



Lights, Camera, SAASA: Annual Tradition Returns to HSN

Edward Simon Cruz
News Editor



Members of SAASA perform the Bhangra folk dance from the Punjab region of India. Photo by SAASA

On June 4, High School North's South Asian-American Student Association (SAASA) hosted its first in-person event in three years. More than five hundred community members packed into the North au-

ditorium to watch an evening of entertainment featuring dancing, music, and comedy.

Four senior officers (Kirthi Chigurupati, Shivani Nikam, Hamsini Pokkunuri, and Akash Parekh) and three junior officers (Rijuta Kalante, Siya Jain, and Sarvesh Pradhan) choreographed the dances and led the planning process. Seniors Shreyan Rohatagi, Shaunak Sawant, and Virat Vishwanadhula hosted the event, transitioning between performances and leading additional segments that sometimes featured audience participation. Members from each grade performed their own dances; there were also separate dances for partners and teachers. One of the dances featured Bharatanatyam and Kathak dance forms set to traditional classical and Bollywood music, while another was set to hip-hop music. Other dances showcased the Raas and Bhangra forms from North India, and one showcased South Indian dance styles.

The vocal group Mastani performed a song, and various students appeared onstage in a fashion show, with some bringing their families. Throughout the evening, a comedic skit followed the journey of aspiring actor Bablu (played by Kohav Dantara) as he falls in love and prepares for an important audition. SAASA donated most proceeds from the event to the Chhanv Foundation, a nonprofit organization aiding survivors of acid attacks in India.

Only seniors had experience coordinating in-person SAASA events, so they helped train younger members with the necessary knowledge to host more events in the future. Several students familiar with backstage and technical

that's really helped it to come together."

Much of the planning occurred in the weeks immediately before the event, with the show order, props, costumes, and choreographies all being finalized in the last days.



Members of SAASA perform the Raas folk dance from the Gujrat region of India. Photo by SAASA

operations within the auditorium even came in to help, despite not being part of SAASA.

"The reason that the show was such a success is everyone did what they had to do," said junior officer Siya Jain. "Nobody really stuck to, 'Oh, I'm just a part of this one dance. I'm not really gonna help with anything else.' Everyone was super flexible, and I think

During the event itself, organizers also had to grapple with some pacing and technical issues. However, the officers and members remain proud of their ability to put on a show after three years of delays and months of hard work. They remain optimistic that SAASA will continue their long-standing tradition with an even better show next year.

Recapping a Year of Change and Celebration

Ria Prasad
Editor-in-Chief

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, North staff and students have enacted changes that made the community more inclusive. They have also celebrated the return to in-person learning through activities that encouraged school spirit and honored the graduating Class of 2022.

September 8th, 2021: Re-u-Knight-ed at Last

North students paraded into school in royal knight blue as Student Council cheered them on for a successful return to in-person learning. Student body vice president Megan Lee led chalk art sessions, decorating the school's entrances with North-themed artwork.

Ongoing: Student Council Meetings with Administrators and Sodexo

Student Council members met with North Principal Jonathan Dauber every other week to discuss issues emerging within the school and brainstorm ways to strengthen our school climate. Through those meetings, the group was able to address issues like students being signed out of Google. They also began conversations with Superintendent David Aderhold about implementing an open campus policy for seniors; the new Out to Lunch program is setting precedent for future years while creating a more flexible schedule for North students, with the potential to evolve even more. Class Council members also met with Sodexo management to discuss school lunch options, creating an open discussion about the staffing and supply chain issues caused by the pandemic.

October 4–8, 2021: #HCRoadTrip2021

The first week of October marked the return of North's coveted homecoming traditions. Honoring the theme of American cities, class councils encouraged students to bring back the highly anticipated homecoming themed wall murals. Members of the North community flaunted their spirit week looks during events like Red Carpet Day and Tacky Tourist Day. The Executive Board organized a pregame pep-rally-style event before the football game on Friday. The night ended with a win for the WW-P United team and the crowning of this year's five Knights of the Round Table—an award that was created to replace the idea of a homecoming king and queen with a less heteronormative, more inclusive way of honoring North students.

April 9, 2022: The ToKnight Show Returns

With the success of last year's virtual ToKnight show, Student Council forged into the spring with the first in-person ToKnight Show since 2019. The spirit week preceding that event brought about a possible new tradition for the North community: Wear Anything But a Backpack Day.

The information in these articles is current as of June 16. Some information may be out of date by the release of this issue.

State and Federal Lawmakers Hope to Enhance Gun Safety

Hana Mahmutbegovic
Staff Writer

On June 12, ten Republican and ten Democratic senators announced a bipartisan deal for gun safety laws, a promising step forward for an issue that has long divided Congress; if passed, that law would become the most significant of its kind passed in more than three decades. The law would make background checks more robust for buyers under twenty-one. The law also would allot funds for mental health resources and school security, and states would receive funds to enact “red-flag” laws so authorities can temporarily take guns from those considered to be dangerous.

Democratic Senator Chris Murphy, a fervent advocate for gun reform, expressed his satisfaction for the deal. “This bill will not end the epidemic of gun violence overnight,” said Murphy during a press conference on June 13. “But it is substantial. It is significant. It will save lives, and it will provide us the momentum to be able to make further changes.”

The law has yet to be finalized. It falls short of the reforms that Democrats hoped to enact, and it is less extensive than a different

law passed in the House on June 8; that law is not expected to pass in the Senate.

The existence of homicide is not exclusive to America. However, according to a study from the CDC, 79% of murders in America are carried out with guns, compared with 37% in Canada, 13% in Australia, and a mere four percent in the United Kingdom. According to the same study, firearms kill about 53 Americans per day.

Notably, these countries didn’t always have restrictive gun measures. Australia, for instance, banned semi-automatic weapons and introduced buyback schemes, centralized registries of gun owners, and campaigns to publicly educate people about the laws after the harrowing Port Author massacre. Hunting is popular in Australia, and an estimated 3.5 million guns are owned by private citizens. However, since these changes were made over 25 years ago, there have been three mass shootings Australia; meanwhile, according to the Gun Violence Archive, there have been fourteen mass murders in the U.S. between January 1 and June 15, 2022.



U.S Legislative Process in terms of Mass Shootings...
Cartoon by Kiran Thomman

Since the 2012 Sandy Hook school shooting, Congress has taken several bills to the floor, but few have been signed into legislation. In response to Sandy Hook, for instance,

Senators Joe Manchin and Patrick J. Toomey drafted a bill to expand background checks in gun purchases, but the bill fell six votes short of overcoming the filibuster.

Although Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell signaled support for the bipartisan gun deal, he opposes especially strict gun reforms. “We have a Second Amendment to the Constitution,” said McConnell during a June 1 event in his home state of Kentucky. “We take it seriously. There’s the right to keep and bear arms in this country.” Senator Ted Cruz has begun suggesting that schools implement resources to boost security. On Fox News, Cruz said, “If those federal grants [from the School Security Enhancement Act] had gone to this school when that psychopath arrived, the armed police officers could have taken him out.” Cruz, McConnell, and many GOP congresspeople have continued to oppose gun restrictions, arguing that they are ineffective.

However, 13 Texas Democrats assert in a letter to their governor that “‘thoughts and prayers’ are not enough, we need evidence-based, common sense gun safety laws.” There may, indeed, be hope for some reform.

Supreme Court May Eliminate Federal Protections for Abortion

Edward Simon Cruz
News Editor

A draft opinion written by Justice Samuel Alito in February indicates that the Supreme Court may overturn *Roe v. Wade*, which protected a woman’s right to terminate a pregnancy. Through an anonymous source, *Politico* attained the opinion on May 2, intensifying ongoing debates over the legality of abortions even as the final decision has yet to be published.

Alito called the 1973 precedent of *Roe v. Wade* “egregiously wrong from the start.” The *Roe* decision claimed that the Fourteenth Amendment indirectly protects the right to privacy—and, consequently, a woman’s right to choose—but Alito argued that said right is not protected because it is not “deeply rooted in this nation’s history and tradition.” He felt that the Supreme Court abused its power by imposing the *Roe* decision nationally despite questionable legal justifications, and he called for abortion to instead be legislated by states.

Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, the case for which Alito wrote the draft opinion, concerns a 2018 Mississippi law banning most abortions after fifteen weeks of pregnancy. Exceptions were allowed if the mother’s life was in danger or if the baby had a condition threatening their post-birth survivability; however, there were no exceptions if the baby was conceived through rape or incest. Lower courts declared Mississippi’s law unconstitutional because it violated the 1992 ruling of *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, which



Protestors both for and against abortion rights clash outside the Supreme Court building the morning after Justice Alito’s decision was announced. Photo by Evelyn Hockstein via Reuters

modified part of *Roe* by affirming that, since states have an interest in protecting unborn children, they can place restrictions that do not provide an “undue burden” for the mother.

On May 3, Chief Justice John Roberts confirmed the authenticity of the draft opinion and announced an investigation into the identity of the leaker. Draft decisions have rarely been leaked for pending cases, especially months in advance. Justices may still change their votes and rewrite opinions; the court’s final decision is only set to be published in late June or early July. Alito’s opinion was supported by Justices Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett. Thomas has served since 1991 and Alito since 2006; Gor-

such, Kavanaugh, and Barrett were all appointed by Donald Trump. According to CNN, Roberts, the other right-leaning justice, supported upholding Mississippi’s law but not overturning *Roe*.

Some of the especially restrictive laws against abortion have been blocked by courts; however, a Texas law banning almost all abortions after six weeks has been in effect since September 2021, and an Oklahoma law signed on May 25 sets a similar ban from conception. If *Roe* were overturned, abortion would not be criminalized nationally; instead, its legality would be at each state’s discretion. According to the Guttmacher Institute, thirteen states have “trigger laws” that would immediately ban all or most abortions; sixteen states and Washington,

D.C. have laws protecting abortion rights, including New Jersey, where the Freedom of Reproductive Choice Act was signed in January. A congressional bill that would have codified abortion rights fell through on May 11, when Democratic Joe Manchin joined all fifty Republican senators in voting against it.

Thousands on both sides have protested since the opinion was leaked; a June 13 protest supporting abortion rights blocked the intersections around the Supreme Court building. Congress passed a bill on June 14 authorizing additional protection for the justices and their families.

Though the Supreme Court has reversed previous precedents to expand rights, it has never done so to revoke rights. The draft opinion concerns only the right to abortion and does not rule on topics like same-sex marriage, but opponents of overturning *Roe v. Wade* warn that the Supreme Court could use *Dobbs* to justify revoking other rights.

The Myers Abortion Facility Database projects that about three in ten Americans would have to travel over 200 miles to the nearest abortion provider; such a barrier would disproportionately affect low-income women and women of color. “People seeking abortion services are disproportionately poor and are more likely experiencing disruptive life events like losing a job,” said economics professor Caitlin Knowles Myers in an interview with *The New York Times*. “It is the most vulnerable of an already vulnerable group that will no longer have access.”



Letters to the Seniors



Dear Ananya,

Edward Simon Cruz: It's been such a pleasure seeing you grow over the years from being a section editor to a managing editor to an editor-in-chief. Across all of the jokes we've made and all of the random conversations we've had together, we've made so many great memories together. Thank you for helping me become a better writer and editor! I can't wait to see what you do at Emory and beyond. I've seen how hard you work and how much passion you have for everything you do, and I know you have such a bright future ahead of you.

Natalie Leung: I'm going to miss you so much next year! After becoming friends during field hockey, I'm so glad I was able to get to know you better in Journalism for the past two years. I got to see the same traits I knew you possessed from playing sports—passion, dedication, perseverance—play out in the classroom. You never fail to make me laugh during class, especially when you try and make me go out and buy outfits that you wanted, just so that you can see your fashion visions come true. I will never forget the great memories we've made together. Thank you for guiding me through

Journalism and for always being available for all of my InDesign questions. I wish you the best with everything, and I know you will go on to accomplish amazing things at Emory.

Tanika Mally: Your pres-



The Chiefs during Homecoming week's "Tacky Tourist" Spirit Day

ence here will be dearly missed! You constantly brighten the room and never fail to be passionate and bold. I am glad to become closer with you this past year. From our small, yet fun, hallway conversations while walking to class to all the valuable ad-

vice you've given me in class, you've established yourself as someone I can even look up to. You are so outgoing and extroverted, you never fail to make everyone comfortable. Thank you for being the brilliant person you are, and I hope you continue to shine just as brightly in Emory!

Anusha Bapat: Ananya, I look up to your strong leadership and public-speaking skills that you demonstrate in every Journalism class and during every brainstorming session that we've had since my freshman year. Your passion and dedication for the work you do is so admirable and I hope it's something our new e-board can also accomplish together! Thank you for always being so approachable and helping me combat all the logistical obstacles that I've encountered over the years. Emory is extremely lucky to have you and I'm gonna miss having you as my chief editor!

Ismail Sy: You have been a strong leader throughout these past three years and have done a great job being a guide for us. You always made sure that everything was organized and that everyone got their job done. We all appreciate you for that. You always know how to make us laugh during class and lighten the mood, even when things are a little dull. It has been a pleasure working with you for the past three years. I am so proud of the person you have become and I know you are going to do amazing things at Emory.



The Chiefs together at Junior and Senior Prom



Dear Nona,

Edward Simon Cruz: It was great getting to know and work with you during our digital Race Matters column last year. Not only did we have our fair share of inside jokes, but I learned a lot about becoming a better writer and learning how to scrutinize every word to best express my ideas. I look forward to seeing what you do in college and beyond, and I'm so glad that I got to know you! (That said, as much as I enjoyed your various nicknames for me, I must say that I do not agree with those times when you compared me to a puffin. I don't see the resemblance.)

Natalie Leung: I've always admired how dedicated you are to *The Knightly News*—you are a naturally amazing writer, and I have learned a lot about how to be a better journalist from you. Not only that, but your ability to come in every day with a smile on your face and exude kindness to everyone. The way that you ask everyone, every day how they are doing, speaks volumes about your character. I'm so grateful for your unmatched leadership, honestly you helped guide me a lot my first

year, and your willingness to help with any questions that I have had throughout the past couple of years. I can't wait to see what you accomplish at IU!

Tanika Mally: From your amazing sense of humor to your im-

er it's in GLI or Journalism, you naturally command the presence of the room, and have never failed to give me advice when I've needed it (though you have made fun of me enough to last a lifetime). I admire how calm and collected

the best in college (you're gonna do great!).

Anusha Bapat: Nona you are such a sweet and caring person and I know I could always count on you for any guidance I needed throughout the writing, editing, and layout process.



The Chiefs during Homecoming Week's "Throwback" Spirit Day

mense dedication to your natural charisma, I've always looked up to you and am so happy to have gotten close this year as well! Regardless of wheth-

you can be, even when the rest of us are all in a frenzy and are chaotically panicking. Your reliability and patience truly kept me sane this year, and I wish you

The ways you have ensured that we release multiple issues of The Knightly News this year and ensure that everyone is on task, despite being virtual for a full year prior, is highly commendable and is a skill that wouldn't have made this year's journalism class the same without it. I will miss having you in class to check up on all the section editors whether it was related to journalism or not. All the best for IU!

Ismail Sy: Nona, you have always been a calming presence in the Journalism classroom and you always make sure that everything is organized and done in a timely manner. You have always made sure that we were in the best position to succeed. Without you, *The Knightly News* would not be the same. You have strong leadership qualities that I know will take you very far. Also, I just wanted to say that your sense of humor deserves more appreciation and you should never stop being funny. Thank you for all that you have done for us and I wish you good luck in college. You have a very bright future and I cannot wait to see what you do next at IU.



Letters to the Seniors



Dear Ria,

Edward Simon Cruz: Even though you've only been in Journalism for two years, you've still left such a great impact on our class, and we will be grateful for everything you've done for us.

I, for one, will miss your sarcasm—a trait that we seem to share—along with your ability to always contribute to discussions with your insight and knowledge of the world around you. Thank you, Ria Prasad, for being a good partner on math tests and an even better editor-in-chief in Journalism.

Natalie Leung: We started Journalism during the same year, and it's been amazing to watch you grow from being a staff writer to an editor-in-chief within the past two years. Not many people have that ability and I think it reflects greatly your dedication to the *Knightly News* and your ability to benefit the class in such a short amount of time. I've always admired the passion you have for everything you work on and your confidence in discussions. The amount of information that you keep in your head is

incredible. You always know the solution to every problem we run into. I honestly don't know what I will do next year without your guidance, or to count on to borrow a MacBook charger. Good luck and I wish you the best with everything at IU!

Tanika Mally: For the past two years, your innovativeness and creativ-

ity have never failed to blow me away. You constantly bring new ideas in to the classroom, and though we've only known each other for the past two years,



The Chiefs at the Senior Swing Dance Competition

sure just how we would've managed! Thank you for being such a great editor-in-chief and co-president of the Journalism Club, and I hope you find ev-

everything you're looking for in college!

Anusha Bapat: You are one of the most hardworking and intelligent people I've ever met and seeing the effort you put into all your well-articulated articles while also managing your role as an editor-in-chief amazes me! Working alongside you in the Journalism club and class has shown me the skills I need to further become a better writer and leader. I will definitely miss the subtle jokes you crack about two of our section editors (I think you know who) each class as they never fail to make me laugh. I aspire to carry myself like you do and I wish you all the best at IU!

Ismail Sy: You have only been in this class for two years, but your impact has been felt greatly.

Even though you like the Packers, you are an amazing leader and a hard worker. Last year, you started out as just a staff writer and within the year, you became an editor in chief. That is so impressive and not many people can do that. That is just a testament to your hard working mentality.

That will take you very, very far in life. Thank you for all that you have done in your short time with us. You should be proud of all that you have accomplished in your time here and I wish you the best of luck at IU.

Dear Jack,

Edward Simon Cruz: You were always such a vibrant presence, and your impressions and accents always cracked me up! I'm pretty sure I got a few good belly laughs from your jokes and general sense of humor. And even though you killed it as Miss Trunchbull in the spring musical, you were always kind and supportive, helping us out and answering our questions whenever we stalled with (re-)learning how to use InDesign. Thank you for your support and your presence. We'll miss you, and we know that you'll do great things for everyone around you!

Natalie Leung: You are always the most positive person in the room, you have a smile and laugh that can light up any room. I especially liked your Irish accent and impressions, they never failed to make me laugh and kept going throughout this stressful year. You are also one of the kindest people I've ever met and have always been willing to help me for whatever reason. You always made the bad days better, with your ability to energize and entertain everyone. You're such a hardworker, I know you will go on to do amazing things studying

journalism while you are at Maryland!

Tanika Mally: Throughout almost the entirety of this year, you have never failed to walk into class with a beaming smile and a joke ready



The Chiefs hanging out together during Journalism class

to crack, and for that, I have to thank you, as it has never failed to brighten up my day. Even though some of those jokes were made at my expense (not funny, by the way), you make up for them with

your kindness, thoughtfulness, and almost never-ending well of patience. Additionally, you are such a hardworker and an impeccable and capable journalist as well! I have learned so much from you,

thank you for making this difficult year so much more bearable, and I am 100% certain you're going to achieve great things at Maryland!

Anusha Bapat: I think it's com-

pletely fair to say that I have always tried so hard not to laugh at your witty and amazing sense of humor each class. Having you around made any tedious editing or layout task feel like a breeze because of your optimism and constant support for each student in the class. You have always been so reliable for any guidance I have needed and never hesitated to answer any of my questions no matter how many there were. I will sincerely miss your amusing jokes and I hope our class next year is able to preserve the vibrance you left here. Thank you for all your help Jack and I hope Maryland is everything you hoped for it to be!

Ismail Sy: Jack Carter, where do I even begin? You are MY GUY. You're hilarious, kind, and a hard worker. You joined this class last year and were able to snag a leadership position. That just shows your hard work and dedication. You have the ability to light up any room you walk into with your presence and you always make the bad days become good ones. Thank you, Jack, for making us all better people and for making us happier everyday. I think I'm speaking for everyone when I say that your smile kept us going throughout the year. Thank you for your hard work that you have done for *The Knightly News*. Thank you for being such a good friend to me over these past two years and for always looking out for me. I know you are going to be a superstar at Maryland and the sky is the limit for you.

Our Identities Are Not Your Revenue

Idaya Sasikumar
Staff Writer

For all the backlash LGBTQ+ people get when they talk about, or even express, their sexualities in any way within the public eye — “Please stop holding hands with your boyfriend in public. It makes me uncomfortable.” “Why do you dress like that? Do you want the world to know you’re transgender?” “Just because you don’t like romance, doesn’t mean other people have the same opinion. I hate it when you always make jokes about how romance sucks.” — I would argue that the companies decked out in rainbow colors every June deserve much more criticism. Banners, mugs, notebooks, kitchen items, you name it. If a product exists, chances are a rainbow version of it being advertised during Pride Month. But why do companies do this? Is it because they want to show their support for the LGBTQ+ community? Perhaps, do they enjoy creating products that they know LGBTQ+ people will buy?

The truth is much more complicated than that. Some companies have good intentions. Others do not. Disney

is a prime example of a company whose



A display with rainbow-themed products for Pride Month at Target (washingtonpost.com)

actions do not match their words. You may see Disney tweeting their support for the LGBTQ+ community on Twitter every year, and yet they have also donated up

to \$250,000 in support of Florida’s Don’t Say Gay Bill. This bill prevents discussions of sexual orientation and gender identity in school classrooms.

So then why does Disney create merchandise in colors matching specific pride flags each June? Why do they post pictures of our favorite characters with the LGBTQ+ flag, captioned, “There’s room for everyone during the rainbow”, when they clearly do not believe in that sentiment? The answer is rainbow capitalism.

Rainbow capitalism (often known as “pink capitalism” or “pinkwashing”) is the commercialization of LGBTQ+ movements, where companies focus on the targeted inclusion of the queer community to create a market of goods catered for them. The LGBTQ+ community is huge; as a result, they’re a large percent of consumers. Though rainbow capitalism exists all year, Pride Month is when it is the most prominent. Companies will create products in all sorts of color palettes in order to get the queer community to buy them. This strategy works! People who want to express their identities purchase these products and contribute towards a company’s profits. This is how all businesses work. They find a target audience, create products catered for them, and advertise them in the hopes of

increasing their sales. But if all businesses work this way, then you may be wondering why this article is heading in a negative direction.

Rainbow capitalism exploits LGBTQ+ people and uses them to make a profit. This isn’t every single company, obviously, but many of the most distinguished companies, such as Disney, definitely only create these products in order to make a profit. They don’t care about the queer community; they just want their money. Within LGBTQ+ spaces, people make fun of rainbow capitalism all the time, but it really isn’t as light-hearted as it is made out to be. Every cent you give to companies like Disney helps them fund initiatives such as the Don’t Say Gay bill.

It is not wrong to buy LGBTQ+ themed products, but there are other ways to show your support for the queer community. Perhaps next time, look into a company’s history before you buy a pride pin from it. Or even better, buy products from smaller creators and local businesses! Support queer entrepreneurs; they definitely need it.

A New Angle On Journalism: Crowdsourcing News

Pooja Narayan
Staff Writer

The 5 AM coalition, a Ukrainian organization created with the purpose of documenting war crimes, is tireless. It consists of people who gather footage of wounded/dead civilians, destroyed buildings/cultural sites, looting, interference in peaceful assembly, abduction, and other atrocities. It was formed in March by 16 Ukrainian civil society groups.

They’re not a ragtag bunch of photographers; they coordinate with lawyers and prosecutors around the world to send evidence of war crimes, analyze open-source material, and use various tactics to uncover the damage done to Ukrainian civilians during war. But they’ve also become open to the public, encouraging everyday citizens to record anything wrong they see on their phones and submit it to a national website. In fact, people can even upload tips about anything they might know to be happening to help the cause.

In a time where major news organizations have too many priorities to always catch wrongdoings happening all over the world, it is crowdsourced news that does essential work in calling attention to atrocities.

Consider organizations like Amnesty International, which allow “digital

volunteers” to become what they call decoders- people who spot surveillance cameras in pictures of cities and report them to the organization. Once this data is gathered, Amnesty International determines where people



In Ukraine, a woman records a scene of destruction. (api.time.com)

are more likely to be facially recognized and surveilled, helping prevent criminal hunts based on racism and discrimination.

Consider the hundreds of recordings of police brutality that go viral every

day, taken by people who were simply walking down the street before they witnessed such an event. The most prominent instance of this concerns Darnella Frazier, a girl-who was only seventeen years old when she

police officers creating strict boundaries, not entering the building, and - in some instances - attacking the parents themselves.

We can criticize these daytime journalists for not stopping the event they publicized. But no more can The New York Times prevent its daily inflation headline than everyday people can always muster up within themselves the courage to interfere in an injustice. The job of a journalist is tragic in that sense. Might people-driven news be false, repeated? Does this phenomenon exacerbate the chance of worldwide fake news, circulated to the point where no one knows what is true anymore? It contributes no more to the problem than big media giants do, and does infinitely more good than they do.

There is choice in where and how we choose to consume media. The latest news outlet is crowdsourced news, and it is a testament to not only the democracies of individual countries, but the enduring worldwide democracy that forever plagues our political conversations. The magic of this media, the wonder of an entire populace banding together to share crucial information, to exercise their freedom of the press, has only been able to blow up in the last two decades. It seems to tell us: the tragedy and numbness and perpetual bad news of late is not something we can ever control. But perhaps our coverage of it is, and perhaps the truth we all want so desperately from the media can be found in ourselves.

Satire of The Month: An Enhanced Life with Procrastination

Anusha Bapat
Opinion Editor

Each and every one of us has interacted with a classmate who manages to submit a four page essay four minutes before 11:59 despite only starting it the night it's due. Or maybe in your algebra class there is a student who one day cannot explain piecewise functions to you but the next has the entire unit memorized for your chapter 6 test. And the result? A private comment with "excellent!" written on Google Classroom and a gleaming 98% written in red pen on the top of their test paper.

Procrastination is inarguably the most efficient and effective way of approaching all assignments if you truly want to be delighted by your gradebook alert. Instead of working on the assignment in parts leading up to the day it's due, spend the hours of your weeks watching Netflix, trying new joints at Princeton, or shopping with friends at the mall! It would be a crime to use these precious days for anything other than recreational activities and should be pushed until it actually becomes relevant to pay attention to—the day it is due.

Procrastination urges students to cultivate time-management skills and prompts them to be more hardworking as well as spend little time yet equal amounts of effort on assignments that

would take hours to complete if worked on earlier. The general tendency for students is to split up their accumulating assignments on google classroom over multiple days without realizing the harmful effects of this plan. First, following such a schedule forces students to stay up late hours each day of the week leaving them

ant for individuals to push themselves through the rigorous years of high school and without integrating procrastination into your schedule, these connections can be significantly damaged. Do you really want to attend your high school reunion knowing you wasted your four years for the perfect GPA rather than solidified

still be saved. There are multiple strategies to make this distant habit one that is continuous with your daily routine. First, leave your backpack in a completely different room (preferably the basement) so that you aren't tempted to open that AP Biology textbook or the loose leaf paper you need for your Calculus homework. Next, start messaging all the group chats you're on and make those movie night and beach plans that you have wanted to do for so long—don't forget to encourage your friends to delete google classroom off their phones during the planning process! Finally, let your parents know that you have your GPA all under control because you're giving yourself a necessary two week mental health break which will recharge you for the night you have to cram your assignments in.

Even in today's highly metropolitan society you see people scrambling for their passports in airports or for their train tickets to catch the next metro. No one seems to question why they don't have their documents in order. In college, students schedule late classes or skip them entirely to avoid the boredom of another lecture on the ethics of biomedical engineering. Teenagers will never live the college experience if they're wasting time working on projects in the libraries and conference rooms. After all, it is crucial that students make the most out of the \$70,000 worth of tuition leaving their pockets right?



A study strategy for all aspiring valedictorians (pittnews.com)

half-awake and inattentive in school the next day. And you know teenagers, we need our sleep or we will not be in the brightest mood. Second, an intense investment in homework every single day detracts students' time with family and friends. These relationships are import-

connections with people you will never see again? Sounds depressing to me.

It is understandable that individuals who wish to procrastinate but don't have the habit of doing so, are unable to use this skill in their daily academic activities. But do not panic, your grade can

Let Me Drink Coffee!

Hana Mahmutbegovic
Staff Writer

As a 15-year-old who wakes up at 6:00AM every morning, while being prone to (the horrible, but common habit of) staying up late to cram in homework after sports or clubs, I can attest to the fact that it is really easy to turn to coffee as a failsafe energy boost. Honestly, I need a quick wake-up call in the morning -- and I genuinely love coffees and teas, but I think that the role of coffee in our society is something that should be explored. Although it's adored by many, there are definitely nuances to the way coffee and other caffeine sources impact our lives, whether that be socially, academically, or anything in between.

Maybe it's because I'm Bosnian, where every single social interaction is supplied with a steaming (espresso-equivalent) cup of coffee, a sugar cube, and a freshly-baked kifla (a bread roll partial to the Balkans), but I've always seen a certain social significance in coffee dictating social events or societal norms. Just think about how many times you've heard "let's meet over a cup of coffee?"

Whether in a cheesy Hallmark movie or used to make plans with old friends, coffee is oftentimes the epicenter of social interaction. So, it makes sense

that coffee is idealized by society, despite some of its indisputable side effects. Yet on the other hand, coffee is often discouraged—think of parents, uncles, and aunts outlandishly warning that 'coffee will keep you from growing!' Because of such side effects, many teens' parents don't want their kids regularly consuming caffeinated beverages, at least until they're older... Which makes me wonder—could the fact that coffee is associated with growing up be a factor in the appeal? Maybe it is this idea that almost makes us reach for that extra-large Dunkin' latte. Or is it the fast-paced, overwhelming nature of our lives.

In a short survey, HSN student Kayla Babbitt wrote, "society pressures us to be energetic and awake all day and coffee is normally the only option to do that."

I couldn't agree more. Why are we obsessing over a morning coffee for an overwhelmed high schooler, when that may just be the thing that gets them through the day... so long as it's drunk in moderation, and doesn't have an unreasonable amount of sugars and cream every single day, are we fighting against a drink that may very well help teens focus in class, and stay on top of things throughout the day?

Could it be that coffee means so much more than just a cup of caffeine-heavy liquid?

The Knightly News Editorial Board

Ananya Dondapati

Editor-in-Chief

Raunaq Nona Saharan

Editor-in-Chief

Ria Prasad

Editor-in-Chief

Jack Carter

Editor-at-Large

Edward Simon Cruz

News Editor

Natalie Leung

Features Editor

Anusha Bapat

Opinion Editor

Tanika Mally

Arts & Review Editor

Ismail Sy

Sports Editor

Randi Greenhouse

Advisor

Carolyn Hoyt

Advisor

The Knightly News is a student newspaper of WW-P High School North, and a public forum for student voices. Opinion pieces do not necessarily reflect the views of the paper. Editorial pieces reflect the general opinion of *The Knightly News*.

The Beginning of All Ends: Stranger Things 4

Saranya Mandapaty
Staff Writer

Three years ago, when I heard that season four of the hit show *Stranger Things* was coming out, I was ecstatic. For 34 months, I awaited this season; every month that went by only amplified my excitement. However, when I started the show at 3:00 AM on May 27th, I was ridiculously underwhelmed. This doesn't mean what you think it does—hear me out.

This new season introduces us to our new favorite slimy-upside-down creature: the Vecna. The Vecna is not like the other creatures, because he isn't one. He's a rotting human corpse-wizard that rules the Upside Down. He even speaks English. Vecna formed a new perception of the Upside Down for me and differed greatly from previous upside-down monsters. Given this, I wasn't the biggest fan of Vecna. It felt too "Stephen King" for me. Don't get me wrong, I love IT, but *Stranger Things* attracted its fans due to its science fiction theme, not horror. Watching the first episode while delirious at 3:00 AM made me genuinely wonder whether I was watching *The Conjuring* or *Stranger Things*.

The first episode depicts each character's response to their traumatic experiences and their attempts to move on and live "normal" lives. We return to Hawkins with Dustin, Mike, and Lucas in the school's Dungeons and Dragons club, and for a moment, everything feels just as it did six years ago when the show premiered. Still, times are changing, and growing another year older comes with new challenges. Lucas, now a freshman, tries to create a new life for himself by joining the school's basketball team. This forces his relationship with his former best friends apart and becomes a more extensive plot point throughout the season. Meanwhile, Eleven, Will, and Jonathan have difficulty adjusting to life in California.

Eleven no longer has her powers to defend herself and has to deal with bullies like any other kid. This season snaps us out of the "superhero" stereotype that we had perceived Eleven as through the past three seasons and reminds us what she truly is: a killing machine. Eleven's anger results in

catastrophe and ends with her in the arms of a man she spent four years running from— you guessed it. As trailers and promotions both revealed, Brenner is back. Unexpected, yes, but he is ready to help Eleven get her powers back. Eleven ends up in her lab, trying to uncover fragments of her past hidden within her subconscious that she had blocked out.

I felt this season fell short with their supporting characters' development, that the Duffer Brothers kept adding new characters to a series when they didn't develop the characters they already had. Take Jonathan. What was his role in this season? Everything the California kids accomplish could have occurred with or without him. His main plot point is that despite his promise, he isn't attending college with Nancy. Inevitably, this forms a ridge in their relationship, and reignited a love triangle we all thought was long gone.

However, I was quickly proven wrong. Hopper's character development was the diamond of the season. Watching his raw emotions unfold in Russia was truly beautiful after four seasons of waiting for him to open up. Similarly, Max is haunted with guilt and forced to face her past. Over time she attempts to make peace with her actions, and her emotional development was brilliantly written and portrayed by Sadie Sink. This season was undoubtedly Max Mayfield's season and it's safe to say "Dear Billy," centered around Max's guilt and trauma, was the greatest *Stranger Things* episode yet.

However, the true star is the soundtrack. Nancy and Robin explore the psychological impact of music on memories, creating a soundtrack with songs ranging from the 50s to the 80s. The most prominent being "Running up that Hill," by Kate Bush, which plays an integral role later on in the season.

At the show's beginning, I felt the first few episodes didn't connect, and the "gang" we had all come to love had separated for the worse. However, when I finished, I realized that I couldn't have been more wrong. Every detail, every story, and each character played into the big picture that was the ending of this brilliant show. Though, was it really the ending? Or a gate to the beginning? On July 1st, 2022, we will finally get our answers.

Millstone Art Contest Winner



"I painted this tree of life because its various colors remind me of all the many women who contributed their unique characteristics and talents to make our world a better, happier, place organized place."

Presented by : Ritika Veligeti ; 5th grader in Mrs. Osburn's and Mrs. Bossios class

The Rainbow Shining Through Stormy Clouds— A Review on Netflix's Heartstopper

Rhea Kholi
Staff Writer

Janani Srinivas
Staff Writer

Netflix's newest series *Heartstopper* based on Alice Oseman's iconic graphic novel of the same name, premiered this year on April 22nd. The series follows Charlie Spring (Joe Locke) and Nick Nelson (Kit Connor), through their blossoming high school romance. Perhaps the reason the coming of age show became so popular is because of how perfectly it portrayed the weirdness and awkwardness of the beginning stages of any high school relationship. It was a Gen Z romance to the tee. The shy flirting and overthinking dms had all of us relating. We certainly caught ourselves smiling, giggling and kicking our legs in the air during each of Charlie and Nick's interactions.

Viewers gained a sense of comfort watching *Heartstopper* as they could find pieces of themselves within the characters. At its best, *Heartstopper* is a witty, coming of age story with the type of LGBTQ+ representation that makes your heart filled with satisfaction and pride. For decades, queer characters were locked into playing stereotypical roles like the overly loud gay best friend, or the lesbian stoner chick. What the media never portrayed was that love is a spectrum,

and on that spectrum are all sorts of people. *Heartstopper* understood this, and gave those who identified as part of the LGBTQ+ community a place to see people sharing their

sexuality. Yet, even in dealing with such serious topics, the show still remains happy and upbeat, maintaining a rom-com tone. It's a refreshing turn from what is usually the queer

nity that is filled to the brim with diversity. So often with pieces lauded as representation, they only really show one side of the story. Too often these works turn tragic. With *Heartstopper*, throughout the hardships, there remains an undercurrent of joy and cheerfulness while witnessing the blooming innocence of falling in love.

More than anything, the representation in the show, not just of Nick and Charlie, but of the entire main cast, feels so natural. The fact that the majority of the main cast members are both teenagers adds to the show's believability. It doesn't feel forced, like something just out there to make sure the show won't get canceled. It feels real because it is real.

Alice Oseman, the creator of the *Heartstopper* comic has been writing the beloved series since 2016 and updates continue to be published online for free. To have Oseman write the screenplay for the show as well makes it all the more special as she understands the characters in a way no one else could, and therefore knew exactly what direction she wanted to take the show in.

Heartstopper goes against its optimistic tone and relatable characters set the bar for any upcoming LGBTQ+ films and tv proving that those part of the community actually can have shows with role models for them to look up to. Netflix, you've raised our expectations high— don't let us down now.



Kit Connor (left) and Joe Locke (right) posing as their respective characters for *Heartstopper* promotion. Source: *The Guardian*

struggles and still surviving and thriving.

Charlie deals with low self esteem issues and bullying, and Nick is almost completely alone in his efforts to understand his

narrative in media of tragedy and heartbreak, which only portray one story from a community that is filled to the brim with diversity. pieces lauded as representation, they only real-

A New Era For Girls Soccer

Gabby Lamboy
Staff Writer

Although the fall season is still months away, it was recently announced that the HSN girls soccer team will have a new head coach: Loran Paragone. With the anticipation of the season, I recently had the opportunity to reach out to Coach Paragone, who expressed her excitement for the upcoming season. She said “I’m really excited to get to know the team, I’m optimistic that through hard work and proper instruction from the coaching staff that we can develop a winning culture!”

Paragone played soccer while attending Hamilton High School West and then Wilmington University in New Castle, Delaware. During her time at Wilmington University, she had an impressive 53 career goals and had 121 total career points, becoming the second all-time goal scorer in program history for Wilmington University Women’s Soccer team. Aside from her athletic achievements, she was also an assistant coach at Dixon High School in Holly Ridge, North Carolina from 2019 to 2021 and an assistant coach for the WILMU where they produced the second All American in program history.

When it comes to her favorite parts about soccer as a player she states that it is the game days and the thrill of lacing up your cleats and running out on the field to compete at the highest level. However, as a coach, her favorite

aspect is watching the young women put their hearts out on the field and love the sport as much as she does. Paragone believes that soccer is so much more than a game. She believes that the sport can teach you a lot of valuable life lessons that can take you far. That is what sports is all about. “It teaches you to be a great communicator, a great leader, and a great multi-tasker. It also teaches you to appreciate the small things; one day you won’t be a player of the sport anymore but you will still always be that person, and being that person is what matters most.”

With her experience and love for the game, Paragone hopes she can bring both strong work ethic and true bonds to the team on and off the field.



Loran Paragone playing at Wilmington University. Photo by: Loran Paragone

Joel Embiid: The Real MVP

Ismail Sy
Sports Editor

I have a question: Does the NBA have a vendetta against Joel Embiid? Is it just me? The guy did everything possible this season to win MVP and yet he did not get it. What else does he have to do to win it? Last year, the reason Embiid did not win was because he was injured a lot and did not play in enough games to really receive serious consideration for the award. He was elite when he played, but the problem was he did not play enough. That was a fair point and we all know that if Embiid played more, he would have had a better case. Fast forward to this past season and not only did Embiid play 68 games, but his numbers were even BETTER than last year. Even though this was the case, he once again finished second in MVP voting. With all due respect to this year’s MVP winner Nikola Jokic, who is also an amazing player, that was Embiid’s trophy.

Embiid was arguably the best player in the league this season, as he averaged 31 points per game, 12 rebounds, and 4 assists per game. He became the first center to lead the NBA in scoring since Shaquille O’Neal did it in 2000 and he became the first center to average 30 points per game in 40 years. Embiid also led the NBA in 40 point and 10 rebound games,

with 13, showcasing his dominance on the glass and in the paint. However, offense was not the only part of the game where Embiid made an impact. Embiid was a defensive stalwart this season as well, averaging almost two blocks per game and one steal per game. Opponents shot 40% from the field when guarded by Embiid, and he was the main reason the Sixers had the 6th best defense in the entire league this season.

Another thing Embiid doesn’t get enough credit for is the fact that he carried the Sixers to the second best record in the East heading into the All Star break in February. This was without Ben Simmons, who was still a home playing Call of Duty at the time. This was before the Sixers traded for All star guard James Harden. Embiid still kept the Sixers at an elite level and that is something that gets overlooked. He was the backbone of the team and they do not go anywhere without his contributions. It is difficult to comprehend the fact that Embiid did not receive the MVP this year. He has been a dominant player all season and made history along the way. The impact he had on the court for the Sixers this season cannot be denied. Maybe the 3rd time will be the charm for him next season, but will the NBA ever recognize Embiid’s greatness?

More Glory For The Girls Golf Team

Rhea Kohli
Staff Writer

Victoria Li
Staff Writer

For the fifth consecutive time, the girls golf team here at North won sectionals. They also played in the state tournament this year. They played their hearts out at States, also known as the “Tournament of Champions.” This being their last tournament of the year, the team went out with a bang, placing in 7th. According to the team’s coach, Tom Connolly, the girls outperformed themselves this season. They played in five tournaments including sectionals where they placed first, and then of course the Mercer County Tournament in which they came in third. The team played in 11 matches this spring, ending the season with an incredible record of 9-2.

As mentioned before, this was also the team’s fifth consecutive title at Sectionals, which Connolly reminisces as “their most memorable win” as the conditions the team had to play in were terrible, with 45 miles per hour wind. He continues “Nonetheless, my girls held on tight and proudly came away with the win.” This being his 13th year of coaching golf, it’s clear that he doesn’t plan on stopping anytime soon as the team keeps getting better and better. Connolly’s main hope is that his immense love for golf can be translated into these young girls’ love for the sport too.

Captain Ellie Byrne highlights the importance of this season by explaining



Girls Golf Team competes at the Tournament of Champions. Pictured above from left to right: Ellie Byrne, Jennifer Qin, Aditi Ashvin, Tanika Mally, Karishma Dhayagude

that “many of their best players” graduated last year and thus, expectations were low for a team going through their “rebuild era.”

Nevertheless, the team pulled through and Byrne herself also did extremely well to place 3rd at the county tournament with a 73, only 1 point away from gold. She picks mentality as one of the most important skills for an athlete to have, citing her improvement from a 108 score in freshman year as evidence of her hard work. Connolly has even referred to Byrne as his “hardest working story ever.” Despite the HSN girls golf team facing less than ideal circumstances going into their season and during games, the team pulled through and accomplished many wins. The question now is what will they do for an encore?



Girls Golf Team smiling after placing third at their tournament. Pictured above from left to right: Karishma Dhayagude, Jennifer Qin, Ellie Byrne, Tanika Mally, Aditi Ashvin, and Anvi Khambadkone