previous part of the massive Ottoman Empire, sided with the Russians before the war's outbreak. Afraid the Armenians would side with the Russians as well, the Turkish Military mobilized against the Armenian people. As stated by Lt. Ahmed Moukhtar Baas, "In April of 1915 I was quartered at Erzeroum. An order came from Constantinople that Armenians inhabiting frontier towns and village be deported to the village interior. It was said then that this was only a precautionary measure." Eventually, the Armenians were "deported" to what was supposed to be "safer ground". However, once again Lt. Ahmed reveals the truth, "In July an order came to deport... all the Armenians...Being a member of the Court Marshall I knew that deportations meant massacre." The massacre in Erzeroum echoed throughout all of the Ottoman Empire. These horrific mass murders were recorded in several eyewitness accounts by media journalists and ex-military officials.

The New York Times even reported that the roads along the Euphrates River Basin were "...strewn with the corpses of exile..." Whilst Lt. Hasan Maruf described the burning of an entire Armenian village in a report to the Cabinet of War. Other methods of extermination, such as drowning, starvation, free fall, and crucifixion were also carried out by the Turks.

After the Great War, newly formed Turkey came under Allied occupation. Many Armenians fled the country to other regions of the world, and the remaining population of Armenians who stayed were too frightened to confront the Turkish government for the atrocities. When Allied boots left Turkish soil, the genocide that occurred during World War I soon became taboo to discuss. Until recently, in Turkish textbooks the Armenians were portrayed as traitors at the time of World War I and the genocide was displayed as an act of necessity. Any and all attempts to call out the Turkish government and clarify the events were considered punishable by fine or even prison sentence until the late 1970s. Despite the universal recognition of the event by historical scholars and government officials around the world, the Turkish government refuses to recognize the events as genocide, even today. In fact, in 2015, the 100th year anniversary of the genocide, the Turkish government celebrated the Battle of Gallipoli, which was a Turkish victory. The Armenian population was insulted by this act, and the outrage only furthered public unrest.

The benefits of acknowledgement are numerous. For example, Germany under the Third Reich was also responsible for the systematic extermination of the Jewish/Polish population through the Holocaust. After World War II, Allied troops occupied

SEE **HISTORY'S DARKER HALF**, PG. 15

#REDFORED

BY: MALIA HEWITT

Over the last decade, we have seen a rise in the discontent of teachers; this has led to multiple walkouts and strikes across the nation. Red for Ed is the hash tag for a teacher-led movement to increase funding and support for public school education. Many of the teachers that take action wear red to represent solidarity. Persistent underfunding, large class sizes, insufficient school supplies and support staff (including, nurses, librarians, and counselors), compounded by diversion of public funds to private charter schools, are all reasons that have forced teachers out of the classroom and into the streets.

Following in the footsteps of West Virginia and Oklahoma, the most recent strikes in Los Angeles saw teachers and school support staff argue for a public spending cap on charter schools and the creation of a governor's committee to limit publicly funded charter schools. The teachers argued that privately backed charter schools were concentrated in wealthy areas, taking up much of the district's money and resources, and negatively impacting standard public schools.

In Washington State in September of last year, teachers for more than 11 percent of the state's school children went on strike and caused the school district to delay the start of school. Most school districts

quietly delivered double digit pay increases to the teachers. In Woodland Public Schools, teachers bargained for a 22.82 percent increase in base salary. The Los Angeles Teachers Union managed to secure a 6 percent raise in pay and a gradual decrease in class sizes over the next few years. They were also promised more counselors, librarians, and nurses.

But this movement is about more than teacher pay. Many teachers have to rely on their own money to have adequate materials and supplies for their classes. Due to the lack of supplies and overcrowded classrooms, students are suffering the consequences. These teachers are going on strike for a bigger cause, to secure adequate financial support to deliver quality education for all their students and for all students to have equal opportunity to learn.

In Oregon, teacher pay is above average and recent improvements are helping to reduce class sizes. These changes did not occur without outspoken teachers and their supporters. Teaching is one of the most important jobs for the future of our nation. Real change starts from the bottom up; it is ordinary people, like our teachers and bus drivers, who have the courage to speak out and make their voices heard that make a difference in this world.



A teacher led protest.

GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH

Protecting Our Future

BY: BRADLEY WOLTHUIS



GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH

From 43 in 2017, to 82 in 2018, school shootings have nearly doubled in the past year. With these horrific numbers on the rise the question must be asked, "What are we going to do to protect the future of our country?" Students are the future, but with the fear of their safety distracting them, their education will be incomplete. Teachers have always told me that being a student is my job. If this is the case, then I want to be able to feel safe in my work environment and not have to worry that my life may be at risk.

Making schools safer is a simple solution. Armed guards and metal detectors are the best method of securing a school. Between both the metal detectors and the armed guards, potential shooters would be quickly deterred because of the difficulty of entering the school. South Carolina recently estimated the cost of implementing metal detectors and guards at around \$98 million with a \$14 million upfront cost. Back in May of 2018, following the school shooting at Frederick Douglass High School, Fayette County Public Schools were installed with metal detectors. The base costs for installing these safety measures includes \$4,000-\$5,000 per metal detector. Funding the armed guards will inevitably raise the cost at about \$18 an hour per guard, but without the armed guards there would be no reason to install metal detectors. Funding can be easily taken care of by adding a tax or slightly increasing a tax and within a year the funding would be available.

A recent study showed that the average police response time to a shooting is about 18 minutes, while the average actual shooting time is around 12 minutes. With this average response time the police wouldn't even arrive until there was no longer a threat and the damage had been done. By funding armed guards for each school, the response time would be almost instantaneous and would decrease

the number of injuries and hopefully completely cut out the number of people killed.

In a recent article from the Sun Sentinel, writer Lisa Pane shared, "The massacre that killed 10 people at a high school in Texas last week was just the latest to happen in a small or suburban city. Of the 10 deadliest school shootings in the U.S., all but one took place in a town with fewer than 75,000 residents and the vast majority of them were in cities with fewer than 50,000 people." Living in a small town comes with its pressures. Everyone tends to know everyone and when something goes wrong most of the community knows by the following day. Within the first 21 weeks of 2018, there were already 23 recorded school shootings, and eleven of these occurred in cities with a population of less than 60,000.

From the beginning of 2009 to May 2018, there were a total of 288 shootings that took place on a school campus in the U.S. CNN compared the number of school shootings from six other countries, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, and the UK. The combined number of shootings from these six countries in the same time period was five, that's 57 times less in six countries than in America. These numbers are way out of control and since then schools have begun to increase security, but the issue still remains. Schools only increase hallway monitoring and security cameras, but have done nothing to prevent dangers from entering the school buildings. Without actual armed guards and metal detectors at entrances around the schools, potential threats can still easily become actual threats. The safety of students is important to everyone and providing a safe environment for all students should be a top priority for school boards and the government. The solution is easy, but without the support of the people, the number of school shootings will continue to increase.

A PSA for P.E.

BY: JOREL LEYBA

P.E. is starting to lose its true purpose in school. The truth is that gym class should be treated just like any other class, both by students and administrators, to not only learn and teach the subject itself, but the responsibilities of secondary education or career situations. Just like any other classes it should prepare you for life. As of right now P.E. has, in that regard, failed all of its true functions.

One problem with modern day P.E. is that it is coed. Physically, men and women are different and as a result should be taught differently. Physical education is still extremely vital to everyone, but men need to be in a different environment and condition to be taught than women. In P.E. the activities we do are effortless and pathetic. People come out of P.E. without being short of breath or having broken a sweat. In fact, most people find P.E. is boring. In order to learn you need a little bit of fear to teach precaution and keep you on edge. Alongside that you have to physically push and exhaust students so they understand resilience and hard work, which is necessary in life. This is not punishment or cruelty; it is the subject being taught. My Dad, who graduated in 1986, tells a

story about during the swim unit they were forced to tread water for an hour straight and if they tried to hold on to the edge the coaches would kick off their fingers. Obviously, they would not have let any kids drown, but we students tend to exaggerate the problem and find a way out of an uncomfortable situation. In putting them in that uncomfortable situation, the students are pushed out of their comfort zone and taught the skills P.E. should be teaching. This not only builds a healthy body, but a healthy mind. Hard work, fear, and dedication build your minds skills in responsibility, respect, and even concentration. These are the life skills we all need and are not being taught like they use to.

Back in my Dad's day, passing P.E. was as hard or as easy as passing any other class. This was a defining characteristic of how P.E. was taken serious as a class and required. Now all you have to do is show up and dress down, yet people still seem to fail that. Every day I see people getting away with giving minimal effort and still passing P.E. with ease. Even with P.E. becoming so easy people are now rebelling and choosing not to do what it takes to pass. If you lower the standard, you will just find out how much more a person

SEE A PSA FOR P.E., PG. 17



Letter to the Editor:

Response

BY: SARAH HEWITT

In the last issue of The Huskian, an article was published entitled "Feminism: A Fight for More Rights" by Jacob Thompson. It was a letter to the editor and therefore I am providing this response.

Feminism does not argue solely for more rights for women, but instead for the social, economic, and political equality of the sexes. The reason that the Feminist movement is still active in today's society is that women, in fact, do not have equal rights protected by the US Constitution. Since

1972, federal, and most state governments, have passed some legislation regarding women's rights; however, laws may change and only a Constitutional amendment will guarantee equal rights.

I recently heard a quote made by Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, "Social movements are, and should be, the moral compass of our politics." As I'm sure you are aware, the #MeToo movement highlighted the gross inequality and mistreatment of people in today's society. This resurgence of support has reignited interest for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), which purports that "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex." This proposal was passed by the Senate in 1972 and by the ten year deadline had been ratified by 35 of the required 38 states, resulting in the constitutional amendment failing.

According to some facts in "Feminism: A Fight for More Rights", it is implied that men have less rights than women and this is somehow reflected in higher rates of suicide and homelessness. The facts, while interesting, have little to do with equal rights and more to do with social and economic disparities. While I certainly agree that we need to address the underlying issues that impact mental health, economic and social tragedies, they have nothing to do with legislative equality.

Furthermore, the fact remains that women aren't equally represented in our political system. While making up 50% of the population, women currently hold less than 25% of all state wide and federal elective offices. Perhaps when our political representation is more representative of our population, we will have policies and laws that improve conditions for all of us.

While it is true that only men are bound under the conscription law, the ERA would require men and women alike to register for the selective service. Women often hold a higher percentage of jobs in both healthcare and education, but they tend to be of lower status and pay and are less likely to be promoted or hold management positions. Contrary to your argument, I found that many of your concerns are those shared by feminists. If what you are in favor of is equality of men and women, then I would suggest that you are a feminist! You ask, "Why don't we have equal rights yet?" The answer is that we have yet to pass an equal rights amendment to the Constitution. All members of society will be better served when our equality is guaranteed and protected under the United States Constitution.

A Need for Corporal Punishment

BY: JOREL LEYBA

In 1989, the state of Oregon banned corporal punishment, the use of physical pain to punish students by spanking or paddling. In the late 20th century most states decided corporal punishment was obsolete, however, 19 states still use corporal punishment with parental consent. This still is not effective. Over the past decade, each year students become more disobedient due to lack of consequences for their actions. Ridding the school system of corporal punishment forced schools to lose their power to enforce, protect, and teach.

Students are at school for one reason, to learn, whether it be actual subjects, or social cues, they are meant learn. In our current learning environment there are a lot kids that are insubordinate, disrespectful, and a pain to control. Physical discipline is the only way to show authority and contain these students. Everyday I see students in my classes acting disrespectful and rude. The teacher can lightly encourage them to better behavior, but in reality they can't do anything to really control them. At most, they are able to hand out a referral. Setting a boundary of hierarchy between students and teachers should be normal.

This does not directly apply to corporal punishment, but physical separation. If a student is being insubordinate and refusing to leave class, they should be physically removed instead of being talked to as they continue to distract the class. If we could physically remove these students and escort them to the office where their consequence would take place, it would help limit distractions in the classroom. The reason we need to be able to do this is because no student will walk themselves down to the office knowing the consequence they will

face. Teachers have to be able to control their students. If we apply corporal punishment to kids in grade school, they will be more respectful throughout future schooling. This will also help them as adults because in life police officers can do what is necessary to restrain you.

Oregon gives the school the ability to physically restrain a student if they are making threats to their peers or themselves. This is a very vague law and most teachers try to stay away from these situations so they don't get in trouble. Anything between a student and teacher that involves physical contact is room for the teacher getting in trouble. Giving teachers the ability to defuse any problem with restraint should be allowed. But teachers should also be able to start earlier by enforcing punishment so students are less likely to get in those situations. The ability to control kids is becoming seemingly impossible.

Beyond school, corporal punishment should also be applied in homes. Humans are selfish by nature and kids take advantage of lenient parents. When families don't lay down specific rules; kids often become disrespectful and entitled. This attitude then grows as teenagers, and by then it's too late to fix. This is why having consequences at a young age is needed. This is just a normal part of raising your kid. Some people argue that it's unethical to punish children physically because the child will fear their parents; however this is a common misunderstanding. Children are afraid of the punishment, not the parents themselves. Even punishment is a necessary part of loving your child because you want them to grow up knowing right from wrong, and that their actions have consequences. In school, corporal punishment would not be used so students fear the teachers, but so that they fear the corporal punishment and doing wrong.

Like I mentioned before, it helps schools teach and kids learn, but it also prepares you for life. If schools fix the little things now, they won't have to fix the big ones later. Punishment shows that every action has a consequence, good or bad. Corporal punishment teaches you what behaviors give you the bad consequences. A call home or a slip of paper to a parent only works on the kids whose parents actually care. Ironically, those are the kids who got spanked. To a kid who has never been physically punished, this is not a problem. They know they can get away with a lot of things and not regret it. Life will hit them like a hammer when they lose their job, or worst yet, get thrown in prison. Their parents first failed them, and now their school is by not showing them that if you can't control your behaviors, someone else will.

For the kid's sake, punish them or life will. If you are skeptical, I hope you realize it is a bare necessity. Students need to know what is socially acceptable; they need to learn this at a young age in order to become responsible adults. There is a serious need for corporal punishment, and if it's not being enforced in homes, it needs to be enforced in schools.

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Theresa May vs. Parliament

BY: EVAN DAVIS

Brexit, short for British Exit from the European Union, is causing massive upheaval in the UK Parliament. With the current departure date set for March 29th of this year, the distress both Parliament and its civilians are experiencing is understandable. The stress Brits are feeling is amplified as British Prime Minister Theresa May does not have a deal made with the EU and is currently scrambling to make one. The lack of an approved deal is a threatening prospect for many business owners, EU/UK denizens, and the Irish. However, the UK is far better off leaving the EU than staying indefinitely.

With the date for Brexit set on March 29th, and not a deal to be seen, many businesses are looking at economic failure and bankruptcy, for a couple of reasons. Firstly, Brexit in a “no-deal” scenario will eliminate trade between the UK and other European countries until new deals are negotiated. This is problematic, as the UK is an island with very little natural farm land or resources. With an absence of trade, the UK is expected to experience food shortages as the majority of the UK’s agricultural based products are imported. This will cause many supermarkets, such as Whole Foods, and restaurants to close down until new trade deals are negotiated. Secondly, the pseudo-citizenship that many business owners were guaranteed under EU law will expire. This will affect not only non-Brits in Britain, but any UK citizens currently taking up business in other countries as well. With these problems and many more, UK business owners are against Brexit, as it could very well kill their livelihood. In Parliamentary meetings, the streets, and on social media, business leaders across the UK are voicing their concerns about Brexit. France has even given UK businesses temporary working visa to keep their business alive in the event of a “no-deal” scenario.

Although businesses are leading a tirade

against Theresa May and Parliament, it’s the people who are really putting policy makers under duress. After all, it’s the people that are going to be the most affected by Brexit. The trades are not the only things that will be closed; Brexit will also close previously open borders, like the Irish Border. Ireland is split into two separate governing bodies, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Ireland has been split this way since 1921, since the Irish revolution against the British. Northern Ireland is control by the UK and the Republic of Ireland is independent and part of the EU. After Brexit occurs, these once “joined” bodies of government will be split apart by what the UK calls a “soft border” which means no physical wall separating the country, but rather security checkpoints. The idea of any sort of border has the Irish upset, bringing Britain and Ireland on the verge of conflict, as demonstrated through street riots and vandalism. As a matter of fact, it was this very issue that had Theresa May’s original proposition denied by Parliament, as her proposal overlooked the issue of the Irish border. There are also issues regarding medical supply shipments, separation of family members, and economic recession, all of which will devastate the British people.

Despite all of the negative aspects of Brexit, it’s in the UK’s best interest to persevere, deal or no deal. As of right now, the UK is under the thumb of the EU, meaning the UK cannot make its own legislative decisions, foreign policy actions, or negotiate trade without the approval of the European Union.



GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH

In December of 2014 during the Syrian refugee crisis for example, the UK Parliamentary decision to only take a small portion of the refugees was overturned in the EU Parliament, forcing the UK to take massive waves of Syrian immigrants. Decisions like the Syrian refugee crisis are devastating to the UK, and the list of unfair and problematic EU Parliamentary decisions is vast. Significant taxes are also levied on the UK to pay for the socialistic benefits of Southern European Countries such as Italy and Greece which consistently require financial aid.

Prime Minister Theresa May currently does not have a deal made with the EU which has been approved by Parliament; however, she still has time. Parliament has allotted May more time to come up with a Brexit proposal which will hopefully address the concerns the UK is currently facing. Going off of what Theresa May stated in Parliament on January 15th, 2019, she very well understands the importance of the issue, “Every day that passes without this issue solved means more uncertainty, more bitterness, and more rancor.”

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History’s Darker Half

FROM PG. 12

Germany and rescued the survivors of the Holocaust. Germany was forced to recognize the cruelty of their misdeeds by the rest of the world. Germany did this through the Nuremberg Trials where former Nazi party members were sentenced to death. The country went through a sort of cultural molt, where they shed the misdeeds of their past by confronting them head-on. An analogy could be treating an open wound in the present rather than waiting for the wound to resolve itself; sure it might be painful, but it’s better than letting the wound bleed indefinitely. While Turkey could definitely take a page or two from Germany, so could the rest of the world.

We’re all guilty of something, for the United States it’s the enslavement of African Americans and the murder of Native Americans. For Japan, it’s the brutal invasion and occupation of Nanjing where thousands of

men and women were massacred by the Japanese military. For Russia it was the treatment of POWs in the gulags. The countries of our modern world are standing on shaky ground by not acknowledging the wrongs of their past.

Modern day Turkey is seeing a massive resistance with the Kurdish population as it is. To add on to their problems the Armenian resentment for the Turks is growing by the day. Who says that the Armenians won’t join with the Kurds to acquire the recognition they desire? All in all, this type of approach can either make or break a nation, but the alternative of waiting for a solution is infinitely worse. Turkey needs to recognize that its current rule over their people is slowly crumbling. Perhaps this due to the fact that they refuse to acknowledge their past sins and ask the world for forgiveness. After all, a government can only function under the consent of the governed.

The Rise of Esports

BY: BRADLEY WOLTHUIS

The term esports refers to any multiplayer video game that is played competitively. Since the early 1970s esports have not only grown a huge fan base, but it has thrived economically. In the 1970s the first known competition was held at Stanford University, where contestants played Spacewar. They competed for the grand prize of a year's subscription to the Rolling Stone magazine. Spacewar was developed in 1962 and involved two players controlling spaceships and trying to eliminate each other.

Leading other countries into the 1990s, South Korea quickly popularized esports with the mass building of the broadband internet. With the Asian financial crisis in 1997 causing high unemployment rates, it is thought that many people turned to video games while out of work. Internet cafes also known as "PC Bangs" quickly became a popular meeting place for South Koreans to play games. The South Korean government quickly backed these by creating the Korean e-Sports Association to promote and regulate esports within the country. Top gaming professionals in South Korea are common household names, and couples going to game clubs is

about as common as couples going to the movies here in America.

Back in America with the increase in internet connectivity, computer games began to become more popular. At the top of the list was Netrek a multiplayer internet game involving real time combat and much like capture the flag. Tournaments continued to become more popular as video games continued to expand and be more interactive. Nintendo held their first ever world championship where they toured 30 cities throughout America. Each city hosted a three day tournament, and the first place winner was given a trophy, \$250, and a trip for two to the world finals.

With publicity becoming easier to obtain, national and global esports tournaments took off. From only about 10 large tournaments in 2000 to about 260 in 2010, some of which include the World Cyber Games, the Intel Extreme Masters, and Major League Gaming. With television becoming more common as well, esports were quick to take to the screens, broadcasting tournaments for all to see. Television coverage was best established in South Korea, with StarCraft and

SEE **RISE OF ESPORTS**, PG. 20



Nintendo World Championship. GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH

Girls Basketball Recap

BY: HAILEY GREEN



SHAYLA SANDERS / THE HUSKIAN

The team huddles during a game.

When I first spoke with the Girls head basketball coach, Michelle Knight, her team had set some goals and expectations for the season. From then to now, not much has changed. They still have determination and drive, if not more than when they started. One thing that has changed though is their teamwork, which is why they set new goals for the rest of the season.

When the Girls first started, their goal was to improve on working as a whole. Now Coach Knight says, "We are trying to focus on having fun while also improving our skills and working on the fundamentals." Knight also says that "I've started with the basics and made sure I'm not too hard on the girls while they get to know me. Having three different coaches in the past four years can take an extreme beating to a team." Coach Knight believes that she is now getting her girls in the direction she would like them to go.

Some positive things Coach Knight has said about her team are, "they are great listeners; they do what they're supposed to, they're determined, and work as hard as they possibly can." Her team is also extremely encouraging of one another and they help each other out when needed. Beginning to get used to Mrs. Knight, the girls recently beat Scio with a score of 43-33. Though this has been their only win so far, Coach Knight is only thinking about celebrating small victories for now, and believes that

they will be able to squeeze in some more by the end of the season.

Coach Knight believes that she's got a strong group of young ladies that will work hard to the very end and she gives them this advice. "You can only expect to see change when you start to change yourself; you can't expect to do something over and over with a different outcome."



Sophomore
Becky
Belcher
Shoots a
free throw.

SHAYLA SANDERS / THE HUSKIAN

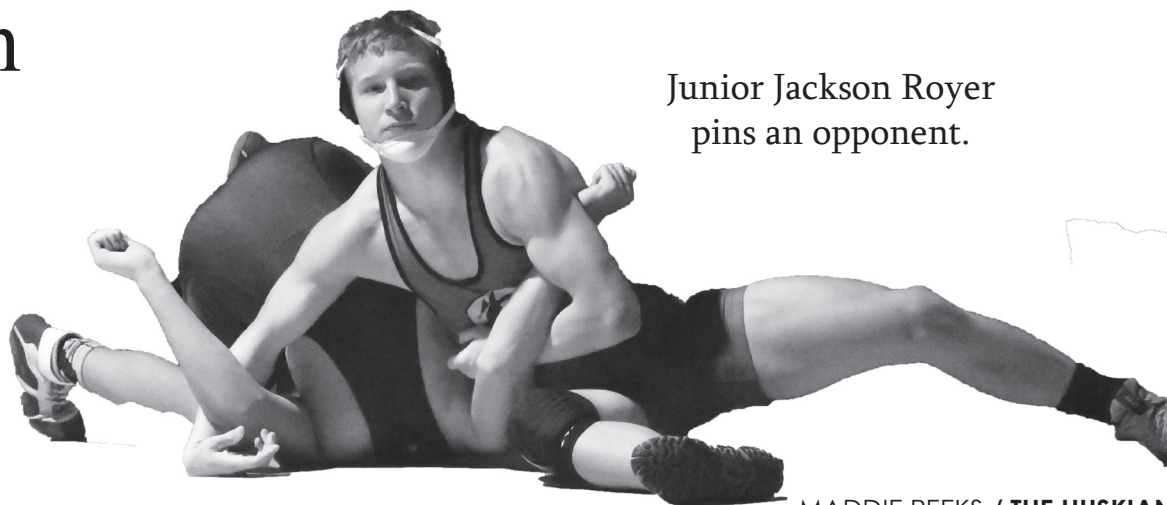
Wrestling Mid-Season

BY: AUSTIN OLIN

Our Husky Wrestlers have accomplished a lot so far this season. Becoming a finalist at the Oregon Wrestling Classics, and winning the Linn County Championships were two big steps they have taken on their road to the Regional and State Tournaments. The Women's Team has also accomplished a lot recently, taking 1st and 2nd in two tournaments, and claiming the title of Hood River Elks Ladies Champions.

Getting to where these wrestlers are right now hasn't been easy. All season long the

team has been affected by sickness and injury. Persevering through these challenges has been difficult, however when there's a will, there's a way. Coach Thorpe explains, "We have won matches we should and some we shouldn't." This has been a strength that the team has shown consistently, and it is a huge part in continuing their success into



Junior Jackson Royer pins an opponent.

MADDIE PEEKS / THE HUSKIAN

the end of the year. Another big aspect to finding success at the Regional and State Tournaments is having wrestlers improve and find spots in the line-

up to qualify at and score points.

Coach Thorpe states that getting everyone on the team quality matches has been diffi-

SEE **WRESTLING**, PG. 18

Statistical Stupidity

BY: AUSTIN OLIN

A message to all sports programs: please stop with the ridiculous statistics. Don't get me wrong, I am a huge sports fan. Whether it's football, baseball, or basketball, I'm either playing a sport, or watching a game on TV. My problem isn't with sports, it's with the media behind them. Now I know what you're thinking; "Why is this guy bashing on sports networks?" The answer to this question is quite simple: they deserve it.

The day is Sunday. You've just woken up after a long, well-deserved nap and you're ready for action, that is, watching NFL football of course. You head over to the kitchen, grab a quick snack from the re-

frigerator, and plop down on the couch in the living room. "Oh, how I love Sundays," you recall as you stuff your mouth full of junk food. Scrolling through the channels, you come across a one-score game that just went into the fourth quarter. As the action resumes, you're ready to watch these two teams fight it out to the death (or at least until the game ends). In this moment, you couldn't be happier. It seems almost perfect, as if nothing could ever come between you and the game. Little did you know what the NFL Network had in store for you. Not even the legendary Chuck Norris could see this one coming. It hit you like a train. Out of nowhere, a

SEE **STATISTICAL STUPIDITY**, PG. 19



GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH

A PSA for P.E.

FROM PG. 13

can fail. Mr. Costa, who graduated in 1982, misses the dangerous aspect of P.E. like boxing and trampoline. They set up trampolines with wrestling mats between them and they learned tumbling. This is an aspect of teaching caution while still pushing people out of their comfort zone. Mr. Costa was one to enjoy this, and I know not everyone does, but they need to still understand that that they have to participate without complaint or fail. There were options for other classes back then in some schools, like to take coed P.E., which was more team sports like volleyball or kickball, instead of normal P.E. But even the choice to choose another class that is less intense is not ideal because it is a way for kids to get out of a situation where they feel uncomfortable and life does not always give you those options.

P.E. is unique to what it teaches, like all classes, in that it teaches how sometimes you just have to go out and do something whether you like it or not. Because in life you do not always do the things you want. In regular classes you get homework, which isn't very fun, but you have to do it. In life, it's the same way. Some days you won't feel like getting up, but

the bills still come and the paycheck won't earn itself. P.E. builds responsibility, makes you face your fears, and pushes your limits. If we simulate situations where you are facing your fears, learning respect and responsibility, you make those skills a normality and life will come that much easier. The core purpose of P.E. is to build your character. This will help you in sports, the classroom, and life. School should be a step into the real world and each class has its own purpose, to educate the youth for their future life. P.E. is an extremely important class for everyone, but especially for young men going out in the world and that is why P.E. needs to be tougher on students. Coming from my own firsthand account, P.E. has few aspects of any of this. It is not taken seriously and is not being taught correctly to this whole generation. We are losing our work ethic and our ability to take a risk or even just try. No generation is perfect, but mine is getting worse. The bar of expectation has been lowered and my only hope is that we can raise it back up. These reasons are why our physical education is failing and letting down this generation by raising them wrong.

Boys Basketball

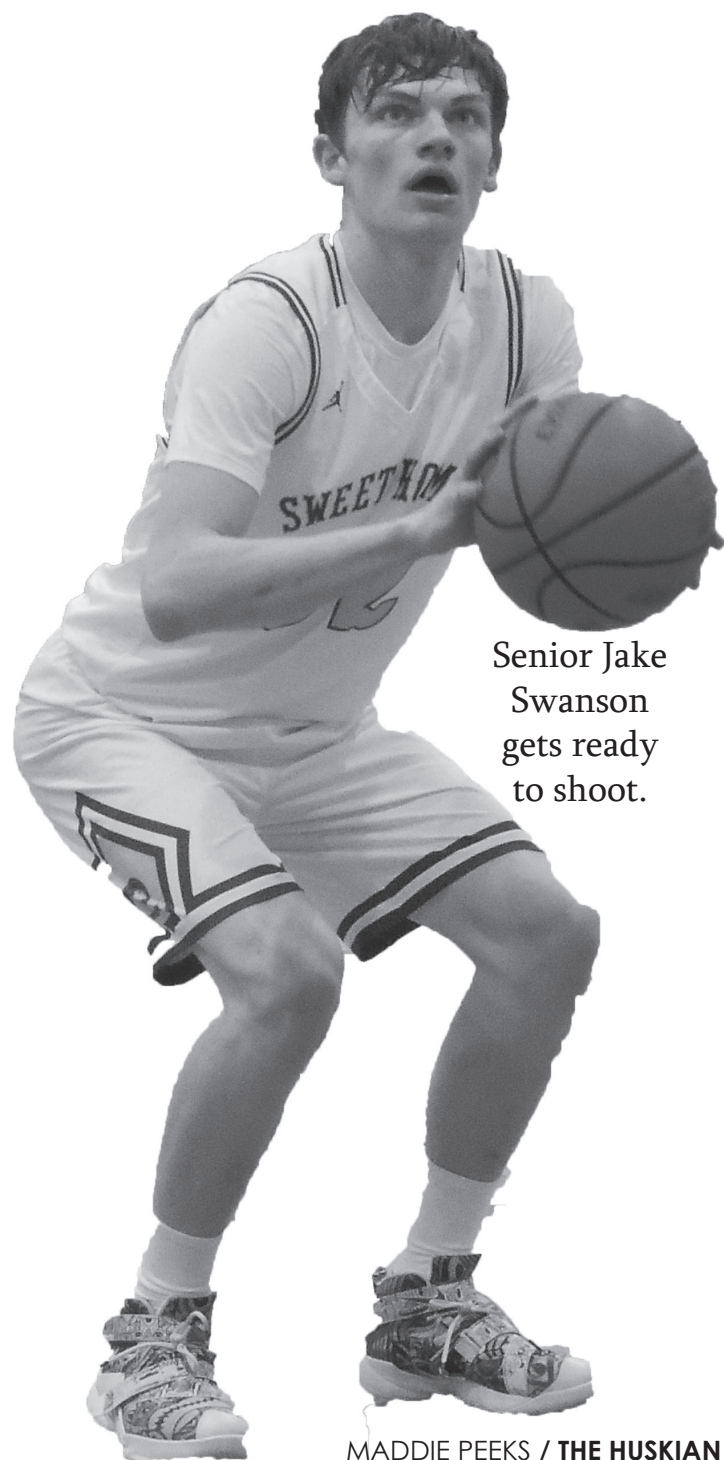
BY: EVAN DAVIS

The Boys Basketball team is charging their way to the playoffs. In the beginning of the season Head Coach Emmert and JV Coach Graville both expressed concerns with defensive strength and injuries. While the latter is slowly being resolved, the former has been dramatically improved. According to Coach Emmert, "Our defensive pressure has improved greatly since the beginning of the season." Due to this increase in the weakest link of the team's structural integrity, the team has seen improved results. As stated by Coach Emmert, "we're doing exactly what I projected in the beginning of the season since our defense has improved. We are seeing more scoring opportunities and an increased win rate since the season's beginning." This improvement is quite noticeable as Sweet Home is ranked seventh in the state. Let's keep up this hard work Huskies and make it to the playoffs!



Junior Casey Tow free throws.

MADDIE PEEKS / THE HUSKIAN



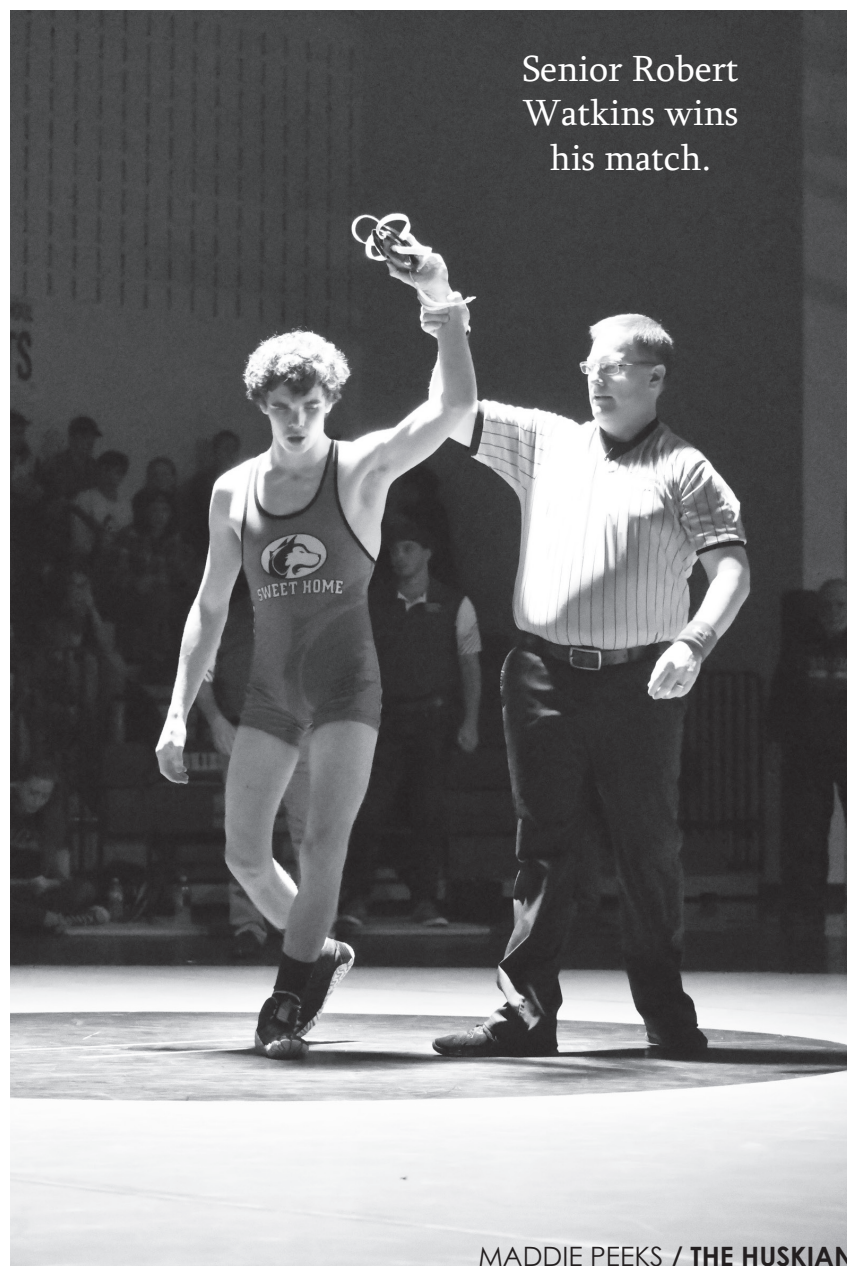
Senior Jake Swanson gets ready to shoot.

MADDIE PEEKS / THE HUSKIAN

Wrestling

FROM PG. 17

cult all year. He elaborates, "A lot of teams don't have the numbers we do, so we miss out on matches." This said, everyone has remained focused at practice and they are all focused on becoming better every day. It's important to control the factors that you can, and adapt to the one's you can't, and this hard working team has shown that year after year. Coach Thorpe states, "I am proud of the accomplishments so far, but am even more excited about what is to come." Make sure to support your Husky wrestlers in their final stretch to the State Tournament. There's plenty of wrestling left this season, and I have a good feeling about what this team can accomplish.



Senior Robert Watkins wins his match.

MADDIE PEEKS / THE HUSKIAN

SPORTS

SWEET HOME HIGH SCHOOL

ISSUE 4, VOLUME 79

FEBRUARY 13, 2019

PAGE 19

Statistical Stupidity

FROM PG. 17

black box filled with white lettering shot its way across the television screen. As you begin reading, you feel yourself starting to lose brain cells by the second. The terror! The horror! The absurdity! You hear about them all the time. Hiding in the dark corners of the media, waiting for the chance to pounce on their prey. It is on this day that another innocent fan would fall victim to statistical stupidity.

As a writer for The Huskian newspaper, I feel that it's my duty to raise awareness on this issue. I know that I can't live without watching sports, and some of you may feel the same way, which is why I've created the ultimate solution. In order to prepare you for the dangers of live sports networks, I'm going to share a list of the most idiotic statistics ever to be created. After all, you can't be surprised by them on your "perfect day" if you're already prepared for the worst. Brace yourself folks, this is serious business. As a disclaimer, The Huskian and SHHS are not responsible for any permanent brain damage that might occur in the reading of these statistics. Good luck, and may the odds ever be in your favor.

These are just a few examples of SportsCenter's most recent work:

"From 2015-18, Alabama signed more Under Armour All-Americans (39) than the other three 2018 CFP teams combined (33)."

"This is the third time a LeBron James team has started the season 0-3."

"Colin Kaepernick is the youngest QB since 2001 to win a regular-season road game against Tom Brady and Bill Belichick (2012)."

"Patrick Mahomes has more completions with his left arm (1) than he does interceptions with his right arm (0) so far this season."

"Dwyane Wade will end his career having never been the highest-paid player on the Miami Heat."

Perhaps the best part about these stats is that they were relatively easy to find. You would think that I would have to look hard for such worthless statistics, but it turns out they are all over

the front page! Seriously, who is running this program? Do these people just wake up every day wondering what sort of useless statistic they can share with the world? People want statistics that are record-breaking, not just random information you throw into a box to display on television. Nobody cares that Alabama signs Under Armour All-Americans, or that Dwayne Wade doesn't make the most money on his team. They literally have nothing to do with the game. The Colin Kaepernick stat is truly one of a kind. After all, a young quarterback beating the Patriots after an 11-year drought in a regular-season road game is truly remarkable. Oh wait, it's actually not. How many times do the Patriots even host home games against young quarterbacks, and why does Kaepernick's age even matter in the first place? In addition, it already happened 11 years ago, so it is not as if it's a once in a lifetime situation.

ESPN is also a great source for statistical stupidity. They aren't as consistent as SportsCenter when it comes to worthless statistics, but when they do pop up, it is a "breathtaking experience". What I like about ESPN stats is that they put a lot of work into something that makes absolutely no sense, and they are usually always about LeBron James! One of my favorite examples is when ESPN tried to prove that LeBron wasn't finishing how he started. This might have been an interesting point if it had actually been true. They explained how he scored 23 points, with 7 rebounds in the first three quarters, and how he had only scored 7 points with 2 rebounds in the last quarter. Oh, wait. What is



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seven multiplied by three? Oh yeah, that's 21 points, making it only two away from 23. What a difference. What is two rebounds multiplied by three quarters? Yep, it's six rebounds, making it only one less than seven. He only had one less score and one less rebound in the fourth quarter, and they had to make this huge chart to prove absolutely nothing. I will also never forget the time that ESPN compared LeBron's 40% on the court field goal percentage, shots made out of shots taken, to his 17% field goal percentage off the court. Where is he taking these shots from ESPN? Where did this number even come from? It truly is an amazing world we live in.

You have to be aware of the dangers these statistics hold, and make sure to prepare for them every time you are watching a sport. I am warning you, they come out of nowhere. One moment someone will be talking about how Matt Stafford has thrown for over 300 yards, and then the next second, wham! They hit you with a statistic that he has changed his glove four times that game which is a career high. How do they know these things? I have no idea. All I know is that I'm still recovering from the lasting effects it had on my brain. As long as there is useless information to share, sports programs will be the ones to do it.



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Swim Season

BY: BRADLEY WOLTHUIS

Finishing out the swim season with Districts and State, the Sweet Home Swim Team has done well. Freshman swimmer Chloe Tyler said that the biggest challenge this season was the Lebanon Invite because there were a lot of teams, most of which were 5A, with some solid swimmers. One swimmer that has stood out this year is sophomore Chase Lopez. This was his first time swimming and he began with absolutely no experience, but that didn't keep him from trying hard and quickly becoming the third fastest guy on the Boys team with a 50 free time of 27 seconds.

Up until the team's first meet in Albany, the Girls team had remained undefeated and after that meet began a new winning streak. Tyler shared that some of



Senior Katrina Reynolds swims the 100 butterfly.

CHLOE TYLER / THE HUSKIAN



Senior Swimmers get recognized during Senior Night. CHLOE TYLER / THE HUSKIAN

the team's strengths are their strong girl swimmers and a few of the sprinters on the boys' side. What they lack however is more mid distance swimmers, especially for the boys' team. With Districts upon us, Sweet Home is looking to bring home trophies for both teams and send swimmers to the State meet. Leaving with some words of wisdom Tyler said, "Swimming is a hard sport, you have to be ready to put in the work, and at the same time, it's fun to compete as a team. Swimming is unlike any sport I've ever done. If you put the work in, it pays off and being out of the water for even a few days shows. If you feel like doing swimming, I 100% recommend it!"

Rise of Esports

FROM PG. 16

Warcraft III competitions regularly televised by dedicated 24-hour cable TV game channels Ongamenet and MBCGame. Today tournaments and regular gameplay can be streamed across the internet on different websites, with some of the more popular esports being League of Legends, Counter Strike Global Offensive, DOTA 2, Overwatch, and Hearthstone. All of these games can be viewed from anywhere, however the most common streaming platform is Twitch.com where millions of viewers spectate their favorite esports. Esports have been around for a long time and have increased in popularity since its beginning. With this growing industry, the future of esports is yet to be decided, but will definitely continue to grow in popularity as it becomes easier and more common to view and participate in tournaments, and as the rewards for winning get bigger and bigger.

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