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INDIAN HILL HIGH SCHOOL'S PROUDLY STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER

13 Unforgettable Moments

Ethan Marx '21, Amitesh Verma '21, Vandita Rastogi '21, Will Ford '21

By this point in the pandemic, we've heard it hundreds of times: "this is an unprecedented year." While there have been many negative events this past school year, Indian Hill students persisted and were still able to find the joy in these trying times. In this final cover story for the year, we'll highlight 13 unforgettable moments of the year:

1. Do You Get Deja Vu?

It's likely you've heard of the multi-talented Olivia Rodrigo. From starring in HSMTM:TS, to charting on Billboard for "Driver's License", she's gained attention from celebrities worldwide. Rodrigo released her debut album *Sour* on May 21st, a culmination of angry and sad songs, relatable to all. If you're looking for new music, be sure to check it out!

2. Science Olympiad Team Makes History

This year, Indian Hill's Science Olympiad Team made school history after scoring a dignified 10th place finish at the State Competition! The team qualified for the state last year as well for the first time in the school's history; however, due to uncontrollable circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the contest was cancelled. After their season was tragically cut short, the squad felt more determined and obligated than ever to make that ambitious "dream" come true once again.

3. Indian Hill DECA Success

Indian Hill DECA has made school history by sending a record number of participants to the State Finalist level and 29 students to the Internationals Competition! Further, senior Lauren Sewell made school history, earning 4 state champion trophies! Seniors Sophie Sawyers, Lauren Sewell, and Vandita Rastogi also earned the DECA Emerging Leaders.

4. Razor-Sharp Competition in the 2020-2021 College Application Season

Due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, several colleges across the country chose to make the SAT and ACT examinations requirements "optional," putting the class of 2021's college application process in a frenzy. Selective schools like Harvard University saw a near 50% increase in applications to the class of 2025, leaving the overall acceptance rate at a record-low 3.4%. Many colleges have chosen to remain "test optional" for the next season.

5. Bill Gates' Divorce (All the Single Ladies, Put Your Hands Up!)

Bill Gates' estranged wife Melinda announced earlier this month that they - after 27 years of a seemingly benevolent marriage - were soon-to-be divorced. For decades, the Gates couple has been a robust force internationally, their charitable contributions garnering large profits and providing the two with access to some of the highest forms of government and nonprofit sectors. However, they are determined to retain their relationship in the *Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*, striving to fight poverty and infectious diseases.

6. Vaccination Against the COVID-19 Disease

After a tumultuous couple of months amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, with the help of cutting-edge scientific research, several vaccines against the virus, including Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson, have been approved for use in the United States and around the world. As of now, all Americans aged 12 and up are eligible to receive vaccines, so get vaccinated soon to put an end to this pandemic!

7. Insurrections on the Capitol

On January 6th, 2021, the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C. was stormed during a riot. Representatives were rushed to an undisclosed, safe location just moments before attackers entered the building, as police struggled to hold them back. Several people were injured and a few died; this was a pivotal moment in American Democracy.

8. To Build or Not to Build?

If you drove down the streets of Indian Hill this year, it's likely you saw "Yes on 7" signs. On May 4th, 2021, the Indian Hill community voted on whether or not to approve this levy. The levy passed, meaning a new middle school will be constructed next year. Many changes to the IHSD are expected next year, which will result in a better future. Go Braves!

9. Cicadas - A Storm of Utter Terror

Bad news folks - the cicadas are back after a lengthy "hibernation" period. The intermittent critter you might have seen over the past few summers will pale in comparison to what is soon to befall. Once every 17 years, a truly massive brood of cicadas arrives in the Midwest region, permeating the air with a deafening mating hum that can reach up to a ridiculous 100 dB. Brood X, scientists call it, is set to return this May/June of 2021.

10. "Mad Woman"

Taylor Swift is known to drop "easter eggs" to hint at upcoming albums. So, it was shocking when on July 23rd, 2020, she decided to drop a surprise album *Folklore*, which would later win Album of the Year at the Grammys. Later, she dropped another surprise album, evermore, just days before her birthday. Switching from pop to indie, her albums gained critical acclaim worldwide!

11. Breaking the Glass Ceiling

While the Academy Awards and Golden Globes were rather controversial this year, one moment was very exciting. Chloé Zhou became the first female person of color and second female to win the Best Director award at these two ceremonies for *Nomadland*. She is now set to direct Marvel's *The Eternals*.

12. Populist Processional Protests

When the original Baccalaureate processional music was announced, an uproar was unleashed. In a perfect example of a populist movement, Indian Hill seniors successfully campaigned for "Levitating" by Dua Lipa and Dababy to be their walk-out song. They'll be sure to walk with their left feet, right feet (levitating).

13. A Bit of Regularity to Close Out an Unprecedented Year

In an effort to provide some semblance of normalcy, the Indian Hill administration graciously arranged for Prom to be arranged - and they certainly didn't miss. The gentleman in tuxedos, the ladies in dresses, and the odious odor of the mosh pit infiltrating the room - what more could you ask for! Following a refreshing sorbet at the country club and some much-needed dancing, After Prom occurred in the high school, with an "Around the World" theme. The hypnotist put some to sleep (both in a good ... and a not-so-good way), the students got a good laugh out of the hockey players, but all in all, it was a fun time. The culmination of four years of blood, sweat, and tears for this year's seniors, the night was genuinely one to remember! ■

Peep this Month in

Chieftain:

News

Check out *This and That* on page 3 of this issue!

Editorials

Explore opinions towards College Board on page 4!

Features

Shadow and Bone Review on page 6!

Senior Spotlights

Celebrate our seniors on pages 9-11!

Cartoon

on page 12!

May This & That

Elsa Zhou '23 and Tacey Hutten '22

Jaden and Nessa

TikTokers Josh Richards, Jaden Hossler, Nessa Barrett, and Mads Lewis are embroiled in some serious drama. It seems like the previous couples consisting of Josh & Nessa and Jaden & Mads have broken up. Following Jaden's video "La Di Die", which Jaden and Nessa collaborated closely on together, Mads took to Instagram to vent while Nessa defended herself on Twitter. Josh has blocked Jaden on all social media platforms. Hopefully the four can sort it out amicably! ■



Bill and Melinda Gates Divorce

Following 27 years of marriage, Bill and Melinda Gates have filed for a divorce, citing that their marriage is "irretrievably broken." A more specific reason has not been given, but some have speculated that Bill Gates's potential connections with Jeffrey Epstein, a convicted sex trafficker, may have led to this decision. The couple, who share three children, will split their immense fortune. They also plan to continue to support the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. ■

Liz Cheney Soon to be Ousted?

Many predict that Liz Cheney, Chair of the House Republican Conference, will soon be ousted from her leadership roles. She was one of the 10 House Republicans who voted to impeach former President Trump after the January 6th insurrection and has since stated that she would not support him as a candidate in 2024. As a result, she has rapidly lost support from the party and has fallen under criticism of many GOP leaders. ■



Ariana Grande Marriage

Mega pop-star Ariana Grande married Dalton Gomez in a small ceremony in Montecito, California. The singer has been engaged to Gomez, a real-estate agent, since December of 2020 but chose to quietly tie the knot with no more than a handful of intimate friends and family. Grande was previously engaged to Pete Davidson in a highly publicized whirlwind romance that spurred the popular album "Thank U, Next." Best wishes and congratulations to the new couple! ■

Olivia Rodrigo



Dressed in plaid, Olivia Rodrigo gave a compelling performance of her latest single "good 4 u" on a recent SNL episode. The 18-year-old also released a music video for the song, which was directed by Petra Collins, an artist known for her dream-like depictions of teenage life. In the video, which has

racked up nearly 30 million views in just 4 days, there are several Easter Eggs, including references to cult-classic Jennifer's Body (2009). ■

Billie Eilish Vogue Cover

A Vogue cover of Billie Eilish wearing a custom-made corset and latex gloves became the fastest Instagram photo to reach 1 million likes (in under 6 minutes!). Another photo from the shoot has become one of the top 5 most-liked photos on Instagram, boasting over 20.5 million. Eilish had previously broken these records in March with a post receiving 1 million likes in 6 minutes and becoming the 3rd most liked photo on Instagram. ■



Kentucky Derby Scandal

After winning the Kentucky Derby by a half-length, race-horse *Medina Spirit* failed their post-race drug test. This was their trainer, Bob Baffert's seventh win- a record for the race. However, *Spirit* was soon found to have double the legal racing limit of the steroid "betamethasone." Baffert, has since been suspended by Churchill Downs- the organization that hosts the Kentucky Derby. The results are awaiting further investigation but, if affirmed, will cause *Spirit's* win to be invalidated. ■



12+ Pfizer Vaccine Approval

The CDC has recommended the use of the Pfizer vaccine for adolescents ages 12-15. Within the first week of its approval, the U.S. vaccinated 600,000 12 to 15 year olds, meaning that over 4 million people under the age of 17 have been vaccinated in the U.S. so far. At this rate, Dr. Fauci suspects that by the end of 2021, there will be enough safety data to vaccinate kids of any age! ■

Protests in Columbia

Tacey Hutten '22

On April 28th, the National Unemployment Committee, a Colombian group made up of unions and labor organizations, called for protests across the country. Weeks later, the protests are still going strong and have spread to nearly 250 cities and towns throughout Colombia.

The protests were originally sparked by a new tax reform proposed by President Ivan Duque. After the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the goal of the reform was to improve Colombia's economic situation by increasing tax revenues. However, it would have done so by raising taxes on household products like milk, eggs, meat, gasoline, and utilities, thus placing a higher burden on the working class. The proposal has since been withdrawn and Colombia's finance minister has resigned. The protests still continued. The frustrations and socioeconomic tensions added by the proposed bill have unleashed unrest about a number of pressing issues- including long-standing economic inequity, a scarcity of healthcare resources including vaccines amidst the pandemic, and police brutality. Some protestors have even taken to calling for a complete overhaul of Colombia's political and socioeconomic systems.

But one of the key, driving forces behind the continued protests is the outrage about the harsh police response. Thus far, the protests have resulted in at least 40 deaths and hundreds of injuries, many of which have been at the hands of the police. For instance, Marcelo Agredo, a 17-year-old high school student, kicked a police officer and was then shot and killed as he fled. Santiago Murillo, a 19-year-old, was shot in the chest and killed by police as he went through a protest. Nicolás Guerrero, a 27-year-old graffiti artist, was seen dead on the ground after shots were heard, and protesters are holding police responsible. Unfortunately, such violence has been mirrored in past protests in Colombia, only further fueling protesters' fury. As a result, without significant changes or intervention, the unrest shows little sign of dying down. ■

Cicadas

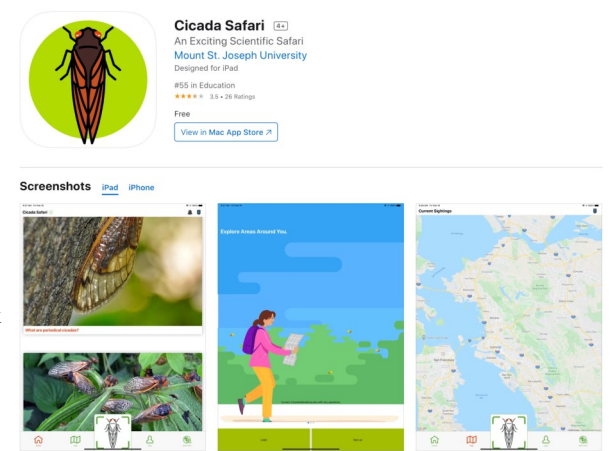
Annie Joy '22

Cicadas: Some find their presence fascinating, others find it highly irritating. While I have a strong prediction as to what my opinion will soon be, I personally have not yet experienced the cicadas in their cyclical, tremendous takeovers of early summer. This is because the insects, classified under the group Brood X or Great Eastern Brood, follow a 17-year pattern of emergence. With the last surfacing occurring in 2004, the year 2021 signals their next appearance.

In a matter of days (or perhaps as you are reading this!), billions of cicadas ranging from Tennessee to New York will make their way up from underground — where they have been subterranean for the last 17 years — tunneling and feeding below the soil. Their venture from below only begins when the soil reaches 64 degrees Fahrenheit. As these insects seek to reproduce, their unmistakable (and unavoidable) buzz will serve as a mating call, as researchers explain “the loud, buzzing drone cicadas make is actually a mating song emitted by male insects, flexing a drum like organ called tymbal” (CNN). While scientists do not have a clear reason for the cicada's 17-year schedule, it is predicted that their mass and synchronous emergence helps the bugs to “survive and mate successfully, as birds and small mammals only can pick off so many cicadas at once” (CNN).

Despite their unsettling presence, these precarious bugs are not harmful to humans or animals and rather are beneficial to gardens. When the insects tunnel up from the soil, “they create holes that increase aeration and water penetration,” not to mention the nutrients provided from the decomposition of their exoskeletons (CNN).

While the typical cicada life span above ground is only 4-6 weeks, one way you can help scientists learn more about these peculiar creatures is through the app Cicada Safari, designed by Cincinnati's very own Mount St. Joseph University. The app lets users track locations and submit photos of cicada emergences across the east coast to help determine the range of the Brood X in 2021. ■



An Analysis of India's COVID-19 Variant

Pranav Rastogi '23

For the past few months, India's plight has garnered attention from countries around the world. With a new variant on the loose, it's important to understand how it came about, fatality rates, and protective measures that have and will be taken against this new variant.

In last month's article titled “Potential Economic Impacts of New COVID-19 Variants in the United States”, three main types of variants were defined: Variants of Interest (VOIs), Variants of Concern (VOCs), and Variants of High Consequence (VOHCs). These three categories not only define the different types of variants, but also differentiate in levels of danger to a particular country. As of May 17, 2021, the CDC reports that this variant is still a VOI, the least dangerous of variants, however, that has truly undermined the situation. In fact, on May 6, India reported that nearly 414,000 had tested positive for the coronavirus and its related variants. Further, on May 19, Indian authorities reported that nearly 4,500 people had died from COVID-19 in the previous 24 hours which surpassed the old record held by the United States, of 4,400 deaths on January 20, 2021. This alone indicates one of two things, either the vast majority of people in India are not vaccinated, or that the new variant is resistant to the vaccine. However, if we take a look at the report by the CDC, we can see that it's labeled as a VOI solely because it can be neutralized by the new vaccine. In fact, a report by Reuters says that the traditional two shots of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine does prove effective against the new Indian variant. So what's causing this massive annihilation?

Since we've established that the new variant isn't particularly resistant to the vaccine, we can reasonably conclude that the vast majority of people in India are not vaccinated, and this is true. In fact, India's vaccine deliveries are decreasing just as fast as their number of cases increase. Indian authorities reported a daily average of 4.2 million vaccines on April 2. In just over a month, that number was slashed in half to a daily average of 2 million. This inoculation situation is striking given their large vaccine industry, specifically with companies like Bharat Biotech, and previous records of mass immunization. In fact, when

the vaccine had rolled out in January, India was already preparing to send out nearly 60 million doses to other countries as a donation. Now, with the short-fall of vaccines, India has begun importing Russia's Sputnik vaccine, however, their current records show that only around 10 percent of the population has received their first dose.

In light of the situation, it's important for the rest of the world to understand how their situation can be prevented in the future. India's foresight in January was poor and was the result of a fairly successful year in that they were able to contain the virus within their borders. This was also a result of lowered case-positivity and case-fatality rates. However, like the flight attendants always say, “Put your oxygen mask on before helping others”. ■



The Fall of the Mall

William Dalton '23

If you've watched season 3 of *Stranger Things*, you'd know that one of the predominant places the characters consistently spend their free time at is the mall. With its bright neon signs, people of all likes abuzz everywhere, commotion galore, the mall during the '70s, '80s, and '90s was the place to be, the place to go to do stuff with your friends or where you'd go every Wednesday with your mom to buy clothes. Many factors can be attributed to why malls aren't like this today though, specifically the decline of consumerism and the rise of online shopping, resulting in what many call the "American Retail Apocalypse." The 1970s was really the hay-day for the mall, growing parallel with suburbs, highways, and the middle class; it was the "mall of America." Malls primarily survive[d] through "anchor stores," like Macy's and JCPenney, so when these stores started pulling out coinciding with economic downturns like the 2008 financial crisis which resulted in decreased retail spending, collectively fewer people needed to and were able to go there. All of this was further augmented by the rise of online shopping in the early 2000s, giving people convenience and accessibility at the touch of a button. In an effort to combat this, malls started to focus more on experiences rather than solely shopping. But despite these efforts, many malls have become dead, left empty and abandoned with no one like the "Mallrats" to use or avail them, and most importantly few willing to expend their money. All of this transpiring even before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, which only exacerbated the already unfavorable problems bedeviling malls. Coresight Research predicts that ¼ of all American malls will close in the next three to five years, but with the death of so many malls comes the opportunity for their rebirth and redevelopment, opportunities to utilize malls to help the community around them meet challenges they might never have had to deal with before. So yes, malls are dying, but that doesn't mean communities and the American spirit have to die with. ■

End to the Ellen Show

Tacey Hutten '21

Ellen DeGeneres has announced the end of her talk show, sparking controversy over the cause of its end as well as the show's legacy. With its final season scheduled for 2022, the show will have run for 19 seasons, airing over 3,000 episodes and amassing dozens of Emmys.

But the show's apparent success begs the question — why is it ending? The formal reason provided by DeGeneres is that she wants "something new to challenge me," but many suspect it's not that simple. For one, the announcement followed substantial accusations of a toxic work environment, including racism and sexual misconduct. With an assist from the pandemic, the show has also lost over a million viewers since the premier of the 18th season. But most suspect that the show's end was inevitable following the long decline of Ellen's public image.

Ellen began her career as a stand-up comedian in the 1980s. In the 90s, she starred in a sitcom called "Ellen," on which Ellen came out as gay. She quickly became one of the most prominent members of the LGBTQ+ community in Hollywood, breaking barriers and opening the door for other LGBTQ+ centered shows. However, the sitcom quickly lost the support of sponsors, the network, and was ultimately cancelled as a result. Even in 2003, when DeGeneres started her talk show, producers worried she wouldn't connect with her audience who, at the time, were primarily straight, stay at home moms. Ellen proved them wrong again and again, these concerns only further propelling her relatable, down to earth character.

But recently, this character has come under fire. After conflict regarding her relationship with former president George W. Bush, viral incidents with Mariah Carey and Dakota Johnson, countless statements and accusations by former employees, out-of-touch comments made during the pandemic, and an internal investigation that saw 3 executive producers fired, many believe that her "niceness" is just an act. Her positive impact on LGBTQ+ representation is undeniable, yet it seems that more recent events tainted her image beyond repair. ■

The Villainous College Board (A Joke)

Ashwini Krishnan '23

Although AP exams are quite popular, the private company that gives them isn't so warmly welcomed! It's expensive, stressful, and makes you question your life decisions as you wonder, "Is it all worth it, or should I run away to Greece and never look back?" Nonetheless, the feelings towards the corrupt College Board are far from loving, so here is a compilation of *real feelings from... real people about how they... really feel*.

Most of those interviewed share a mutual feeling of pure hatred towards the company, and the language was too crude to be allowed in the article, but it can be inferred what was said!

A student famously quoted, "[expletive] College Board." This sentiment was unfortunately echoed by a variety of her peers, who all quickly denounced and criticized the mega-corporation. "They're as bourgeois as it gets, exploiting their monopoly on educational testing to rank in over a billion dollars a year despite labeling themselves a non-profit," another added.

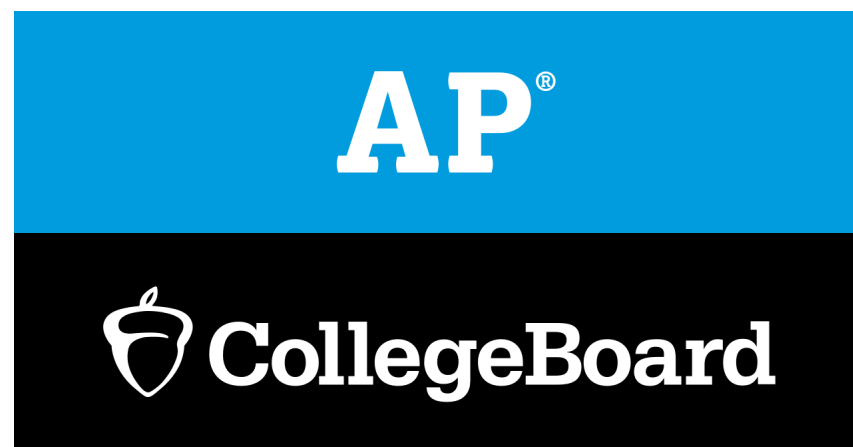
A senior at Indian Hill summed up a common theme by expressing that, "Trying to work the website takes years off of my life," and further that "the people who run College Board just profit off of confusing students who want to pursue higher education." Another student commented that College Board "enforces a social divide among students and demographics. A corporate scheme designed by the rich and wealthy claiming as a non-profit simply profiting off of a corporate dependent America." Building off of that, yet another College Board detestee lamented "the fact that our overall grade is on one exam. It becomes a make or break situation for ONE exam; it's not cumulative, it's one exam." Ethan Marx, widely recognized as the Most Wonderful Person To Grace This School, even noted that "AP Classroom is overrated." You heard it here, folks.

While many agree that College Board -- to put it bluntly -- sucks, the controversial company is still grudgingly accepted because of the college and academic preparation it offers. One student quipped that "sometimes College Board is a little [expletive]. I hate it. But it gives me opportunities to grow academically, and so College Board and I have a love-hate relationship." Another student acknowledged that College Board's AP Classes "prepped you for college classes" and will likely "make it easier to get through college smoothly or more quickly," but protested that "it makes it seem like you have to take college-level classes in high school to get anywhere in life."

More students commented that College Board was "unfortunately necessary to show colleges I can do some good work" but that the inflexibility of those classes and their rigorous structure sometimes made the exam too short to accurately reflect the massive amount of information learned throughout the year. Thus, some students feel as though the exam was only partially reflective of their actual learning in the course.

There was, of course, an outlier. In response to the interview, one student actually replied that College Board was a benevolent god and that the website was "really helpful" due to the review videos held and hosted by professionals in the field. That student also acknowledged the extensive review content that AP teachers at Indian Hill provide, which truthfully speaks more to the quality of the teachers here at Indian Hill rather than the AP course itself.

Overall, although a common sentiment of students towards College Board is hatred, the institution provides a convenient way to be able to see what college courses may feel like and also which colleges may be a good fit for the amount of work you are willing to do. ■



DogeCoin

Arjun Verma '24

Out of all the antics that gained popularity over the maddening year of 2020, a cryptocurrency named after dogs and memes was one of the more unexpected outcomes. The popular cryptocurrency Dogecoin was created by Billy Markus, a software engineer, from a copy of Bitcoin. This cryptocurrency has gained the interest of millions through Reddit's investing boom during the pandemic. This coin is currently valued at around \$67 billion and rising steadily with the support of popular figures such as Mark Cuban and Elon Musk.

Elon Musk has been a key figure in supporting cryptocurrency. He has even included Bitcoin as an official form of payment for all Tesla vehicles. However, currently, Elon has announced that Tesla will not accept Bitcoin anymore due to environmental concerns. Tesla is considering other sources of cryptocurrency — potentially Dogecoin in the future.



The name Dogecoin originates from the Shiba Inu breed of dogs which are associated with the “Doge” meme. The meme depicts a Shiba staring to the side typically paired along with phrases such as “Such Stare” and “Wow”. The meme hit peak popularity during its date of creation allowing for a perfect opportunity to attract investors to the coin.

Dogecoin is currently at a sub-dollar position, a common area where many cryptocurrencies either rise or die off. The investors have exhibited their enthusiasm, mainly through Reddit, for it to hit \$1 per coin. Hitting this barrier would bring in immense profits for any investors. After the events of \$GME (rapid growth through large investment), Reddit has been the nurturing ground for many potential stocks. With the proper support, Dogecoin could reach market values similar to bitcoin. So don't wait any longer and go invest! ■

Mock Trial

Ethan Marx '21

Laptops, chargers, empty Gatorade bottles, legal pads, pens (blue -- not black), and ties covered my dining room table as we awaited the results. After four years of competition together and nearly fifty rounds, our high school mock trial careers all came down to this. “Our inaugural grand champion for the 2021 MockOn Tournament of Champions... Indian Hill High School”. After five grueling rounds of competition, our team was more tired than anything. However, when this final result was announced, excitement filled the room.

After an extremely narrow loss in the final round, our team of Brooke Youngblood, Audrey Bristol, Sydney Poffenberger, Tacey Hutten, and I decided to compete one last time together. However, there was one limiting factor: senioritis. Thus, we decided to take another approach. While Tacey and I had won a combined 26 attorney awards, we decided to each attorney for half of the rounds and witness for the others. Meanwhile, one of our star witnesses, Audrey Bristol, was a double attorney. With a truncated prep time of about three weeks, our team was able to prepare an entire case playing entirely new roles and win this national competition. In addition to winning the final round, Indian Hill's mock trial team also played former State and National champions and won a smattering of individual awards. Sydney Poffenberger took home her 10th career witness award. Tacey Hutten and I also took home outstanding witness awards in the first ever portrayals of witnesses. Additionally, Tacey and I were honored to tie as the top attorneys at the competition. However, it was not the awards or the victory that made this competition such a wonderful experience. Competing as a team one last time was an amazing experience that I will never forget. This team has meant so much to me over the past four years and I cannot wait to see where our paths lead us. Bang em! ■

Free Palestine!

Gianni Espejel '23

The Israeli government and Palestinians are once again in conflict. What started out as Palestinian protests, due to the eviction of six Palestinian families from land considered annexed by the Israeli Courts, quickly escalated into violent confrontation — leading to Israeli police officers storming the al-Asque mosque. The militant Palestinian groups known as Hamas and the PIJ responded by firing rockets at Israel, injuring 564 and killing 9. Now, the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) has continued to bomb the Gaza strip, hitting 40 schools, 4 hospitals (as of May 17th), the Al-Shati refugee camp, displacing 34,000 Palestinians, and killing around 217. Recently, the IDF has destroyed a press building housing media outlets AP and Al Jazeera.

The anger that Palestinians feel and their demands for justice is warranted. The Human Rights Watch's 2020 report on human rights abuses by Israel describes the inhumanity forced upon the Palestinians on a daily basis. To quote Human Rights Watch directly, “For a 13th consecutive year, the government enforced a generalized travel ban on Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip and sharply restricted the entry and exit of goods. These restrictions, not based on an individualized assessment of security risk, robbed with rare exceptions the 2 million Palestinians living there of their right to freedom of movement, limited their access to electricity and water, and devastated the economy. Eighty percent of Gaza's residents depend on humanitarian aid. Israeli authorities also facilitated the further transfer of Israeli citizens into settlements in the occupied West Bank, a war crime. The Israeli group Peace Now said that Israeli officials in 2020 advanced plans for more housing units in West Bank settlements, 12,159 as of October 15, more than in any other year since it began tracking these statistics in 2012. According to the UN Office of Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as of October 19, 2020, Israeli authorities demolished 568 Palestinian homes and other structures in the West Bank this year, including in East Jerusalem, displacing 759 people. Most buildings were demolished for lacking Israeli building permits, which are virtually impossible to obtain. As the Covid-19 pandemic spread between March and August, Israel averaged its highest home demolition rate in four years, OCHA found. On November 3, Israeli authorities razed the homes of most residents of the Palestinian community of Khirbet Humsah in the Jordan Valley for being in an area is designated as a ‘firing zone,’ displacing 73 people, 41 of them children.”

Palestinians are also forced to live under authoritarian conditions. To quote directly again from Human Rights Watch, “Israeli authorities closely monitor online speech by Palestinians, in part relying on predictive algorithms to determine whom to

target, and have detained Palestinians based on social media posts and other expressive activity. As of August 31, according to Israeli Prison Services figures, Israel held 4,207 Palestinians in custody for “security” offenses, including 153 children, many for throwing stones, and 355 in administrative detention without formal charges or trial and based on secret evidence. While applying Israeli civil law to settlers, Israeli authorities govern West Bank Palestinians, excluding Jerusalem residents, under harsh military law. In so doing, they deny them basic due process and try them in military courts with a near-100 percent conviction rate. Israel incarcerates many Palestinians from the OPT inside Israel, complicating family visits and violating international humanitarian law's prohibition against their transfer outside occupied territory.”

This is only a fraction of the total abuse inflicted upon Palestinians by the Israeli government. Though it must be said that Hamas and PIJ are inexcusable in their attacks against Israeli civilians. It is the imperialistic actions of the Israeli government, not the Israeli citizenry, that must be combated. But do not let the action of a minority justify the overwhelmingly destructive actions of the IDF against the Palestinians. These abuses of human rights have gone on too long. It is time that the world sees the conflict for what it truly is and work towards the restoration of the land to those who rightly deserve it.

Free Palestine! ■

Elon Musk on SNL

Elsa Zhou '23

The 18th episode of SNL's 46th season saw billionaire and second-richest man alive Elon Musk grace the New York City stage in a variety of bizarre sketches, but nothing out of the ordinary for the zany SNL writer room. An early sketch featured a courtroom challenge to the conventional belief of Wario's assumed villainy after news of Mario's murder immediately led to fingers pointed at the portly, yellow-and-pink cartoon character (played by Musk). Another sketch starred Pete Davidson as Chad, a recurring and famously taciturn character who this time saved Musk's Mars colony from an oxygen failure while also brushing away fatherhood with Miley Cyrus with an easy "no thank you!" Musk also played Lloyd Oystertag, a fictional financial expert who ended up conceding that Dogecoin was a "hustle." Ironically, although the sketch appeared to tout and advertise Dogecoin, Dogecoin stocks plummeted 23% the next day! (Even more interestingly, Musk's favorite cryptocurrency is Dogecoin, so much so that after SNL, he allegedly attended a Dogecoin party complete with ice sculptures). Another sketch, 'Murdrur Durdur,' showed Musk as a creepy priest who a Pennsylvania police department -- complete with outrageously thick accents -- immediately identified as the murderer of a local's daughter, or as Kate McKinnon's parody of Kate Winslet would say, ...durdur. The 'Gen Z Hospital' sketch featured intentionally cringe-inducing portrayals of a group of teenagers armed with fanny packs awaiting the recovery of one of their mothers, culminating in a selfie with a Supreme-labeled cremation jar. Musk played the doctor delivering the news to the group of teenagers, who unfortunately had to break to them that their mother being dead was "no cap." Another sketch involved the inner thoughts of people conversing at a dinner party post-quarantine -- the awkwardness is almost palpable in the four minutes of the sketch... watch at your own risk. Overall, the SNL episodes were a peculiar bunch -- catch them on YouTube via SNL's channel now! ■

Shadow and Bone Review

Sarika Singh '23

I'm going to start this review by saying I have never read the books. I know, *Shadow and Bone* fans are cringing, but they will be happy to hear that I am planning on reading *Six of Crows* as well as *Shadow and Bone* soon. Now, back to the review. When I saw the trailer for *Shadow and Bone*, I knew I wanted to watch it. The trailer was intriguing, but also vague. It left me with questions, questions that could only be answered by watching the show. I love fantasy, but I also love film versions of books, so this was perfect. Each episode is about an hour long, but time flies while you watch it. The day after I got my first vaccine, I skipped school, and that's when I sat down and watched four hours of the show. It was so good, you have to hit the "next episode" button. The story revolves around Alina Starkov and takes place in a fictional country based on Tsarist Russia. The story is a little difficult to explain since there are so many made-up terms, but you should know it has to do with magic. Now, do I recommend it? Absolutely. It is an amazing and complex story that leaves you with questions regarding the characters and storyline. I will admit, at first it was very difficult to follow because there was a lack of universe building. Authors do this at the beginning of a book to establish the situation and universe, but because there was little narration in the show, it could not be built. This is also a show where you have to pay attention. It is not super confusing or complex, but attention will be needed. Overall, the storyline, characters, actors, and originality emerged to be the strongest points of this show. Personally, I will give it an 8/10. ■

Chieftain Chews

Amitesh Verma '21, Vandita Rastogi '21, Will Ford '21, Janaki Kode '21

Chieftain Chews is back again this month with our seniors! For new readers and those who need a bit of a refresh, Chieftain Chews is brought to you by a few members of the Chieftain staff who travel around Cincinnati to find the best eateries in town! This month, we decided to try out some ... disparate cuisines - Taste of Belgium, Graeter's, and Kenwood Country Club prom food. We evaluated each restaurant in five different categories on a scale of 1 (worst) to 10 (best). If you decide to visit any of these spots, we've included our favorites from each!

Ambiance:

Taste of Belgium - 8 - Quaint. Rustic exterior with indoor industrial vibes. Bench seating was comfortable, and the wooden booths offered great seating options.

Graeter's - 9 - Feels similar to the original Graeter's on Kenwood Road. Antiquated, retro tiling with consistent lavender/magenta themes. Solid. THERE IS A PLAYSET.

Kenwood Country Club Prom - 4 - Seating was quite cramped. Extremely dimly lit.

Price:

Taste of Belgium - 5 - A bit on the expensive side, but was very worth it for the quality of food and ambiance.

Graeter's - 7 - A bit expensive for a single scoop of ice cream and a waffle cone.

Kenwood Country Club Prom - 2 - The overall consensus was that \$65 for the event was OUTRAGEOUSLY overpriced for the quality of food and service we received.

Food Quality:

Taste of Belgium - 9 - The hot sauce is everything. Food is fire.

Graeter's - 9 - I mean, it's Graeter's. You can't really go wrong.

Kenwood Country Club Prom - 1.98 - ABSOLUTE TRASH, the chicken had the consistency of a rubber ducky.

Service:

Taste of Belgium - 8 - Very honest waiters; ours even told us to respectfully "avoid" the steel-cut oatmeal for our own sake.

Graeter's - 9 - Great, efficient service, but we did not receive free ice cream with graduation gowns.

Kenwood Country Club Prom - 4 - They didn't check on us and ran out of bread before they reached our table but gave us literal 5-pound blocks of cold butter.

Location:

Taste of Belgium - 8 - Nice location nestled directly across from the Kenwood Towne Centre.

Graeter's - 8 - SO CONVENIENT. You could hit both El Rancho Grande and Graeter's on the same night, and they are hundredths of a mile from one another. Parking is a bit congested though.

Kenwood Country Club Prom - 7 - Lowkey irrelevant ... golf course is fine.

What to Order:

Taste of Belgium

- Beltucky Hot Brown: roasted turkey, candied bacon, and Cheddar Mornay sauce topped on a soft waffle; has a biscuit and gravy comfort food type of feel.
- Waffle & Chicken: quite literally a waffle and a chicken plus salad (why the salad though?)
- For your own sake, do *not* try to steel-cut oatmeal.

Graeter's

- Black Raspberry Milkshake
- Cookie Dough Chip Ice Cream
- Double Chocolate Chip Ice Cream - A classic. The dark chocolate chunks with the silky milk chocolate ice cream truly soothes the palette and offers a delicious sweet treat.

Kenwood Country Club Prom

- Four-Cheese Ravioli - Good. The sauce was really delicious, but the quantity of cheese within each ravioli was actually pretty absurd. The garlic bread slaps.
- Hearty Mushroom Grilled Chicken
- Do *not* try the mashed potatoes... it looked like they were hastily squeezed out of a bottle.

In the words of Justin Bieber, some of the foods were "yummy." Others were ... not so scrumptious. :D Peace out, Chieftain. <3 ■

High School Musical: The Musical: The Series Review

Mady Kahn '22

On Friday May 14, the second season of Disney's *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series* aired, after a long awaited year full of drama both in the show and with the cast in real life. The show is about a group of high school theater students at East High School: the same school where the original *High School Musical* movies were filmed. In Season 1, the students put on their own production of *High School Musical*, while facing lots of drama in their personal lives. The show mostly revolves around the two main characters Ricky (played by Joshua Bassett) and Nini (played by Olivia Rodrigo) who broke up over the summer before the start of school. Throughout the season, the characters are involved in multiple love triangles, but eventually end up confessing their love to each other in the last episode. While this left viewers extremely happy, we learned that Nini was accepted into an elite performing arts school in Colorado, meaning she would have to choose between the school or Ricky.

The first episode of Season 2 was set over the holiday break. The characters all expected the next musical they performed to be *High School Musical 2* after their first musical was so successful. The drama teacher, Miss Jen, however, made the last minute decision to change the next show to *Beauty and the Beast* in order to compete for an award she learned about from a rival drama teacher/ old classmate. This sets the stage for the rest of the season, in which we will watch the characters prepare and perform this musical. However, the characters must manage the drama that they face amongst each other. Throughout the episode, Nini was seen struggling to tell Ricky that she was moving to Colorado to attend the new school since she seemed to be Ricky's main source of happiness. At the end of the episode, Nini abruptly told Ricky after the new show was announced, leaving the episode at a cliffhanger. I personally think that Nini will attend the school temporarily, but will eventually end up coming back to East High. New characters are expected to be introduced, so I am excited to watch all of the drama unfold!

Over the past year, the series has seriously grown in popularity as a result of a lot of the real life drama that occurred between some of the cast members. When the Season 1 finale aired, many people suspected (and hoped) that Olivia and Joshua were in a relationship together. They were constantly seen in interviews and videos in which their actions were deemed as very flirtatious, and many viewers wanted them to officially announce that they were dating. This never actually happened, but fans have still pieced together lots of clues throughout the past year to establish an intricate theory about their relationship. Many people suspect that Joshua and Olivia were, in fact, in some sort of relationship, but Joshua ended it because Olivia was too young (she was 17 and he was 20). People believe that Joshua told Olivia that he would wait for her, but then went against this and got into a relationship with another actress/singer, Sabina Carpenter. This sparked a lot of drama, and people became extremely invested in this suspected love triangle (that was never confirmed). In January, Olivia released her first single called "Drivers License," which many people suspected was about Joshua and Sabrina. The song did exceptionally well, hitting no. 1 on the charts and breaking numerous records. Within a month of it being released, both Joshua and Sabrina released their own songs, which led to people's further obsession with the drama. With all of the new spectacles, fans are extremely curious to watch how Season 2 of the show will play out in order to see if they can find any more hints about what truly happened between Joshua and Olivia. ■

Valkyrae

Elsa Zhou '23

Rachel Hofstetter, better known by the name of Valkyrae, has cemented her position in the gaming scene for a few years, but especially so for the past year. In a video interview on the 100Thieves YouTube channel, an organization of which she is now a co-owner, she mentioned how her transition from Twitch (a streaming website) to YouTube brought its fair share of difficulties and risk. However, her deal with YouTube and initial Twitch fanbase ended up jump-starting a massive rise in followers as the Among Us game frenzy earlier this year seemed to seize the world. Her popular videos of the game with other big streamers on Twitch such as DisguisedToast, Pokimane, and Sykkuno have generated millions of views, and along with many OTV (Offline TV, another house of streamers much like 100Thieves) friends, Valkyrae's sweet yet competitive personality has captured the attention, admiration, and adoration of many new fans. As the Among Us trend has left the limelight, Valkyrae has turned to GTA RP, Valorant, and other smaller games such as Raft, Little Nightmare, and Gartic Phone, all of which are made wildly entertaining by her synergy with other streamers. Further, her talents in the streaming business have not withheld her from other opportunities -- recently, she played CorpseHusband in Machine Gun Kelly's music video for Daywalker and is set to appear in Bella Poarch's music video as well. She also was featured recently on the Tonight Show featuring Jimmy Fallon to play a game of Among Us along with stars from the hit show Stranger Things. Overall, her rise over the past years has marked increased visibility for women and specifically, women of color in prominent positions in the gaming industry. Hopefully, her position in the spotlight will inspire generations of female streamers to come! ■

Boys Tennis

Sarika Singh '23

Indian Hill Boys' Tennis has always been an outstanding mark of excellence, and this year has only proved that to be the case once more! Although last year their season got cut short due to COVID-19, this team came back stronger than ever. The Varsity team went through amazing seasons, full of close matches and triumphant victories. The Varsity team continues to carry the IH name to victory, with an outstanding record of 15-4, all while being ranked number one in Division 2 high school men's tennis. The varsity team consists of 8 players, Tejas Pisati (junior), RJ Poffenberger (freshman), Jack Pollock (freshman), Jasper Bennett (senior), Sam Rhoad (junior), Eshaan Gandhi (freshman), Jai Mastruzo (senior), and Senuka Abeyasinghe (freshman). Each player has contributed greatly to their amazing record, but it could not have been done without guidance. Wade Ward, former Indian Hill student, as well as the Indian Hill women's varsity team coach, has served as the men's coach for nearly 7 seasons. He has been dedicated to pushing each team to be the best that they can be and has coached through many wins. To make a good team, group dynamics are required, and after sitting in on matches and practices, it is evident that the team gets along very well. Jack Pollock says that "With all the people around me and with Coach Wade Ward, they have shown me a side of tennis that is more team-oriented and that's something that I have never gotten out of this individual sport." From another perspective, Eshaan Gandhi says "High School tennis is just fun in every way possible, messing around with teammates, winning matches, and just playing tennis makes me enjoy every day. I like how it's a team effort rather than an individual fault when the team struggles, but I also love how we bond stronger as we win. Overall, it's just a great experience and I can't wait for upcoming years." Don't forget to wish the tennis team the best of luck at their state tournament! Go Braves! ■

Running to Success

Kaia Woo '23

The 2021 Spring Track season is coming to an end! It feels as though just yesterday it was March and the first outdoor practices had just begun. As the regular season ended last Friday and the varsity teams on their way to conquer the upcoming districts, it's amazing to look back on the progress our runners have made over the past months. Some highlights include a first place title in the Throwers' Relay at the Sycamore Relays meet, cheering for the seniors on Senior Night, and the girls' recent championship victory at CHLs. Coach Savage, in a brief word about the season, is very happy and grateful with how the season is going, especially with the heartbreak of losing last year's season. "The results at CHLs were above and beyond what I anticipated..." says Savage -- the boys second place finish and the girls' victory which marks their fourth year in a row of winning. Great season athletes, good luck!

On May 15, several girls from the track team joined with the Girls On The Run club--many, many high-energy and spirited girls (primary/elementary students) - for a 5k run/walk race. It was a beautiful, sunny, 60-degree-weather morning as we gathered in front of the primary school. The coaches had mapped out a route through the nearby neighborhoods, stationing the high-schoolers around the course for encouragement, and a few as "running buddies". As expected, the girls bursted off the starting line, quickly dwindling into a light jog, and eventually a well-paced walk. Yet, there was nothing more special than watching the girls cross the finish line and triumphantly break through the ribbons. The coaches gathered us all for pictures and then conducted an adorable awards ceremony for the young runners. A big thank you to the coaches for arranging the race and the volunteers for supporting these girls! ■



Fun Covid Friendly Things to do in Cincinnati This Summer

Ashwini Krishnan '23

As the school year winds down and the lingering presence of COVID still persists, this summer is as good a time as any to explore the numerous COVID friendly (as well as wallet friendly) activities to do in Cincinnati.

Safe outdoor activities!

- Kings Island: spend the day at Kings Island while social distancing and having fun on the rides!
- Loveland Bike Trail: a great source of exercise as well as completely free. Bike down to Milford, get some lunch, and enjoy a nice day out in the sunshine!
- Cincinnati Zoo: Feed the giraffes, play with the elephants, and make friends with a gorilla all for a reasonable price and a day filled with new memories.
- Peddlers Flea Market: this indoor/outdoor space offers over 300 outdoor vendors serving food all day and selling unique, one of a kind items
- Top Golf: spend the day with your friends or family while eating good food and golfing! What could be better?

Free activities!

- Visit the murals: take a walk downtown and appreciate the art. There are countless pieces of art capturing hardships, achievements, and more. A self-guided tour exploring your city is a great way to spend the day.
- Riverwalk: you can visit the Roebling Bridge, feed the ducks, or swing! Riverwalk is a place to explore and appreciate Cincinnati's history as well as enjoy the breeze off of the river.
- Art climb: this is a newly opened space by the art museum made for people to enjoy. There are beautiful views with lights and "art plazas" to let those creative juices flow, or even just get a better view of our beautiful city.
- Contemporary Arts Center: this space always has something new to feature as it focuses on recent developments in art. The building is free and spacious, and you are able to spread out.

With a well deserved summer filled with relaxation and fun, I encourage you to go out and look for the beauty within our little city of Cincinnati. ■

TV Show Review: *Lucifer* and *Harley Quinn*

Elsa Zhou '23

Netflix's TV show *Lucifer* follows the devil incarnate... literally. At the beginning of season 1, the former King of Hell, better known as Lucifer Morningstar, arrives in Los Angeles. Accompanied by a demon named Mazikeen (Maze for short), Lucifer unsurprisingly runs a raging nightclub called "Lux". However, not long after coming to Earth, Lucifer finds himself in the midst of a murder. Attempting to persuade lead detective Chloe Decker to let him assist with the case, Lucifer also faces resistance on Earth from his angel brother Amenadiel, who wishes to hold Lucifer accountable for leaving Hell unattended. The show continues on as Lucifer later becomes an official civilian consultant to help and pester Decker, who develops an undeniable bond with a man she doesn't realize is the Devil. The seasons effortlessly weave in bits of Bible lore, such as Lucifer's relationship with his siblings, father, and mother, as well as other Biblical characters like Cain and Eve.

This DC Universe show is definitely worth a watch. It nobly recasts many of the traditional roles established in the Bible and morphs those figures into characters that fit a romantic drama and police procedural. The TV show consistently touches on deeper topics as Lucifer must grapple with his self-hatred and inability to control his circumstances on Earth like he was able to in Hell. Additionally, other notable characters that join the Devil's merry band include Linda, Lucifer's therapist, and Ella, a bright and optimistic evidence technician. So, the show's first five seasons are available on Netflix and certainly worth checking out!

Harley Quinn's animated TV show appears in the same broader DC Universe as *Lucifer*, but has yet to hold any stronger connections to any live action movies or shows. The show starts with the Joker, a familiar painted-white face with a grating voice and leering smile, betraying Harley by throwing her at Batman to save himself. Unable to catch the Joker as he flees, Batman locks up Harley, who turns in her signature red-and-black outfit for the familiar orange jumpsuit worn by Arkham Asylum jailbirds. After futilely expecting the Joker to rescue her month after month, Harley instead decides to listen to her fellow Arkham resident Poison Ivy, a powerful villain with the ability to control plants with her mind. Together, the two engineer a chaotic escape from Arkham, freeing

cellmates such as the Riddler, a bald man intent on riddling people to death (with actual riddles, not bullets). However, despite claiming she is done with Joker's manipulative personality, Harley then embarks on a mission to enter the League of Doom to prove to the Joker that she deserves his respect.

The first few episodes of the show already set up the chaotic, frenzied mood that perfectly characterizes the dangerously whimsical nature of Harley Quinn. The TV show is amazingly successful at capturing Quinn's anti-heroine essence: a character that commits crimes but... compellingly so. For example, in later episodes in the first season, Harley's new identity begins to emerge, with her blue-and-pink pigtails and baseball bat. With every swing of that iconic bat, the audience sees more of Harley's independent nature shine through as the show paints her so humanly, so rawly. It becomes impossible not to see her as the true protagonist -- one to root for, laugh for, and cry for. As the show progresses, its comedic nature yet dramatic flair continue to mesh beautifully with the comic-book origins of iconic characters such as Quinn, Ivy, Joker, Batman, Penguin, Bane, and Riddler. The show is an enjoyable watch: catch the first two seasons on HBO Max! The third season is expected to premiere in either late 2021 or early 2022! ■