

Almost Spring Break '23

The Arrowhead

Almost Spring Break '23



Forget the Barstool-

Read The Arrowhead
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WHAT IS LOVE?

BY SAMANTHA SMITH

As I am on the brink of adulthood, inching closer to graduation, closer to college, closer to leaving everything I've ever known, I've been thinking a lot about love. Don't worry; I am not talking about some shallow high school romance. I am talking about true love.

To me- true love most easily presents itself in family circumstances. Whether you want to admit it or not, your family is stuck with you forever. Those crazy relatives you see once a year, your parents who drive you insane, and especially your annoying younger sister, are yours forever. These people will love you no matter what. You can go to your family with anything; they are there for you.

Knowing that your family will love you no matter what creates a different feeling when thinking about the love that isn't as guaranteed. When someone chooses to love you, it's different. I'm not saying it's more important or influential than love from a family member, but they are not the same. When someone wakes up every day and makes a conscious decision to spend their time with you, listen to your problems, your rants, and your dreams, it's truly beautiful. Knowing you have people you can run to and share your most significant worries and feelings of pride with is comforting in such a dark, scary world.

Love is what makes growing up and moving away so hard. I feel silly thinking these thoughts, let alone writing them out, because I should be grateful I feel love so great it makes leaving so hard. But here I am, a teenage girl listening to Mazzy Star, wishing I could have more time. More time to spend with my family, more time with my friends, and more time to just be a kid. But again, that's what makes life worth living.



I heard a quote once talking about living, and how if things never came to an end, they'd never have meaning. I don't know if I agree- but take with that what you will.

At the end of the day, time is time. Time never slows, speeds up, or ceases. It is always the same. That is what makes love and finding people who love your true, authentic self so meaningful. Our time together is not unlimited; nothing is. That is truly what makes life so beautiful.

With so much love,

Samantha Smith

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Book Review: *Spare*

BY: GABBY THINNES

On January 10th, 2023, Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, released his tell-all memoir, *Spare*. This novel comes just weeks after Harry and Meghan released their Netflix documentary, where they explained their decision to leave royal life. *Spare* is packed with anecdotes from Harry's life. From minuscule events to his most life-impacting events, everything included in those 407 pages gives just a little more insight on even Harry's most personal life.

The writing of this novel is impeccable. Harry's ghostwriter, J.R. Moehringer, did a wonderful job conveying all of Harry's innermost thoughts and feelings. Despite many of the stories and topics of this novel being very heavy, Moehringer threw in many little bits of humor that appropriately lifted the tone. Using a more dry sense of humor, I thought that this style of hu-



mor really fit Harry. Despite being an American novelist, Moehringer was able to include many bits of British diction in the novel. From the dry humor to the British slang, I can almost hear Harry's voice narrating the text. This is very important in a memoir, especially one where the author is writing with the intent of explaining many of the decisions he made. This makes the novel seem so much more genuine and overall a better experience to read.

Spare is made up of three parts, all characterized by the three most important events in Harry's life. These parts cover different eras of his life. The first part is named "out of the night that covers me." This section of the novel is heavily impacted by the death of Harry's mother. It contains mostly stories from Harry's school years, which were heavily impacted by Princess Diana's death. The second part is appropriately named "bloody, but unbowed" because it centralizes on Harry's war years. Serving in Afghanistan, according to Harry, was something that really changed and heavily affected him. The final part, "captain of my soul," takes the reader to

the present day. Of course, this section focuses on Harry and Meghan's relationship.

At the beginning of the novel, Harry states that he wrote *Spare* with the intention of explaining why he left Britain along with his royal duties. Throughout the novel Harry continuously ties every event in his life back to his mother's death. He also ruthlessly criticizes the paparazzi, who were famously responsible for Princess Diana's death. He discusses how virtually every event in his life was ruined by the paparazzi. From finding a wife to going off to war, the "paps" constantly drove away people and opportunities. He definitely makes clear all of his struggles and conveys his reasons for leaving royal life.

Being a royal family fanatic, I found *Spare* to be very insightful. Most people know who Prince Harry and Meghan Markle are, but many don't know their side of the story. Whether you're "Team H & M" or "Team Crown," I would recommend reading this book. It effectively conveys Harry's point of view, but is also just a really good and well-written book. Even for those who know absolutely nothing about The Royal Family, *Spare* is inspirational. From the point of view of a boy who lost his mother so young, this novel includes all of the struggles of being a motherless child.

Movie Review: *Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania*

BY: ELLIE KIM

Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania, starring Paul Rudd, was supposed to be one of the biggest movies of 2023. On the tail of disappointment from *Thor: Love and Thunder*, Marvel fans rushed to theaters to see the start of phase five of the Marvel universe, which sets up a new superhero era. Directed by Peyton Reed, the movie takes viewers into the quantum realm, showing the journey of Ant-Man and the Wasp. Set right after *End-Game*, the movie showcases the special relationship between Scott Lang (Ant-Man and Paul Rudd) and his daughter, Cassie (Kathryn Newton). Cassie, now five years older than when we last saw her, has turned from a sweet child to a know-it-all teenager. She feels as though it is her duty to correct everyone with the annoying zeal of the condescending, self-righteous activist. She aims constant criticism and sarcasm at her dad for not being around for the past years, even though his absence was out of his control.

Much like *Thor: Love and Thunder*, the movie failed to live up to past Marvel movie hits. Special effects were used at every turn, in a failed attempt to distract from the inane dialogue and simplistic plot. Even the music

came up short. Marvel movies are known to have iconic soundtracks. Everyone knows the Avengers theme song, even if they have never watched a Marvel movie. However, the music for *Ant Man and the Wasp: Quantumania* is unmemorable, sinking under the cacophony generated by the special effects. The dialogue of cheesy jokes and random commentary contained all the sophistication of an elementary school lunchroom. The editors employed "the duplication effect," the replication of characters, so often that I found myself dreading the appearance of yet another version of Ant-Man. Although there were flashbacks of the villain, viewers were left with an incomplete understanding of what made this character evil, let alone understand his motivations. (To understand Kang the Conqueror, readers are directed to the much better written Marvel television series, *Loki*). Kang the Conqueror is set to be the next big villain, taking the place of Thanos, in the Marvel Universe.

Throughout the movie, an unexpected character (whom I won't name to avoid spoiling the fun for those who have yet to see this movie) was brought back, but instead of using this character to introduce an interesting plot twist, the writer tried to use him for comedic relief



by editing him disproportionately. In fact, the movie was littered with comedic relief characters fighting to have the last word.

In every Marvel movie, we see the struggle of heroes having to overcome great odds. They have to conquer unimaginable hardship to save the world and make decisions to sacrifice themselves for the greater good. This movie follows the same formula. Predictably, Paul Rudd's character stubbornly feels the need to prove that he is equal to a Captain America, but we can all recognize the futility of a man in an ant suit trying to live up to the iconic American war hero. Still, one can admire the reformation/transformation of an ex-con to a superhero.

Overall, this movie overwhelmed viewers with the sound and fury of rampant special effects and underwhelmed with its predictable plot and puerile dialogue. I recommend going into the movie with lowered expectations. Think comedy rather than grand cosmic drama. Then, it's just a bit of mindless brain candy to be enjoyed.

Reviews

Pittsburgh's Best Taco Joint

BY: SAMANTHA SMITH

Barrio, located at Ross Park Mall's old California Pizza Kitchen, claims to be "Pittsburgh's best taco joint." With a bold claim like that, I jumped at the opportunity to try it out.

First impressions are always important, and they did not disappoint. The vibe of the place was immaculate: decorations everywhere, dark lighting, and great music. Completely different from the last time I stepped foot in the building back in 2020 on a Valentine's date at the pizza kitchen. Barrio has been open since late 2022 and has established quite an audience, as almost every table was taken when I went.

Let's talk drinks. Barrio is known for "tacos, tequila, and whiskey," which doesn't help us underagers. HOWEVER, they make a killer virgin margarita. They have a bunch of flavors for their slushy-like virgin drinks. I got the passion fruit and loved it. My sister chose the safe op-

tion of strawberry and rated it a 10/10. For the 21 and over adults reading, my parents loved their alcoholic drinks as well.

Now, how does their food hold up? To start off, we ordered some chips and salsa, which was pretty standard, nothing real fancy. We did end up getting some guac later on, but I was too full to try it. Their menu includes some specials, but the main event, and what caught our eye, was their BYO tacos. Each table has a notepad, very similar to Burgartory's, where you can choose how you want your taco. I decided on hard corn shells with Chili Spiced Ground Sirloin (basically taco meat.) I chose Chihuahua cheese, lettuce, and pineapple salsa for my toppings. The pineapple salsa was the best salsa I've ever had, hands down. If I could get a tub of it and just eat it with a spoon, I would. The taco shells were fantastic. They reminded me of a taco salad bowl shell.

Overall, this trendy little taco place is an excellent spot for an evening out with friends. The price of the food is incredibly affordable at just \$3 a taco. I was quite impressed and will be dragging my friends there in the near future!



HUNGRY FOR HISTORY?

BY: GIANNA CUTENESE

Recently, my dad and I decided to shake things up and try a new restaurant. We drove up the highway to The Harmony Inn, located within the National Historic District in Harmony, PA, and affiliated with North Country Brewing. The German cuisine ranges from \$12-\$52 and is open from 11 am to 9 pm. We were very pleased with the experience and highly recommend it.

For starters, the ambiance of The Harmony Inn was mysterious and rustic, yet beautiful. Upon entering, the restaurant was lit with string lights and looked almost luxurious. The details on the exterior of the building were intricate and stunning. The restaurant was once the residence of Austin Pearce, a prominent banker, mill operator, and railroad executive. After his fortunes plummeted, he sold his home to a member of the Ziegler family, who renovated the building into a hotel and a saloon. When you enter the house, the bar is to the right, and the restaurant is to the left and continues upstairs. On the walls are images of the original owners and other old pictures. Upon talking to some employees, we discovered that nearly all aspects of the restaurant were original. Due to it being part of the

National Historic District, they are not legally allowed to change many things about the building to maintain the originality and historical aspect of the restaurant. It is said that the building is haunted. And although I did not experience it firsthand, the place did give off a fancy, wealthy, and almost creepy vibe.

The service also made our experience one I will not forget. When we entered, we had no idea what was in store. The hostess fit us right in, and there was no wait. Our waitress was also extremely kind and helpful in a variety of ways. She was a help in deciding what to order as well as explaining some history of the building to us. She offered suggestions on the menu, educated us on some German traditions and her experiences while working there, and recommended the most popular options.

Last but not least is the cuisine. After many minutes of attempting to decide what to order, I decided on one of their most famous dishes, spaetzle. This German dish has many different variations. Prior to the main course, we ordered potato pancakes as an appetizer. I was very eager to try it. Sadly, I was a little disappointed in how bland they were. I did,

however, like how it included sour cream and applesauce. These helped spice up the appetizer. Afterward, my Grilled Chicken Spaetzle arrived along with my dad's burger. My Spaetzle was exquisite. It looked like nothing I had ever tried but was absolutely delicious. I also gave my dad's burger a try. It was nothing extraordinary, but it was pretty good due to the price and the type of food they specialize in. My dad really enjoyed his meal and mine as well. I am unsure if head chef Derek Ruby was the one who cooked our meal for us, but whoever did was very talented.

In conclusion, I highly recommend The Harmony Inn to anyone looking for an experience, not just the quality food. I rate this restaurant 4.5 stars and refer everyone to head out and try it.



Reviews

LOOKING FOR A NEW BITE?

BY: ALEC FEIGEL

I was asked to get dinner at Everyday Noodles, a restaurant I have never been to before, and didn't know what to expect. The menu was filled with authentic Chinese cuisine, items I wasn't entirely familiar with, but when walking out I couldn't wait to go again.

This small restaurant owned by Mike Chen and his son, Allen, came to mind after a trip to Canada. A dining experience Mike had while in Toronto motivated him to bring this experience to Pittsburgh. Mike, the owner of Tamari in Lawrenceville and Warrendale, opened Everyday Noodles in Squirrel Hill in February of 2013. Today, he says it has been his most successful restaurant of the 12 he has owned.

Their menu offers a wide variety of Chinese cuisine, such as soups, steamed dumplings, vegetables, rice, noodles, etc. Their items are priced from anywhere between \$8-18. I ordered the pork soup dumplings and would describe them as having a warm, soft outside with a very flavorful bite on the inside. The portion is shareable and comes with 8 dumplings. The dumplings are brought out steaming inside of a bamboo steamer basket and gives you a very classy and welcoming feeling.

I would recommend this restaurant to a couple, a family, or a group of friends looking for a cheap, classier night out. This restaurant was a surprise to me because I never had dumplings and was glad to try something new. The restaurant gives you a very calm and warm feel and while you are waiting for your food, you can watch the chefs through the large glass from your table. I'm very excited to go back and take my parents next time.



WHAT TO WATCH OVER SPRING BREAK

BY: SAM MAZZA AND CAITLYN VANCE

Here are the best Academy nominated movies to watch:

The Oscars were held on Sunday, March 12. Needless to say, we have many thoughts. First of all, it's extremely hard to believe that this means the Will Smith and Chris Rock slap happened almost a year ago. Second of all, we are pleasantly surprised with all of the nominees and winners for this year. And with Spring Break coming up, it is the perfect time to take a break from all the craziness and stress of high school and watch some movies with friends or alone!

- *Top Gun: Maverick*
- *Everything Everywhere All at Once*
- *All Quiet on the Western Front*
- *The Whale*
- *Pinocchio*
- *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish*

Tamagotchi!

BY: SAM MAZZA

In need of a new hobby? Are you bored in class? Need something to fill an empty hole in your heart? I have just the thing for you: a Tamagotchi! It's the toy that every single 90s kid dreamed of having! And, to be frank, they were right. Tamagotchis are quite possibly the greatest invention to ever exist.

A week or so ago, I found myself in possession of a wonderful bundle of joy: a Tamagotchi I ended up naming "Mew Mew." It was your average day at Cinemark, cleaning theaters and finding various things in them (mostly trash and one rogue glove left by a child). Then, I saw him. A Tamagotchi was left on the tray table, and I needed to have him.

He was only a baby (one-year-old at this point) abandoned by his parents. It was like that scene in *Meet the Robinsons* where they left the blonde kid on the doorstep to be found by a new family. I was that new family. I imagine this is how old cat ladies feel when they walk into an animal shelter and see a helpless little cat. Hence, why I called him Mew Mew—actually, it's a shortened version of Bartholomew, the perfect name for a cat. Needless to say, I fell in love with him. That was until disaster struck.

I discovered that one of my co-workers had been resetting Mew Mew for over a week! We had been taking care of him, leaving him in the drawer in order to keep him



safe. I realized his safety was in jeopardy. I decided to take him home. And so, the journey of Mew Mew at North Hills High School began.

He quickly grew from the baby I met him as and into a grown adult (about 9 years old in Tamagotchi years). Me, my friends, and my teachers (the ones who recognized the Tamagotchi from when they were kids) watched him day and night.

On a Saturday afternoon, at work—where else?—disaster struck once AGAIN. I pulled Mew Mew out of my back pocket to find he had died. To be honest, I was tearing up a little bit standing there. But I knew I had to let him go and move on.

So why get a Tamagotchi? Like me, it can teach you how to deal with the cycle of life. I watched him grow up and eventually pass. After a Tamagotchi dies, the game automatically resets, leaving you with the same egg you met only days before. My cycle lasted 7 or 8 days, but I would be lying if I said I didn't get attached to the little guy! Overall, it was a very good experience.

Features

the 5 to 9
BEFORE WORKING
9 to 5

BY: SAMANTHA SMITH

We've all heard the Dolly Parton classic, "9 to 5." But what about the North Hills High School production of "9 to 5?" The North Hills Drama Club production of *9 to 5* opened this past weekend and will run through April 1st.

In preparation for the musical, I had the opportunity to sit down with senior Felicity Dicken, who plays Judy Bernly. Felicity describes Judy as a newly divorced woman who has never worked in an office job before and is a single, independent woman navigating life. To learn how to become Judy, Felicity says she did her research. She mentioned watching the film as well as a bootleg of the musical from Broadway. "I took inspiration from Jane Fonda in the movie as well as Stephanie J. Block on Broadway," she said. When asked if she likes playing



the role of Judy, Felicity said she enjoys it, and it is her favorite role.

So what is the 5 to 9 before 9 to 5? (See what I did there?) Felicity's typical rehearsal schedule consists of getting to the auditorium, taking her shoes off, and enjoying her pre-rehearsal meal of cook-

ies, cough drops, and lots of water. "I just don't want to wear my shoes," she says, "It's just more comfortable in socks."

Eventually, though, she puts her character shoes on and goes wherever she is needed. "Sometimes I am in the lab upstairs singing, or I am on stage blocking, learning the movements, or I am dancing." When asked what her favorite part of rehearsals is, Felicity said it is definitely giggling

with her friends. "They always make me break character," she says.

Although you could never guess it with her insane talent for singing, Felicity says she is much more of an actor than a singer. However, her favorite songs from the musical are the opening number, "9 to 5," and "Dance of Death." "It's going to look really cool," she said, "there are tons of interesting movements, and it's really complex; it's a lot going on."

As for Felicity's time in Drama Club, she says her most memorable experience was performing downtown on the Benedum stage at the Gene Kelly Awards. Her favorite show was *Catch Me If You Can* back in 2020. "The music was amazing and so much fun to learn!" she said.

Felicity's post-graduation plans are to study photography in college and continue to participate in theater and choir on the side. If you want to see Felicity in action, you still have time! Go to nhchoiranddrama.net for more information!

SARAZEN WORKIN' OVERTIME BY: LIV DUTY

When you find your seat, the lights dim, the chatter ceases, and the excitement is almost audible. You focus on the show about to begin, but have you ever thought about the talented director who makes the performance happen? Ms. Sarazen is our extortionary director here at our high school. Many of you know she pours her heart and soul into each play, but have you ever thought about her dedication? Below is an interview with the lovely Ms. Sarazen:

Who/What has influenced your love for theater? "I was in a kids' performance program called the North Star Kids, and there was a woman that was the director of the program, Andy Snyder, who was incredibly inspirational. She gave me all of the basic theater skills I needed to know. So, I got a lot of opportunities through that program that made me fall in love with theater."

What musical did you love growing up? "My favorite musical that I was in was *Crazy for You*, which was my junior year musical that we did here. I also love to dance, so I got to be a character who got to tap dance and got solos and act and be

funny. Like everything you could ever want in a role, I got to do. I loved all the music in that, as well. So, it's hard to pick a favorite show because it's like asking me to pick my favorite child."

Why is the North Hills Drama department so special?

"Well, because I graduated from here, this being my alma mater, it makes it super special to come back. Glenn Richie, who was my director, was fantastic as a teacher and then, of course, as a college. Once I eventually got hired here, I started doing the choreography and assisting him, and now I've taken over the program, so it's nice to be home."

How long have you been in the theater?

"I've been involved in the performing arts for 30 years! I know, I know, But I look 23, so how is that even possible?"

What was the first show you watched in theaters?

"I remember seeing *Oklahoma* at North Hills High School in second grade. I got autographs and messages from the performers, and I STILL have that piece of paper saved."

If you were in 9-5, what role would you want to be in?

"I'd love to be in the ensemble because I enjoy dancing. As far as leading ladies go, I would be thrilled to play ANY of the three lead women because they each have great songs and comedic lines. Also, the actresses in the film and the Broadway version are iconic, so it would be a treasure to play any character."

As the final bow finishes up and the claps begin to cease, make sure to recognize the lady who puts it all together, Ms. Sarazen. Without her, this once-in-a-lifetime show would not be able to be as memorable as it is.



Features

TIME!



Musical season is a wonderful time of year. All of the hard work that high school students pour their heart and soul into is finally mainstreamed to the local public. Aside from the high school production of 9 to 5, eight North Hills students participated in the 49th annual show season at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish to raise money for two amazing causes. This year, we produced *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* with a *SIX the Musical* inspiration. Alongside the eight North Hills students, 16 other kids from neighboring schools were involved in the show. The two causes we support and help fundraise for include our parish's Project HOPE Kentucky mission trip, where a group of young adults go down to Appalachia, Kentucky, to help better the lives and the wellbeing of people. We built houses and renovated a school called the David School. The other cause, Chimbote Maternity Hospital, is also through the parish. We help fund maternity hospitals so life can come into this world in a sanitary environment.

Three North Hills seniors (including me) were involved in the show. I sat down with the other two, Julianna Easley and Peter Lukac, and we got to talk about how much this show means to us. Julianna's favorite memory from the show was performing her solo "Benjamin Calypso" because she could just "roll off the hype of the show and have fun with it." She is really going to miss getting to spend time with the cast and directors. CYO has impacted her life since she started two years ago. The community of people and the reason we put on this show really inspires Jules in her everyday life. "When I joined the show, I met some of my closest friends, and I'm very grateful for that. The family I was introduced to when I joined CYO is the most inclusive and good-hearted group of people, and I hope that everyone can experience being a part of a group as amazing as this one at some point in their lives."

In North Hills... Any Dream Will Do

BY: LIV DUTY

Peter has been a part of CYO for four years. His favorite part of the show was having dinner as a cast during the eight-hour practices. Peter loved getting to see his friends every Sunday and Wednesday. "Everything that we do in CYO is for a greater cause. There is a higher power that has brought us into CYO to raise money and help those in need. Without CYO, the people of southeastern Kentucky and Chimbote, Peru, would not receive the help they need." He goes on to mention how CYO is an important family to all the cast members involved. "The bonds I have formed from doing CYO are some of the most important re-

memory from when he was in the show was at the last show of his senior year: his mom came up to the stage to pray as an alumni. It was a magical moment for him as he got to wrap up his show career with his mom and lifelong friends by his side. Coming back as a director, Chmura says, "It honestly still hasn't hit me that I'm considered a director. It feels like yesterday that I was on stage performing (which was in 2016, gosh I feel old)."

There are so many more memories to come as a director. But so far, he is thrilled to be working next to his wife, Victoria, the show's choreographer, who, by the way, is Calvin's high school sweetheart. Chmura is very hopeful for future generations. "What's interesting about the cast this year is that none of the cast has experienced a real CYO show because of COVID. Even though there hasn't been a full production since 2019, there are 24 kids in the cast that are passionate and willing to put themselves out there to raise money for people in need. We have a really strong group of seniors who will be missed, but we also have a great core of underclassmen returning. Overall, the kids that are in the cast are all incredible, and I can't wait to see how well they perform both on and off the stage!"

Since high school, Chmura has had a lot of advice that he would've liked the high school version of him to know. 1.) It is okay to struggle, and it's even more okay to ask for help. 2.) Tell your loved ones that you love them more than you think you should. 3.) Go where your light shines brightest. Everyone has gifts and talents and things that make them special. Find what energizes you and what you're passionate about, and run with it.

Chmura's statement about going where your light shines the brightest really stuck with me. Personally, I think for all involved in CYO, their light shines the brightest when we are with each other. We have created a bond with each other that will last a lifetime.



lationships in my life. Everyone who is a part of CYO looks out for each other. There are many people in the cast who have been there for me when I really needed it. I couldn't ask for a better group of people."

A lot of North Hills alumni have been a part of this show. But, who sticks out to me the most is Calvin Chmura. Chmura was involved with the show throughout his high school career. He was also the Editor-in-Chief of *The Arrowhead* his senior year, an avid member of Hands for Service, and was involved in many other activities. Now, he teaches at the middle school and is taking over directing the CYO musical. Chmura was more than willing to share his experiences with the show. His favorite

Entertainment

HOT OR NOT

BY: CONNOR MCCARTHY



- LISTENING TO OLD "SPOTIFY WRAPPED"S
- ROLLER SKATING
- INDEPENDENCE
- DRUM FILLS
- CHECKING POWER-SCHOOL
- PLANTS
- PINK FLOYD
- CHARLIE CHAPLIN
- JEOPARDY!
- ROCKET SHIPS
- FUNK MUSIC
- TAKING A TRAIN TO DC
- "ANIMAL FARM IS HOT"-MR.DEWEESE
- PARTICIPATING IN
- ROLLER BLADING
- ICE SKATING
- ARBY'S
- POLITICAL POLARIZATION
- ARTHRITIS
- HUCKLEBERRY FINN
- STUDENT DEBT
- ELON MUSK
- SILENT MOVIES
- SPENDING TOO MUCH MONEY ON PROM
- SINKHOLES
- HATING ON THE NHTV
- HATING ON DOGS
- CALLING OFF-WORK
- LOUD PEOPLE

Why Are We So Self-centered?

BY: NATHAN STENGEL

Have you ever been in a conversation and felt like everyone was just waiting for their own turns to talk? I certainly have. I love when it's my turn to talk. Why shouldn't people be excited to hear my opinion? I'm a riot, a real hoot. But there is another part of my brain that feels guilty about this. I should be more interested in other people's ideas. But then, I feel compelled to return to that self-centered mindset. But why?

My theory is that we want to turn into brands. Every item of clothing we wear, the media we consume, and our opinions must follow the personal brands we have created for ourselves. I don't want you, the reader, to think I'm writing this to look down on people; I have actively participated in this. I've gotten a bit better about it now, but I used to fine-tune my Spotify playlists so other people would see them and think, "Wow, this guy has great

taste." Not everyone in our generation is an egomaniac obsessed with building their personal brand, but we all do little things like that.

Being a little self-centered does not make someone a bad person. I think that way of life comes naturally to most people. I think we should be a little less worried about how other people perceive our personal brands and start to look deeper into what's happening around us. We should be trying to dismantle our egos and live a better life, not build a wall around our egos to keep us feeling happy.



VOICES IN THE HALLS

BY: SAMANTHA SMITH

I know that it is only Spring Break, but it is never too early to begin the Senior Trip, or "Sweek," prep. If you haven't started looking yet, you're not alone. 13% of seniors surveyed haven't begun yet, either. 38% already booked and 28% know what they're doing but haven't committed yet. 21% said they were saving the money and not going on a trip.

TYLER HRONEC
 - NOT BOOKED YET
 - Going to: Myrtle Beach, SC
 - How: Driving
 - How many people: 8



TYLER MULLER
 - BOOKED
 - Going to: Ocean City, MD
 - How: Driving his car
 - How many people: 7



LEAH CUMMINGS
 - NOT BOOKED YET
 - Going to: Hilton Head Island, SC
 - How: CC (Car)
 - How many people: 3



JULES EASLEY
 - NOT BOOKED YET
 - Going to: Ocean City, MD
 - How: Driving
 - How many people: "About 8"



MEADOW DAVIS
 - BOOKED
 - Going to: Florida
 - How: Flying
 - How many people: "I'm going with Hayley Horvath. It's a small senior trip."



Music Scene

LOS BOBOS: A NORTH HILLS MUSIC SPOTLIGHT

BY: DANIEL DOHERTY

When we think of people our age making music, more likely than not, we think of someone making beats out of their bedroom- long gone are the days of youth garage bands banging out covers of their favorite 70s rock hits. Yet senior North Hills student Karson Lardo, whom I recently interviewed, has far more radical ideas for creative expression than most of us: noisy guitars, powerful drums, passionate screaming vocals, custom-crafted DIY cassettes with hand-drawn covers, and wild, thrashing mosh pits of people celebrating the joys of music in the most aggressive way possible.

Lardo is the guitarist for the local Pittsburgh hardcore punk band "Los Bobos." He first met his vocalist Eli at Skullfest, the city's annual punk festival, which attracts acts from all over the Midwest and East Coast punk scenes. He then met their drummer, Raul, through Eli, and their bassist, Cheech, from Raul. After coming up with the name "Dunce" in school, Karson's bandmates, two of whom speak Spanish, suggested the name "Los Bobos," which means "the fools" or "the dunces" in Spanish. Hardcore punk is a genre of music most North Hills students would probably say they aren't familiar with. Lardo describes it as "very fast, typically simple," "very angry," and, rather bombastically, "better than metal." "It's kinda the music for, like, social outcasts, and weird people, and loners, and people who are

upset with, you know, life, and dissatisfied with what we were given." The local punk community has given Lardo and his band a more than enthusiastic welcome, as they're more on the younger side than most people in a genre that, historically, has been by and for the youth. According to Lardo, the average punk is around 26-30 or 35 (or, as he jokingly put it, around 90-100) and consists of a fairly tight-knit group of familiar faces behind many of the same bands that come and go. This latter point has actually allowed Los Bobos to be almost mentored in a sense, or at least helped a lot by older musicians in the community. This sort of help and acceptance from the community is not unique to these young newcomers and is a pretty essential part of the punk ethos. The DIY attitude that the punks have, for example, is one place where this shines, and is also something that younger people trying to get into punk might really enjoy: "There's bands, there's people who write magazines, there's artists... there's a lot of



facets and stuff in the punk community, and I think it's good for creative outlets, and stuff like that. It's like, alright, you want to make band shirts? Make them yourself. Alright, you want to put your album on tape? Dub it yourself. It's just kinda better to do everything yourself, in a sense, and we're just having, like, your friends help you, mutually helping one another to make something cool."

Lardo recommends that younger people interested in punk go see local shows, as new people are encouraged to join the scene. "I think that a lot of teens could have fun at punk shows and that we should start doing it again." For show dates and flyers, he says to follow pghmusictracker or even his account, melted_usb, on Instagram or to stop by the Pleasant Dreams record store in Polish Hill, one of the great landmarks for Pittsburgh's punks. Los Bobos are also playing their first shows soon: "Our first show is on April 1st, April Fool's Day. Fitting." They also have other shows on April 4th, April 13th, and May 10th, and judging by the rather quick and spontaneous nature of many punk venues, many more gigs will be offered to them in the coming months. Los Bobos will also be selling merch at shows in the coming months. "We're gonna have name your price t-shirts, handmade with stencils, and it's just got the logo of a dude with a dunce hat on him. Nothing too crazy." Their first LP will be released on Bandcamp, YouTube, and cassette.

THE BEACH BOYS UNRELEASED MASTERPIECES: PART 1

BY: NATHAN STENDEL

Most people know The Beach Boys as some old band who made silly songs about surfing, cars, and girls. Those songs are only the tip of an iceberg of complex chord progressions, severe mental illness, Charles Manson, and unreleased masterpieces. There is lots of unreleased Beach Boys music, but I want to focus on two albums that I think are the best out of them.

The Beach Boys' previous album, *Pet Sounds*, was praised by critics as a revolutionary push for pop music to be viewed as art. Despite this, the album did not sell well as expected and produced no real hits. The lead songwriter and producer of The Beach Boys, Brian Wilson, was called a genius by critics and fans. This pressure was not helping Wilson's increasing struggle with mental illness that stopped him from touring. Wilson was beginning to have auditory hallucinations, something he still struggles with today.

Despite his mental health issues, Wilson was at his creative peak. He began to work on a new single for his next album. The band wasn't playing many instrumental parts on albums at this time and mainly sang the vocals. Wilson was usually the only member in the studio. He spent six months recording the song "Good Vibrations." He would switch between four studios to work with the instruments he wanted to. Over 90 hours of tape were recorded for the song. The track featured a bizarre mix of instruments, including jaw harp and Electro-Theremin.

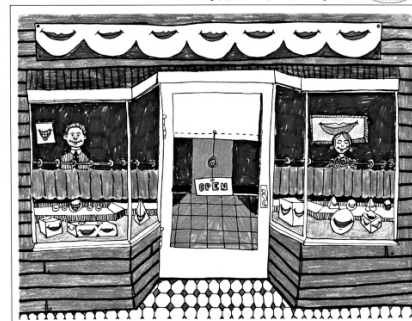
The song cost tens of thousands of dollars to make, but it was a number-one hit that renewed

the record label's faith in The Beach Boys. The label was willing to fund an album where Brian Wilson could make whatever he wanted. Wilson was planning for this album to be his magnum opus.

This brings us to the start of the infamous smile sessions. Wilson started working with lyricist Van Dyke Parks. They wanted to create a complex pop album. Van Dyke Parks would call the album their "pocket symphony to God." On the album, there was going to be a series of bizarre western songs that served as a commentary on American colonialism. This section featured songs like "Heroes and Villains" and "Do You Like Worms?" There were several spiritual songs like "Surf's Up," and a cryptic song about a musician finding God in a concert hall. And then, some songs were just weird, like "Vegetables," a parody of health food crazes. The album's main themes are childhood innocence, the death of the American dream, and spirituality. These are heavy themes for a band that used just to sing about girls and surfing.

Most of these songs had been recorded. The band just needed to do a few more backing vocal parts and mix the album. The last new song he recorded was titled "Mrs. O'Leary's Cow." Wilson, who at this point was behaving erratically, gave everyone in the studio plastic fireman hats and ran around with a bucket of smoke while the musicians played a chaotic instrumental track. The song was going to have lyrics, but Van Dyke Parks quit the project because he believed it was becoming too bizarre. A few days after recording the song, a building near the studio caught fire. Brian believed the song was cursed and blamed

NEW IMPROVED FULL DIMENSIONAL SOUND SMILE THE BEACH BOYS Good Vibrations Good Vibrations Good Vibrations *Capitol*



it for the fire that destroyed a few tapes related to the project. These mental health issues, combined with the label not being interested in the project anymore, led to the album being canned. The band recorded a stripped-down album titled *Smiley Smile*. Wilson slowly drifted from the band, writing less and less music and becoming reclusive and depressed.

Brian Wilson wouldn't finish *Smile* until 2004. He re-recorded the album with a different band because he couldn't handle mixing the original tapes. Those tapes would only be organized into an album in 2011 by a team of producers. Wilson gave input on how the album should be done but did not come to the studio to help mix the album. Finally, it was released as a massive box set. Both releases of *Smile* won a Grammy award. I recommend you watch his first concert playing the album as a whole.

In part two of this series, I will write about Wilson's life after the failed recordings and another unreleased album, *Adult Child*, The Beach Boys' incredibly bizarre late 70s masterpiece.

Spring Things

10 THINGS TO DO IN SPRING

BY: SAM MAZZA + CAITLYN VANCE

1. Have a picnic with friends
2. Go to Soergel's
3. Buy yourself or someone else flowers
4. Go shopping in the Strip District
5. Open up a lemonade stand
6. Go to the Pittsburgh Aviary
7. Pick strawberries at Trax Farms
8. Go to Phipps Conservatory
9. Go hiking
10. Visit Randyland

The Springtime SLUMP

BY: CAITLYN VANCE

The second semester slump is one that most teens know all too well: the homework piling up, an unnecessary amount of tests in one day, while just wanting to be done with the year, is exhausting and impacts so many of us. While you may feel alone in this cycle, I promise that you aren't. There are so many simple things to look forward to, especially with spring and summer quickly approaching. It is common to feel pressure to be your best self at all times, but that's not always possible; going through a rough time is inevitable. While I know it's hard, remember that you aren't alone in these slumps and there are beautiful things in store for you. When going through these trying times, it is important to take care of yourself. Here are some things you can do to lift yourself up:

Spring Trivia

BY: MEAGHAN KUMMER

Answers:
1. A
2. B
3. A
4. D

How long does it currently take to produce one marshmallow Peep?

- A. 6 minutes
- B. 1 hour
- C. 8 hours
- D. 24 hours



What U.S. city is usually considered the birthplace of spring break?

- A. Miami, FL
- B. Fort Lauderdale, FL
- C. Ocean City, MD
- D. Myrtle Beach, SC



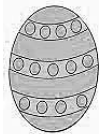
How many jellybeans do Americans consume each Easter?

- A. 16 million
- B. 25 million
- C. 6 million
- D. 70 million



The first Easter egg was dyed what color?

- A. blue
- B. green
- C. yellow
- D. red



What is the birth flower for people born in March?

- A. Daisy
- B. Tulip
- C. Daffodil
- D. Poppy



Clean your room- I'm a strong believer that in a good environment, you will have a better mindset. While cleaning can sometimes feel like such a heavy task, I promise that it's worth it. You can even just do small things as opposed to a deep clean. Simply making your bed or taking the glasses of week old water to the kitchen will make you feel so much better.

Go outside- Getting fresh air is one of the best things you can do when you aren't feeling the best. Go for a walk alone or with another person and simply focus on your breathing. You can also listen to some good music and talk to yourself about how you're feeling.

Watch things from your childhood- Rewatching movies or TV shows that you watched when you were a kid is so comforting. It is a great way to forget about the stress of daily life and relax. Watching things that you find soothing is very rejuvenating and will put you in a much better mood.

Talking it out- Talking about things is a great way to process your feelings and will make you feel so much better. You can talk to a friend, family member or even a teacher that you trust. Another way of talking out your thoughts is writing them down. A journal or even your notes app on your phone will be a great resource for explaining how you are feeling.



Spring Things

Prom Prep BY: GABBY SOLE

To do list:

- Find a date or a group of friends
- Get a dress
- Find the perfect pair of shoes
- Get your jewelry and other wanted accessories
- Schedule your nail appointment
- Determine how you want to do your hair and makeup (make appointments if needed)
- Plan your pictures

Where to look for dresses:

- Windsor
- Macy's
- Nordstrom
- David's Bridal
- One Enchanted Evening
- House of Couture Designs
- The Winner
- Episode
- Thrifting and upcycling a dress is a great way to save money



Drugstore Dupes & Boujee Buys

BY: MEG SIMPSON

Prom season is right around the corner, and I'm here to come to you with some boujee beauty products and their drugstore counterparts. We are high school students who can't afford to drop \$40 on some foundation. So, let's discuss the high end products and what we can use to substitute.

Boujee Beauty

Foundation- Charlotte Tilbury Hollywood Flawless Filter- \$49

This glowy product can be used for a glowy base for your makeu, or a light coverage foundation. This is great for bringing brightness to your face, but not worth \$50.



Primer- Milk Hydro Grip Primer- \$40

When we put our makeup on, we always want it to last. Milks primer does just that. With a tacky consistency, it helps keep your makeup

on all day. It has pretty packaging that can definitely make you feel boujee.

Brows- Anastasia Beverly Hills Brow Freeze- \$23

Brows are a crucial part of many makeup routines. But when it comes to brow products, sometimes they just don't want to stay in place. ABH's new brow product helps lock in your brows all night long.

Lips- Dior Lip Oil- \$40

Dior has always been an expensive brand. Ever since their launch of their lip oil, the world went crazy. With pretty packaging and colors it's easy to get sucked in. This lip oil is pretty, but I don't know many people who want to drop \$40 on one lip product.

Drugstore Dupes

Foundation- Elf Halo Glow Liquid Filter- \$14
Elf beauty did not come to play this year. Elf became the queen of dupes this year. In re-

sponse to the flawless filter craze, Elf dropped their own version. For a fraction of the price, you get the same glowy result, if not better.

Primer- Elf Power Grip- \$10

Like I said, Elf came out hard with the dupes this year. This is a near identical formula to the Milk primer, but a quarter of the price. This primer will keep your makeup locked in all day.



Brows- Elf Brow Lift- \$6

For the last Elf dupe, we have one of the cheapest dupes out. Retailing for just \$6, this little jar will last you forever. Sharing the same concept as the ABH brow freeze, your brows will not move all night.

Lips- Milani Fruit Fetish lip oil- \$9

With lip oils being big in the beauty world, we need an affordable option. Mika i'd lip oil is under \$10 and leaves you with a light tint and amazing shine. You can use this with makeup or for a natural look.

SADD Prom Dress Resale a Success

BY: MEAGHAN KUMMER & GABBY SOLE

It's time to say yes to the dress! For the first time in school history, the Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club hosted a collection and prom sale. The officers recognized the problem that dress prices have been getting out of control: "Most girls spend over \$150 on a dress to wear it for one night and it just sits in their closet until it gets thrown away," President Alyssa Rosatone stated. To combat this issue, the SADD Club decided to host a dress sale. All of the dresses were sold for just \$20. For every dress sold, North Hills students were entered into a raffle to win a free prom ticket.

This sale was not just for prom but for all formal events, including homecoming and any other event that requires a formal dress. The best part of the event was that all proceeds went to North Hills Cares, a non-profit organization that mainly provides help to families in our communities who are in need. One major project of theirs is the summer lunch program, which piggybacks off the free and reduced lunch program during the school year. So, the SADD Club could not think of a better organization to support when doing this event. Officer Sadie Dunlap explained, "I am most excited that people will be able to find affordable dresses and be able to get rid of dresses they don't wear anymore. I think that both groups of

people will benefit from this event."

The SADD Club collected dresses the week of March 6-10 and at the Spring Pep Rally on March 13. During the week, members of SADD gathered around 300 dresses and continued to collect more until their event on March 22. During the day of the event, the SADD Club members sold 75 dresses and raised almost \$1,500. Many of the dresses collected still had tags on them. "I think people should know that a lot of the dresses are both cute and in great condition! Some of these dresses are \$200- \$500 and have tags on them!" said officer Sadie. The event itself was a great success. Many community members came to the school cafeteria to say yes to their dress! Numerous members of the community are excited for next year's event!

Sports

SPORTS ROUNDTABLE

BY: MIKE BLASS, MEG SIMPSON
& CONNOR GERST

Welcome to Sports Roundtable, where we discuss hot takes in sports. For this issue, we'll talk about college basketball.

Mike's Question: Are the Blue Blood teams (Kansas, North Carolina, Duke, and Kentucky) starting to fall off as being the top programs in the nation?

Connor: North Carolina, Duke, and Kentucky may not have had the success this year that they've had in other seasons, but they are definitely still the top programs in the nation. Duke and North Carolina have both gotten new coaches recently, so this still could be affecting them, but some years, teams just struggle for no rhyme or reason.

Meg: No, Duke, UNC and Kentucky all have top tier basketball programs. With all their success over the years, they will still pick up top recruits and be in the standings.

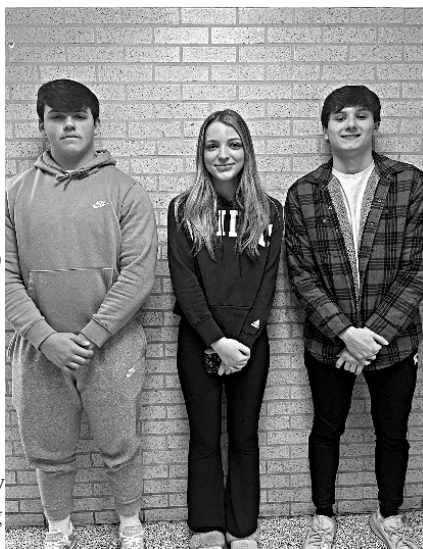
Meg's Question: What college player will go first in the NBA Draft?

Mike: This year there are a lot of players outside of the NCAA that are projected higher than most college players. Viktor Webenyama will most likely be the first pick, but Nick Smith for Arkansas has been a top college player for a while. Recently, he has been struggling with injuries, so that may affect when he's drafted.

Connor: Brandon Miller is definitely the top college player in the draft and will be drafted in the first three picks. Earlier this season, Brandon Miller allegedly supplied one of his teammates with a handgun, which Darius Miles used to kill an innocent woman. Miller hasn't faced any charges yet, but he could in the future.

Connor's Question: Is Pitt basketball back?

Mike: It depends what you mean by "back." Pitt has definitely had a good season this year and it's been long awaited for Pitt fans since they've struggled for around the last 10 years. They're not back to being as good as the early 2010's, but right now they're an exciting team to watch.



Coach's Corner

BY: MEG SIMPSON

Name- Coach Gasior

Sport- Softball

Years coaching- 6

College- Undergrad at Washington and Jefferson College, Waynesburg for Graduate

When did you start coaching?- I got my first coaching position for an AAU basketball team when I was 18. Then I was a graduate assistant coach at Waynesburg for soccer, basketball and softball in 2005.

When did you start coaching at NH?- I've been coaching NH softball for 14 years.

Why did you become a coach?- I started coaching because I loved the game and I wanted to stay involved. Waynesburg offered me the opportunity to pay for my Masters degree while coaching.

Best things about coaching?- My favorite part of coaching is the players, watching them bond with their teammates, accomplishing their goals, having fun, and getting to be part of their lives.

Best memories from coaching?- There are so many moments and memories that I will hold close to my heart, but I think my favorite memory was the 2021 postseason run and getting to honor our 2020 seniors with a championship.

Hobbies- spending time with family and friends, burpees, and having a good time.



What team has the longest active NCAA tournament streak?

- A. Kansas
- B. Michigan St
- C. Gonzaga
- D. Duke

March Madness Trivia

BY: MICHAEL BLASS

What college has the most NCAA tournament championships?

- A. Duke Blue Devils
- B. North Carolina Tarheels
- C. UCLA Bruins
- D. Indiana Hoosiers

How many 16-seeded teams have ever beaten a 1 seeded-team during March Madness?

- A. 1
- B. 0
- C. 2
- D. 4

What player has scored the most in a March Madness game?

- A. Oscar Robertson
- B. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar
- C. Kevin Durant
- D. Austin Carr

Answers: c,d,a