



Glen Cove Avenue And The Morning Rush

By: Jessica Lillis

Since the first day of school this year, the morning traffic on Glen Cove Avenue has often been atrocious. What should be a two-minute drive down Glen Cove Avenue often becomes a twenty-minute commute. Not only does it add to the stress of getting out of the house on time, but it also causes many students to be late to first period. Sophia Banner, a junior, said "Without traffic it usually takes me about four minutes to get to the school from my house. Now, if the traffic is bad, it could take me 15". Olivia Albicocco, also a junior at the High School said, "A few times the traffic was backed up all the way to the Dunkin Donuts on the corner of Glen Cove Avenue and Downing Avenue, so I had to get out and walk in order to make it to my first period class on time". Students and parents aren't the only ones noticing the issue; Ms. Chimeri, a social studies teacher at the High School, said "I think that the traffic issue is one that has been going on for a while, but it seems to be getting increasingly worse. So I think in the morning is definitely when teachers, parents, and students are a little bit frustrated that you could be stuck at a light for a very long time".

But what is causing the traffic to be so backed up? A primary factor in this congestion is the similar start time for the Middle and High Schools. This leads to students and staff from both schools trying to filter through one traffic light at the same time; also, a lot of the traffic issues are caused by children that cross the busy avenue anywhere they want; this is nothing, but dangerous. Parents are even often seen dropping their kids off on the side of Glen Cove Avenue or Kissam Lane, while in the middle of traffic.

There are many other things that could be contributing to the congestion problem though. Because of COVID-19, a myriad of students that usually take the bus to school are choosing to drive with their parents in order to keep their distance from other students, which results in more cars on the road. In addition, there is only one entranceway open for both schools, so families coming from either direction on Glen Cove Avenue are all trying to get to the same place. Finally, after the "four corners" there are also five side streets that feed on to Glen Cove Avenue. Some of these streets are packed with cars in the morning as people see them as potential "short cuts" to Glen Cove Avenue. Dr. Dolan, the District's Interim Superintendent, explained, "The geography of it is definitely a contributing factor. I have spoken to the policemen who are out there and they say that it is not notably worse, but it has always been

bad." When everyone is trying to get to one place, from one single lane main road, at one time, traffic is bound to be an issue. Changes need to be made to accommodate for the amount of people coming in and out of the area.

School has been open for about five months now and there has yet to be any attempt made to try to rectify the problem. Opening another entrance at either school could potentially reduce the number of cars trying to enter from Glen Cove Avenue. According to Dr. Dolan, the Todd Drive entrance into the High School has been gated off since the 80's and he doesn't know why. Opening this entrance for public use would redirect a whole community of people away from the main entrance of the school and decrease the traffic. When asked about Todd Drive, Ms. Chimeri said "I have heard that there is another entrance on Todd Drive that has been closed for many years... it seems like that would be the most cost effective solution and the quickest". If by chance it's not open because the homeowners that live near to it do not want it to be, which many speculate is the reason, an individual could argue that having traffic by one's home is a risk he takes when purchasing a dwelling right near a school. A lot of people feel that there is already a lot of traffic driving by these homes anyway, so what's the difference if the entrance is open. Another option could be to make the start time of the High School and Middle School a bit further apart from one another. Currently the Middle School begins at 8:00 am and the High School at 8:05 am. Starting one of the schools even ten minutes later or earlier could make a big difference in traffic patterns, but the High Schoolers and Middle Schoolers share buses which could cause a scheduling problem. However, having students from each school be on Glen Cove Avenue at different times would definitely ease traffic and stress levels.

When asked if the Board of Education is aware of the traffic problems around the schools and if it is doing anything to help assuage the issue, Dr. Dolan said "Yes. I know that I have shared the news with them. Any discussion about it would be in public". He added, "the Board is contemplating a traffic study of the area". Data discovered in the traffic study is important, but is it the most efficient and cost effective way to solve this problem?

The traffic on Glen Cove Avenue and the surrounding side streets is not only inconvenient, but it also makes the roads dangerous and puts more stress on students/faculty to get to school on time. Safety and efficiency are the most important factors when it comes to getting to school. If no changes are made, the problem will only grow worse. As a community, it is important that we recognize these problems and work to find a quick solution that will benefit the majority.

North Shore Athletes: Dressed For Success?

By: Mia Perciballi

According to North Shore High School's principal, Eric Contreras, the building currently has roughly 800 students in attendance, and provides as many classes, extracurriculars, and athletic opportunities as a school with close to 3,000 children would. It's clearly a well-rounded school that allows children to excel in many different areas, such as theater or Robotics. Athletics-wise, the North Shore School District's website states that, "Over 70% of North Shore students participate in interscholastic athletics". So why with such a high participation rate are players constantly complaining about the lack of new uniforms for their Varsity teams?

Uniform concerns may be specifically about old jerseys, having too few sizes available for the team, or simply the outdated, non-attractive style of the uniform. As a Varsity athlete myself, I can say from first-hand experience that these complaints are constant and warranted. North Shore needs to improve the situation.

Many athletes at North Shore High School say that the school does not provide proper uniform sizes and that the outfits players receive for the season are often old, torn, and sometimes even stained. Talented teams with All-County athletes should not be stuck with old uniforms. They also should not have to worry about whether or not everyone on the team is able to get a uniform that fits properly. Furthermore, uniforms that do not fit athletes well can impact a player's performance on the field or court. Athletes want to be comfortable; they should not have to worry about the safety pin holding their skirt to their body. North Shore's 2022 valedictorian, Kate Gilliam, has been an athlete on the Varsity Lacrosse team for six years, and the Varsity Basketball team for four years. She explained that her teams have received new uniforms while she has been playing on them, but she has found issues with them. Gilliam said, "An issue I have noticed over the years is sizing. A lot of girls are stuck wearing uniforms that are way too large for them." Problems like this can be found across all teams at the school. Members of the Men's Track and Cross Country teams say that they simply do not have enough uniforms to dress their team and that athletes who should be wearing mediums are stuck with extra large jerseys. Salutatorian Emma Nelson has played for the Varsity Field Hockey team for four years and the Bowling team for three. She stated that no team she has ever been a part of has received new uniforms during her time on them. She also talked about sizing and

quantity issues: "There are simply not enough [uniforms] to dress a full Varsity squad. There are only a couple of small and medium skirts, causing a lot of conflict over who gets these. The girls who end up with the ill-fitting uniforms are forced to then spend the next eight weeks representing North Shore High School in uncomfortable, oversized uniforms." For the bowling team, Nelson goes on to explain, "Athletes are given a polo to wear. These shirts, similar to the field hockey skirts, can only be found in sizes M-XL." Overall, sizing is a big issue with the Varsity sports uniforms. Gilliam offers a solution to this problem. She says that if student input was considered when new uniforms are ordered, they would be much more satisfied and comfortable when playing. After all, athletes know what uniforms will allow them to play their best.

Many of the coaches at North Shore are, however, content with their team's uniforms, and find working with the Athletic Office a positive thing; but still, not every coach is happy with what his team has. Kevin Dahill, the coach of the Women's Golf Team since 2019, says that he has never received new uniforms for his team since he has been coaching. He also says "Other schools and programs often have nicer and newer uniforms than we do". Peter Scala, the coach of the Men's and Women's Swim Team says that they do receive new swimsuits and swim caps each year due to wear, and because of the chlorine environment; however, this was not always the case for the swim teams. Scala had to make it clear to the Athletic Office that a new swimsuit is needed for each swim season. Some members of the team actually remember when they were asked to keep the same swimsuit for as long as they were an athlete on the team.

The most recent uniforms purchased at North Shore High School were for the baseball team during this past 2020-2021 school year. Women's basketball uniforms were also purchased for this 2021-2022 school year, but they were backordered, possibly because of the pandemic. Unfortunately the uniforms did not arrive in time for the start of the season. Kate Gilliam says, "If this issue had been tackled earlier, a solution could have been found prior to the start of the season."

Neither athletes nor parents seem to be aware of the process involved when it comes to getting new uniforms, or of the cycle the uniforms go through, from Varsity to Junior Varsity, and that is part of the problem. Parents, and especially student athletes, should be informed on this subject; it might make for less complaints around the school. Don Lang, the

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The Need To Sport New Uniforms

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Athletic Director of the North Shore School District, says that every five to six years new uniforms are purchased for Varsity teams. The old set for Varsity is then passed down to Junior Varsity. However, some uniforms get replaced faster than others based on wear and tear. For example, if a team goes far into the playoffs, and would therefore play more games, it may need new uniforms faster than another team that does not. When it comes time to order new uniforms, Lang sits down with the coaches to have a conversation about what they specifically need for their team. If the needs of the team fit with the budget, time frame, price, and availability of uniforms, they will be purchased with money from the Athletic Budget. This budget changes from year to year. For the 2021-2022 school year, it is \$55,000. The budget covers every sport, for both the Middle and High School. It also covers sports equipment. Uniforms are discussed annually at the budget meeting between Lang and both the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent.

It is definitely difficult to predict what teams will warrant new uniforms and when. The needs of the players vary from team to team each year, and different numbers of athletes will go out for every team each year, thus changing the number of uniforms needed per year. Even so, the uniforms provided by the school must be replaced more often than they currently are.

According to Athletic Director Lang, new softball uniforms will be purchased this Spring. Also, the 2022-2023 school year is scheduled to have a big push for Fall Athletics. New field hockey uniforms, as well as both the Men's and Women's Soccer teams are scheduled to receive new uniforms.

The Athletic Department at North Shore seems to be well aware of the problems with the Varsity uniforms. Complaints from both athletes and parents are often heard at the Athletic Office. Yes, it is nearly impossible to please everyone, but this situation could be improved upon. The opinions of the athletes themselves should be considered much more than they currently are. At the moment, players have no say on the subject of uniforms even though they are the ones putting the apparel on their bodies and representing the District and this must change.

The Nobel Peace Prize is Officially Dead

By: Raymond Lin

The story of how a Nobel prize laureate may have allowed crimes against humanity (1) to be committed under his watch begins with the story of Ethiopia in the 1970's. During the 1970's, Ethiopia found itself under a military regime that would stay in power until it was overthrown by a coalition of rebel groups in 1991 (2); key among them was the Tigray People's Liberation Front otherwise known as the TPLF. After the ending of the military regime, the TPLF helped set up a government that allowed a sizable amount of independence for ethnic groups. This was implemented by making the regions of Ethiopia mostly based on ethnicity and language, which seemed to be a good action to take for a country with so many ethnic groups (4). It allowed for representation of some ethnic groups, but it would also permit some issues to proliferate later. These issues wouldn't emerge for some time and for a few decades the government would be largely dominated by the TPLF (2). It led the country through an era of peace and prosperity for a few years, but it had some issues. The TPLF represented the Tigrayan ethnic group and despite dominating the federal government, Tigrayans only represented about 6% of the population (4). In addition, the TPLF was not a party for liberal democracy or many of the standards that we have in the western world. It would end up committing actions that are considered to be quite distasteful (5).

After years of anti-government protests caused by the many reports of government sponsored torture, accusations of human rights abuses, media suppression, and other issues, a prime minister who was not a part of the TPLF won the election. In 2018, Abiy Ahmed became the prime minister of Ethiopia and his reform-minded positions were favored by many. In his first year of office, he released political prisoners, backed a female candidate for president, removed restrictions on independent press, and established a ministry of peace (7). Abiy Ahmed was able to bring a significant number of favorable changes to Ethiopia. Amid these reforms, he also purged many Tigrayan officials within the government (8). This was not met with support from the still relevant TPLF; the chairman of the TPLF, Debretsion Gebremichael, said "the pretext of corruption and human rights are being used to attack Tigrayans" (8). Tensions were growing between the TPLF and the Ethiopian central government. This aside, Abiy Ahmed seemed to be working towards an Ethiopia that was more democratic and had persistent peace. In 2019 he finished a peace deal for a conflict with Eritrea that had been going on for twenty years. For ending a war that had reportedly claimed the lives of one hundred thousand people (9), along with his liberal reforms, Abiy Ahmed won the Nobel Peace Prize (10). This was a moment of triumph and Ethiopia's position at this point seemed hopeful. But this view would soon prove too good to be true. Many of the problems that plagued Ethiopia had still not been resolved. One important example to observe is the ethnic violence that persisted (11). Targeting of those in the Amhara ethnic group was happening concurrently with the reforms of Abiy Ahmed. But the worst was yet to come as Ethiopia continued in this balance of reform and harsh actions.

In 2020, Abiy Ahmed postponed regional elections citing coronavirus as a concern. But the TPLF, in its political and military stronghold of Tigray, refused this notion and held them anyway (6). At this moment, de-

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North Shore High School's Writing Center

The North Shore High School Writing Center supports writers at all levels and across all disciplines. The Writing Center can help you with writing for school assignments, contests, applications and more!

The Writing Center is located in the back of the library. It is open every school day from 7:20 am - 8:00 am, and periods 4, 5, 6, and 7. Appointments can be scheduled at nshswc.acuityscheduling.com, but walk-ins are always welcome!

Join the Writing Center's Google classroom at [h3dfbp5](https://www.google.com/classroom/join/h3dfbp5).

Empathy, Not Apathy

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-escalation may have been plausible, but the Ethiopian government took a hardline stance and cut off funding to the region (6). Due to this and the many tensions that already existed between the TPLF and the central government, the TPLF's armed forces, the TDF (Tigrayan Defense Force), attacked an Ethiopian military base with a large quantities of weapons and personnel. They strengthened themselves and damaged the Ethiopian's ability to fight back. But the ENDF, the Ethiopian National Defense Force, with assistance from the Eritrean army and militia fighters from a nearby province, struck back and were able to push the TDF out of the regional capital (12). The TDF then fled to the mountain side and rural areas. They also employed a hit and run tactic to wear down the ENDF (12). Although the TDF would eventually prove successful in its attempts and appear to be winning the war, there is something less temporal to focus on.

War takes lives throughout combat and that is to be expected, but this war included far more than that. During these few months, massacres and media suppression occurred. Ethiopia considered the idea of canceling the licenses of several media organizations like CNN, BBC, AP, and Reuters (13). In the city of Aksum, Eritrean soldiers killed hundreds (14). A joint report by the United Nations and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission stated that "[T]here are reasonable grounds to believe that gross violations and abuses of international human rights law [were committed]" (1). Both sides in the war contributed to this and the joint report also states that "[C]aptured ENDF soldiers in Sheraro, Adi Hageray and Shire were subjected to torture and ill-treatment by Tigray forces" (1), as well as the fact that ENDF indiscriminately attacked "health facilities, schools, places of worship, and houses" (1).

Whether you believe the TPLF or the Ethiopian central government is in the right, the actions committed must be condemned. It is too easy to not care about a foreign conflict, and you are not to blame for that. This conflict likely has nothing to do with you and it is only one of many issues in our world. Regardless, it still matters. The lives of innocent people have been lost and others have been greatly impacted by the conflict in Tigray. It is imperative that when conflicts threatening people's lives emerge, support for the people and condemnation of the creation of the affair happens. While it is true that the TPLF is a rebel group and could be considered a terrorist group, both sides need to be held accountable for the actions they have committed...not given a Nobel Peace Prize. If they are not, it doesn't matter how this conflict ends because the absence of change allows for it to occur again. Change is necessary to improve not just Ethiopia, but the many problems that exist in our world.

From Eminem To Jack Harlow: Is There A Way To Be A White Rapper?

By: Veronica Frank

23-year-old Jack Harlow always wanted to become the greatest rapper in the world. From the time he was 13, Harlow had created mixtapes and was booking gigs. Little did he know that his single "What's Poppin" would hit number two on the charts in 2020, and his collaboration with Lil Nas X, "Industry Baby", would receive over 18 million streams (Moss). One would think that as a person who reached his middle school dreams of being one of the greatest rappers of his time, Harlow would feel like an expert in his craft; however, in an interview with XXL Freshman Class, a hip-hop radio station, he stated that he still feels like a "guest inside a house of a culture that isn't his".

As a white cis-gendered straight man born in Louisville Kentucky, Harlow recognizes that he benefited from his middle-class white privilege starting at an incredibly early age. The genre of rap, born on the street corners of the Bronx in the 1970s was a way for people of color to express themselves through music. The largely Caribbean, Puerto Rican, and African American immigrant inhabited borough of New York City was simultaneously dealing with an overwhelming percentage of gang violence, crime, and poverty. Like most music genres, Hip Hop and Rap were created out of emotion, primarily stemming from the rage that people of color were feeling from the copious amounts of discrimination and poverty they experienced in their lifetime and throughout history. A leader in the new genre was Afrika Bambaataa, also known as "The Godfather", who was a pioneer and visionary by using his lyrics to help guide the city away from violence and drugs (*A Hip-Hop History*).

So, in the Bronx, Rap was born: an African American male-dominated genre of music, which originated as political and social justice statements. As the genre evolved from the 70s, there was an increase in Caucasian lyricists and the attention they received from the public. From Eminem, The Beastie Boys, Iggy Azalea, and now Jack Harlow, Caucasian rappers are not a new phenomenon; however, rapping started as a cultural symbol for People of Color, so as Caucasians began to dominate the field starting in the 90s with Vanilla Ice, controversy flared.

Cultural critics specializing in race theory and music are asking whether white Americans are respecting Black culture or just appropriating it. White appropriation of Black culture has been seen before in aspects such as cooking traditional southern meals which root back to African dishes as well as hip-hop dancing (Lemley). According to comedian Aamer Raman, Iggy Azalea is a prime example of the cultural appropriation seen in rapping. The Australian female "acts out signifiers which the white majority associates with black culture—hypersexuality, senseless materialism, an obsession with drugs, money and alcohol" (Phillips). Her songs include inappropriate topics and lyrics such as in her October 2011 track, D. R. U. G. S: "When the relay starts, I'm a runaway slave ... master". Her problematic approach to rapping, before 2020 was previously ignored due to her

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CRT: Should It Exist?

By: Matt Malone

Critical Race Theory (CRT) has been a scorching hot topic across the United States, especially within the last year. But, first off, what is CRT? Well, in broad terms, it is a "way of analyzing systems, institutions, and power through a lens of race and racism" (Dictionary.com). Many people believe that America's laws are constructed in a way to oppress people of color and enforce racism. CRT arose in the 1970s as a result of the Civil Rights Movement, an era when people began to fight against systemic racism in America. CRT is used to analyze and challenge the relationship between law and racial inequality. Glenn Youngkin's 2021 victory for governor over Terry McAuliffe in Virginia had much to do with Youngkin promising to stop the teaching of this philosophy in schools. However, a lot of what CRT is based on is implicit bias. Because someone is white, they have the upper hand in society; now this was definitely true 200 years ago and it is most likely where this bias stems from, but to think that white supremacy still exists today is completely false. The whole idea of CRT should be abolished altogether.

Liberals will use CRT as a justification for anything to do with race. Ami Horowitz, an American filmmaker, recently created a video which involved asking white people on the streets of New York City why black obesity rates are extremely high. As expected, they said racism was to blame. One woman even said, "Education is a factor as well and which also ties into race." So basically she is saying black people do not know what is right and what is wrong to eat, which through her eyes is not a racist thing to say. Others claimed that big corporations, like Whole Foods, avoid black communities and therefore black people do not have places to buy healthy food; this opinion is also incorrect. From a business standpoint, it does not make sense that these healthy food providers would ignore any type of community. Next, Horowitz moved to Harlem and asked the same question of black people. Before the interviews were conducted, the camera reveals a Whole Foods Supermarket placed right in the center of the town. Most answers boiled down to the fact that people choose what they want to eat. The high obesity rates have nothing to do with racism. Horowitz asked a black woman to confirm the following statement, "In a black neighborhood, they deal with racism so often in a day that they stress eat." The woman answered with a resounding, "What?" She then continued to say, "They (the white liberals) are misinformed." Trying to blame systemic racism for problems in black communities is a completely incorrect way to go about things because systemic racism does not exist anymore. Ben Shapiro, an American conservative political commentator, brings up a great question, "Why [do] white woke progressives think they can

speaking for black people." This is not an easy question to answer, but it brings up the point that when white 'woke' progressives are in charge, idiosyncratic beliefs, like CRT, tend to rise and create more problems and divisions in the United States.

Critical Race Theory is divisive; teaching it in schools does not help this point. Elicia Brandy, a mother of three, pulled her children out of Loudoun County schools in Virginia because she believes that "Our schools are not for ideology, our schools are for education." Unfortunately, some schools care more about social justice than they do about more important lessons. In 2019, *The New York Times* started the 1619 Project. Its goal is to "reframe the country's history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of our national narrative." This project seems to fixate on race, which causes many problems within a school's community. Fights have even broken out at school board meetings due to this hot button topic. These new teachings could hurt and bring guilt to white American students for something that had nothing to do with them. Students now have no control over what happened years ago. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, are all heroes in American history. However, they were all slave owners. Unfortunately, during their time period, owning another person did not seem as repulsive as it does now. Sometimes race should be left out of the discussion. If race or racism is important or relevant to the topic, then it should not, of course, be overlooked. However, CRT is a complex issue, that if taught in schools, should be saved for an older audience, an audience that has the ability to make decisions on its own and not be influenced by someone else's opinion.

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Rap : Who Is It Meant For?

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demographic of listeners, primarily white youth, who could not see the problem with her music.

Now the question is why Eminem, another Grammy-winning white rapper, never got the same amount of hate as Azalea. Critical Race Theory professors acknowledge that the difference is the declaration of his white privilege in music and interviews. Eminem proclaims his love for hip-hop culture and in his song “Untouchable” where he alludes to American racial tensions in the lyrics: “Throughout history, African-Americans have been treated like sh*t, and I admit there have been times where it’s been embarrassing to be a white boy.” The newly famous artist Jack Harlow is also not being reprimanded for cultural appropriation because of his partnership in the 2020 XXL Freshman Class, a group of artists dedicated to spreading awareness of racial injustice, as well as being a part of local marches in Louisville, Kentucky for Breanna Taylor. Harlow even mentions how although he can “know [racial injustice] is there, I can never truly know what it’s like and know how real it is.”

So, the question remains- is rapping as a white person a form of cultural appropriation, or is it appropriate? AD Carson, an author, rapper, and assistant professor of hip-hop at the University of Virginia says it really depends. He claims that in America, “White anger and confidence is something rap audiences just don’t want to hear as much of anymore,” and especially with the political atmosphere in America, where white angry men dominate politics, white men and anger is a fatigued motif. Therefore, rapping, because of its origin, is a very slippery slope for Caucasians because depending on how one runs with it, he/she could end up going number one or being ridiculed forever.

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Deforestation Continued In Amazon Rainforest

By: Yazir Carrillo

The Amazon Rainforest is under attack. It is being deforested at a rapid rate. Since the early 1960s, the Amazon has had its trees logged; about 17 percent of the Amazonian rainforest has been destroyed over the past 50 years (Nunez). Lumber companies can now sell logged trees to furniture companies (Edwards) or for other reasons. But why should this deforestation not be happening?

So what is a rainforest?

A rainforest is a forest that gets a lot of rainfall. They are known to house more than half of the world’s species while only covering roughly about more than five percent of the Earth’s surface. There are two types of rainforests: temperate and tropical. Some of the characteristics of a temperate rainforest include having a moderate climate and a moderate temperature range with annual rainfall. A tropical rainforest is a forest that is made up of mostly evergreen trees and has a humid climate with a higher temperature range. Due to the humid climate, rainfall is more common in a tropical rainforest; it usually sustains itself via self-watering by using the humidity of the area to water itself. When it rains in these forests, plants catch the water and release it back into the air which keeps the air wet and humid.

The Amazon Rainforest is the most well-known tropical rainforest located within multiple South American countries ranging from Brazil all the way to Peru. Housing over 390 individual trees on 1.9 billion acres, the Amazon is responsible for most of the greenhouse gas intake out of all the other rainforests in the world; the Amazon takes in greenhouse gases like CO2 and turns it into helpful gases like oxygen which makes up 21% of the atmosphere (NASA News). The Amazon Rainforest contributes to the ecosystem quite a bit as well. Being home to over 40,000 different species of plants, the Amazon is shown to inhabit many different species of animals and tribes of humans. Unfortunately, the Amazon, for the past couple of decades, has been being cut down so that big companies can make money off of them. But in what ways are the trees being used?

Huge lumber companies are exploiting the Amazon. Studies show; “In 1996, Asian companies invested more than \$500 million in Brazil’s timber industry mainly because they were keenly aware of the speed at which the forests in Asia are being cut”(Edwards). Companies in other regions are continuing to support deforestation in the Amazon, which doesn’t help the situation. Illegal logging in the Amazon is another contributor to the deforestation scene; “While laws exist which authorize logging in designated areas, illegal logging is widespread in Brazil and several Amazon countries. A study by a Brazilian commission showed that

80% of all logging in the Amazon was illegal during the late 90s”(Edwards). Illegal logging in Brazil continues to this day and the impact is just as bad. The impact of logging is seismic. The Amazon Rainforest logging has affected the world more than some people think; the deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest is stoking the fire of the worldwide crisis of global warming. Without the trees to filter greenhouse gases, the more that the ozone layer is affected which is our only protection from the sun’s rays. Damage to the habitats of the animals is another outcome from logging; “little consideration is given to safeguard timber stocks for future harvests, and this leads to the usual litany of biodiversity loss, over-hunting of wildlife and subsequent conversion for agriculture or pasture”(Edwards). Not only are habitats being destroyed, but the companies that are doing the damage don’t even bother planting trees back. Evidence on trees growing back isn’t promising; “Scientists have monitored logged areas to determine to what extent logged areas can recover.....A study in a terra firma rainforest (forested area not affected by seasonal flooding) that had been logged and left as such in 1979 showed that logging stimulated growth, but this effect was short-lived, lasting only about three years. After a number of years, growth rates become similar to that in forests that have not been logged”(Edwards). Ever since the beginning of the logging crisis, trees have not been given the time to grow back, which is alarming for the whole world because everyone and everything is affected by it.

What are the major impacts of deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest? When an ecological location is tampered with, some bad outcomes can occur like changes in climate and huge amounts of migration. Since the Amazon is the main filter of greenhouse gas emissions, when trees are cut down in there, the climate changes as well, “which in addition to removing forest cover, causes a dramatic change in rainfall patterns and distribution. These findings imply that the current deforestation in the Amazon has already altered the regional climate. They also support previous reports of increased shallow cloudiness over deforested areas”(WWF: “Climate change in the Amazon”). Removing the trees from the Amazon would lead to a change in the world’s climate, which could cause other seismic and horrifying changes like the rising of sea levels.

The Amazon is undoubtedly one of the most important ecological places in the world and we must take a stand to protect it and thus ourselves and future generations.



Squid Game And Its Rippling Effect

By: Kaitlin Ho

Squid Game, Netflix’s most popular show to date, recently amassed more than 140 million households globally. It has also gotten a 4.7 star rating out of 31,743 ratings on Google. *Squid Game* is a commentary on capitalism and human greed, as in the show, indebted, desperate contestants in South Korea play rounds of childhood games for a chance to win a large sum of money. If contestants are unable to pass the rounds, however, they are killed, and only the remaining survivor of all rounds wins the prize money. Despite the resounding positive reviews and popularity *Squid Game* has been receiving, there’s also been concern about the negative effects the show has on children.

For example, three elementary schools in the Fayetteville-Manlius School District in New York banned “Squid Game” Halloween costumes in 2021. This is after staff members witnessed students at recess emulating aspects of the show. Craig Tice, the superintendent of the Fayetteville-Manlius School District states, “It would be inappropriate for any student to wear to school a Halloween costume from this show because of the potential violent messages aligned with the costume.”

Parents have different opinions on the ban. Larissa Brenner, a parent of two Fayetteville-Manlius middle schoolers, believes the ban is acceptable, “It’s not a new practice for the school to say that certain things are off-limits for Halloween. They’ve always said, do not bring weapons to school, even toy weapons, as part of your costume.” However, *CBS New York* reported that other parents believe the school’s ban on *Squid Game* costumes is overbearing. One parent stated “It’s a costume, just don’t let your kids watch the show.”

Around the world, the violent behavior children exhibited during recess in New York has also occurred. The BBC reported that the Central Bedfordshire Council in England stated, “some primary-aged children in one of our schools were behaving aggressively on the playground while replicating games from the *Squid Game* programme.” On a Belgium school’s Facebook post, “the loser gets punched” as a substitute for the player losing his life.

Larissa Brenner, a parent who believes the ban is acceptable and has seen *Squid Game*, explains that “it’s entertaining, it’s good for adults, but I wouldn’t want my children to be exposed to that in school. The schools kind of have to strike a balance between what’s safe for the kids and what’s free speech.”

It comes down to whether it is the responsibility of parents to limit their kids’ access to violent shows such as *Squid Game*, or the responsibility of schools to limit the “mimicking” (Tice) of the violence conveyed in the show by banning costumes. Netflix rates the show TV-MA, appropriate only for children ages 16 and older, but it still reaches younger children and results in the replication of the violent actions depicted. Ultimately, school is where students interact with one another and are supposed to feel safe. Thus, a place of education is therefore legally and ethically responsible for the safety of its population.

30 Is Fabulous

By: Gabi Ditrapani

Adele's *30*, one of the most anticipated albums of 2021, is now out on all platforms. Demand for the album was expected to be high. "Easy On Me", the album's first single, broke streaming records on every platform, collecting 24 million plays on Spotify alone on the day of its release. Adele tells reporters that she is ready for the pressure that comes with topping her last album, *25*, revealing that she's excited for fans to hear her new music. Like all modern albums, you could stream Adele's *30* worldwide the day of its release.

In 2019, Adele filed for divorce from her husband of two years, the charity executive Simon Konecki. The couple have a young son who is happily being raised by the both of them. Though they split, the two still maintain a good relationship, and this inspired her to create *30*.

She compared the music found on *30* to "that friend who, no matter what, checked in on me even though I'd stopped checking in with them because I'd become so consumed by my own grief," adding "I've painstakingly rebuilt my house and my heart since then and this album narrates it". Alongside her new album, came Adele's drastic weight loss of 100 pounds, which, she told fans in her recent interview with Oprah, inspired her to come such a long way. She made it clear that it was not intentional to lose weight, but she just needed to do something. So, she started to go to the gym. Adele added that getting a routine like that

in place was a step towards the right direction and releasing music again. Losing such a significant amount of weight not only changes the physical appearance of a person, but her mindset as well. Losing this weight showed the change in Adele's mindset through her music. She had not released an album in years and you can tell via her lyrics on *30* that there is an obvious shift in her maturity level; she has, since the release of *25*, been through more in life and now she is ready to open it all up to her fans. For example, in her song 'Easy On Me', she says "go easy on me, I was still a child, didn't get the chance to feel the world around me". This line in particular captures her realization of growth and maturity and how much her life has changed for the better with age. To show the importance of this album to Adele, she even got Spotify to take the shuffle button off of this album, as well as all others. She wants to keep the songs in the same order as the artist wanted them as they tell a story.

According to *Chartmetric*, Adele's Spotify monthly listeners (a 28-day period) grew more than 2.37 million after the release of *30*. Her albums are so important because they inspire listeners to help themselves grow mentally and emotionally, just like she did. Overall, I would say that Adele is and has been one of the most influential musical artists, and I do not see that changing anytime in the future.



Success for the North Shore Masquers' Performance of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*

By: Sophia Marchioli

From Friday, November 19th to Saturday November 20th, 2021, the North Shore High School Masquers performed *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* for the community. Aaron Brateman, a first-year theater teacher at the school, directed the complex play which takes place in the suburbs of England. One night, the main character, a teen named Christopher, discovers that his neighbor's dog has been murdered. He attempts to solve the mystery. However, through his investigation he finds out even more gripping information that ultimately changes his life.

Early on in the play, it becomes evident to the audience that Christopher experiences the world in a different way than most people, and according to the AANE (The Asperger Autism Network), he is written to be autistic. Granted, it is never explicitly stated that Christopher is autistic, but he shares many traits associated with someone who is on the high end of the spectrum. For instance, he doesn't understand why people

act in a certain way or why certain things are expected of him. Christopher also has difficulty communicating and interacting with people. In the opening scene of North Shore High School's rendition of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, Christopher, played by Junior, Sarah Barnett, can be found in a state of panic, whining in the middle of the stage. Director, Aaron Brateman, commented on the process he went through to select Barnett for the intense role, saying, "In that audition room, she blew everyone away, not just with her performance, but with what she said too." He then went on to explain that Barnett advocated for representation of neurodiverse characters, as she herself identifies as neurodiverse, meaning that she displays some characteristics which are neurologically atypical. Brateman added that he then knew he couldn't choose anyone else for the role of Christopher: "It just had to be her."

Issues regarding representation

Injustice In The Music Industry: A Story We Know All Too Well

By: Charlotte Marchioli

Taylor Swift, a small-town girl from West Reading, Pennsylvania, first took the music industry by storm with the release of her debut self-titled album in October of 2006. Like her later albums, her debut record seamlessly blends country with pop and leaves no questions as to whether Swift's immensely rich and descriptive storytelling skills were evident even in her earliest work. Since then, Swift has grown an enormous fan base, won eleven Grammys, and sold over 200 million albums worldwide with nine studio albums. Some of her latest releases include studio albums *Folklore* and *Evermore*, which were both recorded and released in 2020. These albums take Swift into a new era of her songwriting career, taking influences from folk music and alternative rock. Following *Evermore*, Swift released another record in April that earned widespread acclaim and success. This album, however, did not consist of new music; this album was *Fearless (Taylor's Version)*. The original *Fearless* was released in the Fall of 2008. Why would Swift re-record and release her own album? She is already reaping financial benefits from the original release, right? She owns her music, right? Wrong. And for Swift, not being given the chance to own her music is something she never saw coming, not even in her "Wildest Dreams".

It may come as a shock to know that most artists actually do not own their own music. This means that a majority of famous artists decide to sign on with big-deal record labels early in their careers. In most cases, these record labels essentially gain the rights to the music and reap the financial profit of it. In exchange, the artists have the chance to have their music played on bigger, mainstream platforms and are given more opportunities and promotion that independent artists are not always granted. Most times, the artist is given the chance to buy back their masters. In June of 2019, it was announced that Scooter Braun and his company Ithaca Holdings LLC had acquired Big Machine Label Group in a three-hundred-million-dollar deal. This meant that now Braun had ownership over Swift's first six albums. Swift publicly shared her discontent with the deal

and declared that it had always been a priority for her to own her music. She attacked Braun, calling him "the definition of toxic male privilege in our industry." It seems logical that all artists should own the rights to their masterpieces, but the sad truth is that very few actually do. Swift is not one of these artists, but she may have found a loophole in the system.

In November 2018, Swift left Big Machine Label Group and signed with Republic Records and Universal Music Group, where she has full ownership over the records she released under the label. This includes *Lover*, *Evermore*, and *Fearless (Taylor's Version)*. Swift announced that this album would be the start of numerous re-recordings for her.

Just weeks ago, Swift released a re-recording of her highly acclaimed album, *Red: Red (Taylor's Version)*. The album is yet another beautiful display of Swift's unmatched storytelling as well as her ability to blend pop sounds with her country roots; this coherent record tells the heartbreak and complexities of growing up and finding oneself through relationships and experiences. Swift's songs give listeners a clear lens into these struggles through imagery that is completely unique to the 32-year-old super-star. The track also includes new songs featuring artists such as Ed Sheeran, Phoebe Bridgers and Chris Stapleton, along with a ten-minute version of her beloved, heart-wrenching ballad, "All Too Well". The record is her longest yet, spanning 30 songs long and it has received rave reviews and much success within just a few weeks of its release. "All Too Well" has become the longest song ever to reach the Billboard Top 100 chart and the album broke Spotify's record for the most single-day streams for an album by a female artist.

Swift's determination to gain back ownership over her music catalog is a further example of her strength as an artist and her drive to create equality within the music industry. There will clearly be more to come from such a powerhouse.

its members were able to build strong friendships with one other. Additionally, during the show, most of the cast members never left the stage. Even if they weren't performing front and center, they sat in the background and watched intently waiting for their cue. This made the audience understand that there was a strong sense of community present on that stage, and that connection aided the cast and crew in executing the performance with ease.

According to Henry Spina, a sophomore who has been a part of the plays and musicals performed under the North Shore High School Masquers, for the past year and a half, this close-knit feel is the norm in the North Shore theater community. This, mixed with the inclusion and acceptance of the Theater Department, often fuels the theatrical performances.

Now this group has the community looking forward to seeing its performance of *Hello, Dolly!* in March 2022.

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Saturday January 29th

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Mia Crocco
Mathew Miraglia
Ian Zhan

Co-authored and
Performed By Many
Members of
The Class of 2022

The Holiday Season and Beyond

By: Niko Stavrianos

The holiday season of 2021 has come and gone. It was a time to give back, help one another and be together. Since it was a little hectic for some people, here is a run-down of some things to do that might have been missed....and yet, can still be done!

So, who does not love toys, especially around the holidays. Well, Toys R Us, which, for decades was known for selling only those types of items, dates back to 1957 when a man named Charles Lazarus brought this store to light. Toys-R-Us eventually reached its peak, having over 1,400 stores and controlling 25 percent of the global toy market.

After decades of being able to be a patron of this well-known, popular, successful business, it filed for bankruptcy in 2017, as it was 7.9 billion dollars in debt. This was due to its inability to keep up with the changes in the business world, such as online shopping and customer service. Nevertheless, this company's tragic downfall has not stopped Toy R Us; in fact, it is coming back stronger than ever by having Macy's by its side. Yes, the company's name returned to store shelves during the holiday season when it solidified having its own section in over 400 Macy's locations across the country. So, without hesitation, as soon as you can, run to your nearest Macy's and check out the latest toys.

Some of the other great things that you might have missed during this past holiday season, but can still check out can be found in New York City. So, for your consideration, here are some of the

most popular attractions. Just remember: all visitors ages 5 and over must display proof of vaccination upon arriving at these places. Also, masks must always be worn indoors.

Broadway: Enjoy live theater or musicals performed by some of your favorite actors. Some of the fabulous shows that are currently playing include *Aladdin*, *Hadestown*, *Dear Evan Hanson* and *Wicked*.

Hudson Yards: Check out the Vessel or eat at one of the many restaurants found here after a long day of shopping. This is quite the site to see.

Levain Bakery: This bakery is known for having lots of people lined up outside on a regular basis just waiting to get a taste of the four types of cookies that it's known for. There are five different locations of this bakery in Manhattan. Check each one out.

Strand Bookstore: If you love to leisurely wander around a good bookstore and check out all of the new titles, this one is for you. It is the largest non-commercialised bookstore in the City and it has two locations there. There are so many goodies to check out that you can spend hours taking them all in. Plus, this bookstore has been featured in numerous movies and television shows that you probably have seen.

The High Line: Want to take a nice walk in the City? Then check this site out. It's built on a freight rail above the streets of the West Side. There is plenty of nature and art to take in along the pathway.

During the holiday season, create many memories and make them count. The above places are only a few to consider visiting either now or in the future holiday seasons, but the most important thing to remember is to bring your friends and family with you.

Rockin' The New Barn

By: Jordan Lillis

After years of indecision about where the New York Islanders would play their games, they finally have a place to call home. The new UBS arena in Elmont, Long Island held its debut game on November 20th, 2021 with roughly 70,000 fans in attendance. But the question stands, is this new arena worth the 1.1 billion dollars spent to build it.

Since 1972 the Islanders have played on and off at Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, Long Island. In the year of 2014 they moved to the well-known Barclays Center, home of the Brooklyn Nets. Then, from 2018 to 2020 they played home games in Brooklyn and on Long Island. This attempt to have more fans attend games failed as Brooklyn was not well-suited for hockey and The Coliseum, was just well, old. Ever since The Islanders started to play at Nassau Coliseum, which, according to Clarence Campbell, the 1984 President of the NHL, is "the best place to watch a hockey game", Nassau Coliseum had qualities that every hockey fan wants such as great views from every seat, terrific acoustics, and a central location on Long Island that was easily accessible for most fans. Every game was the same, with a loud and fun environment for fans of all ages to attend. Although this arena was greatly suited for the Islanders' fans, the owners still wanted to attract even more fans in an updated space. Because of this, they built the UBS Arena.

After years of waiting, the Islanders finally have their new arena. Owned by a group of investors, the UBS Arena has many substantial amenities, most of which are different from those that were found at Nassau Coliseum. First off, there are new restaurants that do not just serve your "typical" food; fans can indulge in things like sushi, salads, nachos, and cheesesteaks. Shaquille O'Neal even debuted his new chicken store, Big Chicken, at the Arena. Another thing that UBS boasts is the suites, private clubs, and boxes which can cost up to \$50,000 for just one game. They have utilities such as waitress service, private bathrooms, and a great view of the ice. The Arena also has many more bathrooms than the Coliseum so that fans can avoid long lines. So far, Islanders' fans are remaining loyal and the UBS Arena has been full of noise and energy.

Although there are obviously benefits to the new Arena there are also some negatives. The location is much less accessible for many people. Since it is on the border of Queens and Long Island and more south, there is a great deal of traffic and to get there; so from a town like Sea Cliff, it takes about 50 minutes before game-time. Then, when arriving, the parking lot is usually full and the scene is chaotic. With construction still happening, some people must park even further away from the Arena and will have up to a 15 minute walk. In order to get better parking, a fan must pay 30 dollars or more per game, which is 10 dollars more expensive than it was at the Nassau Coliseum. Another thing to look at is prices within the Arena. For me and my father to get two dinners consisting of chicken tenders and fries, and two sodas at the Market restaurant, we had to pay sixty dollars.

On a personal note, it felt great to be back on the home ice and it was exciting to watch the game in a new location. It was visitor-friendly with halls that were spacious.

So after weighing the positives and negatives of the UBS Arena, I find it to be a perfect new home for the New York Islanders.

New Pandemic Calls For New Protocols

By: Aquinnah McDermott

COVID-19 has clearly had a significant impact on the entire world, especially when it comes to restaurants. Most of these establishments are run in remarkably similar ways. For example, traditional American restaurants are mostly indoor-eating only; yes, some offer outdoor seating, but the tables are often tightly packed together, and so there is a lot of close interaction between customers and servers. Because of COVID however, restaurants had to create a whole new way to operate.

When speaking with Alex, who is an employee at the Sea Cliff Subway on how the eatery has dealt with COVID, he stated that, "Because of COVID, we had to have less tables inside so that we could spread them further apart, and wear masks at all times." When asked if he thought COVID and the new protocols restaurants had to put into effect as a result of it had a more positive or negative effect on the restaurant, Alex added, "I think more of a positive impact, because customers were happy that we introduced new protocols to keep them safe". What this local Subway has done is just one example of how restaurants have dealt with the challenges COVID has created to keep customers and staff safe. However, when compared to other restaurants, Subway did not

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need to make any major changes.

Another person I interviewed regarding COVID and the effects it had on restaurants was Lia Butindari, the manager of Tre Sorelle in Sea Cliff. When speaking with her about how her restaurant has dealt with COVID, she said, "At the very beginning, we couldn't let anyone inside; it was take-out and delivery only; it was hard on our restaurant". When asked how things changed as COVID rates started to improve, she stated, "We could let people into the restaurant again, we reopened our dining room, and we made outdoor seating available, but masks are still required in the restaurant." Like Subway, the manager of Tre Sorelle also believed that the changes they made for COVID had a more positive effect on the restaurant, and they may even keep some of the changes long-term, like the outdoor seating.

When COVID began in the United States, most restaurants simply shut down. This was obviously terrible for business, for there were no customers, and no way to make money. "As many as 110,000 restaurants have closed since the pandemic was declared, according to the National Restaurant Association, and food service sales have fallen \$255 billion in the year since" (ny.eater.com).

Despite all the setbacks that the restaurant industry faced, a lot of these food establishments were soon able to re-open their take-out business; however, they were still not making enough revenue. That's when creating outside seating swooped in and really helped to save the day. "Last year, more than 10,000 restaurants city-wide [New York] were approved to serve outdoors. That number is likely to increase this year" ("What New York").

One may think that because of all the changes restaurants had to make, that they would still be doing poorly; fortunately, at both restaurants I dealt with for this piece, they thought the changes they had to make had a positive impact on their operations. At Subway it was because the customers felt safer with the new protocols they introduced, and at Tre Sorelle, the customers liked the new seating options.

Overall, COVID badly hurt the restaurant industry at the beginning of the lockdown, but a plethora of the surviving eateries have been able to create new protocols to keep customers safe while still earning revenue. However, with Omicron, the new variant of COVID going around now, restaurants have still not been able to achieve full re-opening status, and many are reverting to simpler set-ups and protocols that they had when COVID was at its peak.

North Shore Men's Swim Team Makes Waves During Its 2021-22 Season

By: Julia Capitelli

North Shore High School's Men's Swim Team headed into the 2021-22 winter season with the swimmers feeling excited to be back in the pool at LIU Post. Their previous season had been shortened and moved to the Spring due to COVID.

North Shore has never won a County Championship nor a Conference Championship for Men's Swimming and now, with a smaller team than it has been in past years, the team did not aim to achieve any extraordinary accomplishments. Freshman Benito DiGiuseppe said he simply hoped that the team would come in at least third in its conference, the fourth of four. The goal was put even more simply by Senior Barry You: "just win meets."

Coach Peter Scala said he was "just hoping to be competitive" this season. After losing 12 swimmers last year, seven of whom were seniors, the team's size had been cut in half. "[I] think some kids dropped due to just being too busy," Coach Scala added. "Seems like students are overbooked these days." With only 12 swimmers, it was going to be difficult to compete against teams that had numbers in the twenties. Larger teams had more freedom to put swimmers in fewer races. Smaller teams were forced to put the same people in more races, causing them to tire more quickly. Coach Scala appeared however, to be more concerned with the improvement of the 12 swimmers he had. "I wanted to see that the kids were willing to compete against the other teams, not be intimidated and try different strokes," he said, "All those things are what help make them successful." The 12 members this season were Nathaniel Brower, Lucas Contreras, Brett Cowan, Andrew Davies, Michael Dey, Benito DiGiuseppe, Vincenzo DiGiuseppe, Jared, Dominguez, Benjamin Ryan, Deniz Ucku, Peter Xiao, and Barry You.

Aside from winning swim meets, the team also expressed the desire to get back to a

more typical season. Last year included virtual swim meets due to COVID where the competing teams would each swim at their own pools with a Zoom set up and a livestream for parents to watch. This season, some pools allowed spectators, but LIU Post did not. Teams were allowed to travel to each other's pools for meets, however. Benito DiGiuseppe said he felt last year's virtual format lessened the drive for competition. "That really impacted my game because the whole part of the meet is you get the drive and the adrenaline rush seeing the other team and stuff like that, but without that, I don't know, it wasn't the same." Additionally, Barry You was directly impacted last season because he was unable to swim for North Shore; he travelled to China at the end of March 2020 to participate in a film production at a studio he had signed a contract with. This separation from the team took some structure out of his practice. "I'd say I just [didn't] have a systematic training for like a year and I've just been doing things on my own," he said. He also acknowledged that he had some catching up to do this season. Returning to a more typical school year and swim season definitely was more helpful and motivating for the North Shore swimmers.

This season, Varsity had three seventh graders on the team in Brett Cowan, Vincenzo DiGiuseppe, and Deniz Ucku. "I was happy to have them. I wish we could have had more; we're trying to build more younger kids into the team," Coach Scala said. Potentially, these three could remain with the team through their senior year of high school. That gives them a lot of time to develop their skills. "I want to definitely get faster and stronger. I want to get better times in races," said Cowan, who plans to stick with the team through his senior year. "I want to also build up my stamina and get a learning experience from this." Coach Scala said he believes that few high school students join swimming because "many athletes get involved with other sports in their

middle school years." But he added that "It is not too late to pick up swimming in high school... our program seeks to help swimmers of all abilities".

The team voted Nathaniel Brower and Jared Dominguez Co-Captains during the 2021-22 season. Brower is a junior who started swimming competitively in the fourth grade and has been on Varsity since his freshman year. He was named Most Valuable Player last season. "I would like to be Captain," Brower admitted before the vote took place. "But that's not really a huge priority." He said he was more focused on improving his swimming and leading the younger swimmers, regardless of whether he carried a title or not. Dominguez is also a junior who appears to be well-liked amongst his teammates. "I know a lot of the kids and we're pretty good friends." He and Brower both spoke to their dynamic as Co-Captains. They seemed to agree that sharing the role was helpful to both them and the team. "By having Jared as Co-Captain, it gave me reassurance that in the event I was unable to go to a practice or meet, he could be there encouraging and leading the team without me," Brower said. Additionally, Dominguez pointed out the differences in their leadership styles and what he personally was hoping to accomplish in this position. "Nathaniel... is much stronger and technically inclined, but I don't think that's what all Captains should be about; I think it's a lot of, kind of love for the sport and a lot of commitment, just to the team itself rather than technical skills, so that's what I'm trying to strive for."

During this past season, many of North Shore's male swimmers felt they had met their goals. "My biggest goal going into this season was going under six minutes in the 500 free, and I've now done this at three meets, which felt really good to achieve," Brower said. As for some of the younger swimmers, they also seemed satisfied with their progress. Benito DiGiuseppe, like Brower, had some event specific goals. "I met most of my

goals, like beating my 50 free time, beating my 100 free time." For seventh grade rookie Brett Cowan, the goals were more general. He said he thinks his development this year has been good. "I got a lot stronger, and I think my times got a lot better."

The team's biggest issue this season was being undermanned. While individual swimmers had success, the team as a whole did not quite meet its goal. "Our hope was to be at the top of the conference. We've fallen a little bit short just because we've had numbers issues, just it was hard with a small team and then with COVID outbreaks," Coach Scala said. "We're like the middle of the pack kind of thing." However, Coach Scala seemed pleased with the effort and improvement of his swimmers this past season. When asked about awards like Most Valuable Player and Most Improved Player, he gave several names. Scala said that last year's MVP Brower was strong again this season, but now in the running are also "Peter Xiao, a very talented kid, but he missed some of the seasons because of injury... and I think Deniz Ucku as a newcomer really did a nice job, but he's... only in seventh grade himself." Similarly while Scala said he feels Benito DiGiuseppe, who was named Most Improved last season, improved even more this year, "Benjamin Ryan, who's friends with Benito, has really stepped up a lot this year."

North Shore's Men's Swim Team experienced many positive things this season. It persevered with only 12 swimmers, and many experienced individual success. While the team did not finish at the top of its conference, Jared Dominguez said he is "just proud of what we've accomplished with the people we have."



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The Pandemic And The Pickleball Push

By: Liliana Stella

Staying out of the kitchen is a hard task for anyone. Who doesn't get hungry? However, in the rising sport of pickleball, that is one of the first rules and terms that a new player learns...despite how "hungry" he is to take a shot and earn a point. So what exactly is pickleball and why over the past two years has it become such a fast growing sport in the United States?

As of 2020, the number of pickleball players in the United States is in the millions. The game, which had historically been played in Florida, is fast-paced and competitive and "according to the Sport and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA), pickleball participation grew by a whopping 21.3% last year as Americans looked for new ways to stay active during the pandemic" (BBC). The game itself is a myriad of various racket styled sports which include tennis, ping pong and badminton.

All one needs to play pickleball is a paddle, a wiffle-type ball (there is a different ball for indoor and outdoor play), a pair of tennis shoes, a net, and of course, a properly lined court. In addition, players can either play singles or doubles (mixed or same sex). Over the past year and a half, more gyms, housing developments and towns, especially on Long Island, have added pickleball courts because of the large number of people wanting to play this game that goes to 11 points, unless the game is tied at 10-10. Then the game must be won by two points. Some school districts' high schools have even incorporated pickleball into their Physical Education curriculums as have their adult education programs.

One place in particular that has recently accepted pickleball is the Glen Head Racquet Club, located on Glen Head Road in Glen Head. The pickleball courts there though are tennis courts that have simply been taped up to the smaller pickleball court dimensions. Another place that was actually created for pickleball purposes in 2019 is Pickle N Par, located on Broadhollow Road in Melville. This particular business has four courts that only see pickleball action all day every day.

When discussing the age demographic of pickleball players, Adam

Mandell, the Managing Partner of the Glen Head Racquet Club, stated that, "a wide range of ages" tend to play, but most range between the ages of "35 years to 65 years of age." Pickleball is a "lower impact sport, and the court is smaller so there is less running." Thus, middle-aged and older-aged people find it a more than suitable workout. Monica DiPinto, the front desk coordinator at Pickle N Par, added that pickleball is "an easy to learn paddle sport and you don't need to move much to hit the ball, especially if you're playing doubles". In addition, Adam Mandell feels that most importantly, "there is a nice social aspect" to pickleball since the "players stand close together". Overall, pickleball players tend to be courteous, friendly, encouraging and helpful on the court. DiPinto feels that playing is an opportunity to "make friendships and most of all, it's a FUN game." On the courts, one can often find couples playing doubles, a parent playing with his/her child, or a pair that met at the courts that day.

DiPinto made mention of the fact that Pickle N Par's owner, Tony Biancaniello, wants to expand the pickleball experience in Nassau and Suffolk County. In the meantime however, besides playing in Glen Head or Melville, a player can spend time on either indoor or outdoor courts in other Long Island towns like East Meadow, West Hempstead and North Merrick. The JCC in Roslyn even offers lessons. Additionally, once players become members at an indoor facility, they must be rated so that they can play with those on their level, whether during the competitive sessions or the social sessions that are offered.

It is clear that we will see more people playing pickleball in the next few years. There is even an International Federation of Pickleball and its "goal is to introduce pickleball to all nations so that they may embrace the sport as one of their national sports, and ultimately to achieve official recognition by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in order to establish pickleball as an Olympic sport" (usapickleball.org).

Overall, pickleball is here to stay and is a wonderful way to stay active and have fun.

A Long-Awaited And Well-Earned Victory For The Vikings' Varsity Football Team

By: Jessica Lillis

On November 27, 2021 North Shore High School's very own Varsity Football Team took the title of Long Island Champions of Conference Four for the first time ever. After Senior Quarterback Daniel Quigley ran for a touchdown against Shoreham-Wading River in the first quarter, junior kicker Michael Fleming kicked the field goal to make the score 7-0; then, for the rest of the game, North Shore's powerful defense was able to hold back Shoreham-Wading River the rest of the game. Coach Madigan, who has been coaching Varsity football for 12 years, said, "We had a good group of linebackers and a defensive front. Defensively we had a great game plan for Shoreham-Wading River that the kids bought in to and understood". The beginning of the season started off with an average record of 2-2. The team was able to use its losses against Cold Spring Harbor and Seaford as motivation throughout the rest of the season to push harder. Nick LaRosa, a starting junior on the team, stated "We didn't have the best start, but we faced adversity, overcame it and came together". And the team really did, ending the season with a 10-2 record.

After interviewing both players and coaches, it seems the team's ability to unite was really the secret to success. Mark Russo, a senior on the team said, "We always played together and constantly pushed each other during practice". While Coach Madigan confirmed, "I think they left their individual goals aside and decided to become a team, play for each other, trust each other; the selfishness and things like that left after we lost the two games in a row so they decided to buy in". This mentality led them to the championship game, where they were considered underdogs, enabling them to overcome the obstacles they faced. "We just

pounded the rock, did what we knew we could do, and won," said La Rosa.

When asked about bringing home the Long Island Championship title for the first time in history, Coach Madigan attributed the victory not only to the players, but also to the support from the community. "I think it's great for North Shore High School and I think it's great for everyone in the community, you know the backing from them and the alumni. This victory is not only for our team, but for everyone that's been involved". It is obvious how hard both the players and coaches worked for this well-deserved win that will no doubt go down in North Shore's history.

The Varsity team included Nicholas Livoti, Peter Liotta, Ryan Freund, Garret Gates, Richard Cook, Michael Fleming, Peter Laino, Ryan Camardella, Dylan Roth, Ryan Mannix, Nicholas La Rosa, Eric Mullen, Justin Rosen, Michael Granelli, Luke Potapov, Jack Molesky, Patrick Godfrey, Danny Sotiryadis, Matthew Laudisio, Athanasios Alafogiannis, Reece Ramos. Andrew Fabiilli, Maxim Mokhoff, Issac Bratter and Kelly Larkin. In addition, congratulations to Head Coach, Daniel Agovino, and Assistant Coaches, Craig DeNicola, Bill Madigan, PJ Como, and Scott Lineman.

Special shoutout to our senior Varsity players: Dylan Kunkel, Daniel Quigley, William Feldmann, David Berlin, Mark Russo, Edward Mullen, Anthony Santoro, Nicholas Caparella, Joseph Zuccarello, Andrew Noak, Michael McMahan, Leo Ponce, and Matthew Topol.

And finally, congratulations to Reece Ramos for making *Newsday's* All Long Island First Team and Head Coach Dan Agovino for being *Newsday's* Nassau Coach of the Year!



The Billions Being Spent Before The Lockout

By: Michael Ye

After the expiration of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between Major League Baseball (MLB) and the Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA) at 11:59 p.m. on December 1st, MLB experienced its first work stoppage in over 25 years. This puts the remainder of free agency at a halt, as players will now have to wait until the lockout is over to sign with teams. Nobody knows exactly when the lockout will end, but baseball fans have been given a treat prior to it being implemented, as this has been a busy off-season thus far with huge signings happening before the deadline. While there are still big-name players available on the market such as Carlos Correa, Trevor Story, Clayton Kershaw, Nicholas Castellanos, Kris Bryant, and Freddie Freeman, a good amount of the 2022 free agency class has already cashed in with mega-deals. With many teams on the rise after acquiring star talent, the landscape of MLB has drastically changed. Who are the winners of the off-season thus far and how do their rosters look heading into the 2022 MLB season?

The Texas Rangers last made the post-season in 2016 and haven't won 80 games in a

season since then. This past season, the team traded away its two best players in Joey Gallo and Kyle Gibson at the trade deadline, both of whom were All-Stars in 2021. While these moves indicated the team's plans of rebuilding at the time, it was not afraid to spend big money a few months later in free agency. The Rangers were able to solidify its middle infield for the foreseeable future by signing both Corey Seager and Marcus Semien to long-term deals. Seager, 27, was given a massive ten year \$325 million contract after coming off of another productive year offensively. In 95 games for the Dodgers in 2021, he had a slashline of .306 BA/.394 OBP/.521 SLG (.915 OPS) and an OPS+ of 145 (Baseball Reference). While injuries have always been a concern with Seager, when he is on the field, he has proven to be an elite shortstop. Semien, 31, was handed a seven year \$175 million contract after coming off of a bounce-back season in which he finished third in MVP voting. In 2021, he played all 162 games for the Blue Jays and had a slashline of .265 BA/.334 OBP/.538 SLG (.873 OPS) with 45 home runs and a 7.3 WAR (Baseball Reference). Not only is Semien one of

the best hitters in the league, but he also plays Gold Glove caliber defense with the versatility to play shortstop, second base, and third base at a high level. The Rangers still have many holes in its team and won't be a contender just yet, but the Seager and Semien additions certainly give its rebuild a boost with two franchise cornerstones.

Despite being one of the most improved teams during the last off-season, the New York Mets disappointed yet again in 2021, finishing with a record of 77-85. Things didn't look any better coming into the off-season, as starting pitchers Noah Syndergaard and Marcus Stroman were pending free agents. While both ended up signing with new teams, the Mets made bigger moves to compensate. They brought in one of the best pitchers in the league in Max Scherzer and added big pieces for the lineup in Starling Marte, Mark Canha, and Eduardo Escobar. Scherzer, 37, was given a three year \$130 million contract, making him the highest paid player in the league on an average annual value basis. In 179.1 IP for both the Nationals and Dodgers in 2021, the three time Cy Young winner posted a

2.46 ERA with a 0.864 WHIP and an ERA+ of 166. Scherzer will now be in the same rotation as Jacob deGrom, forming one of the best starting pitching duos in MLB history. Marte, 33, received a four year \$78 million contract after coming off of a career year with both the Marlins and Athletics. In 120 games in 2021, he had a slashline of .310 BA/.383 OBP/.458 SLG (.841 OPS) with an OPS+ of 132 and a league leading 47 stolen bases. Marte brings some much needed speed and ability to a Mets' lineup that underperformed last season. He's also been a solid defender at center field throughout his entire career. With these new acquisitions, the Mets now have a more balanced lineup and a better team overall. As of right now, the team will likely be competing next season with the 2021 World Series champion Atlanta Braves for the NL East title. The Mets' success will mostly depend on the health of its players.

This has been one of the stronger free agent classes with superstar talent available at almost every position. With the lockout, baseball fans have to wait to find out what their favorite team will do. Until the next CBA is reached, there is no baseball.