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*TheHighSchoolforthePerformingandVisualArtsNewspaper

Black History Month: A Reflection

by Grace Duncan

We are three days in and only now am I remembering my seventh-grade history class. I remember the one singular day, throughout the entirety of the school year, where the class learned about my black ancestors. There was no Martin Luther King Jr. or Rosa Parks or Malcolm X; only black-and-white scenes of American slavery printed out onto pieces of paper that we had to pass around the room.

I remember looking at a painting of a black man's back, saddled with whip scars, and the worksheet in my lap asking me to "interpret" what it meant. But most of all, I remember the eyes of my classmates who did not look like me gaping into my skin and, whether they meant to or not, seeing the slave in their own pictures. I remember plodding out of that cold gray classroom confused and unsatisfied and knowing in a sunken place that something was wrong, but not being able to explain what. And I looked down the hallway and harbored a bitter thought: that Black History Month was all fake.

The disingenuousness I felt was not the fault of Black History Month itself. I know now that even back in the other 20th century, Black History Month was fought for when it was only Negro History Week - the brainchild of Carter G. Woodson - and even back when it was finally recognized as a national holiday in 1976. Its principles cannot be argued with: of course Black excellence should be exalted. Of course

our culture should be celebrated. Of course the legacies of the Black heroes of the past should be preached to the Black heroes of the future.

But my feelings about Black History Month were not unfounded. The identical "I Have A Dream" quotes hovering on corporate Twitter pages, the T-shirts mimicking kente cloth burst from their tiny sections in department stores, and poster board history presentations in school- only for it all to be abandoned the moment the clock struck 12 on March 1st- didn't exactly sway this view. Black History Month was temporary. So when I was twelve and had lost my faith, I put Black History Month away. It was overshadowed by Valentines' Day anyway.

A lot has happened since seventh grade. A pandemic. Puberty. The murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery and other Black people ripped from this world set to the screech of police sirens and the pop of the white man's gun. The explosion of a movement that resulted from them; the 5:30 news

filled with thousands and thousands of protesters screaming to the earth itself that my life mattered.

It was a mistake not to expect much. I did not realize how much I had been deprived of my own being until I stepped into the building of HSPVA and saw myself everywhere. We are three days in and I remember Dreamgirls, all the characters flying about the Denney with all their glamour and glitter and with all their Blackness. No, they were not slaves; no, the stage did not make some kind of glory of them being beaten; and no, there were no whip scars on their backs. It was the first time I had seen so many people who looked like me and looked so pretty. I remember the dreamy car ride home, One Night Only pumping through my headphones, gushing to my mother about how the 2022 Black History Production was so good over the phone. I remember Dreamgirls had happened in February- the month that I had once found fake.

I remember looking out the window and harboring several thoughts, but all of them were reveling ones, giddy about the fact that I shared the same skin color as those on that stage. Even after March 1st, the beholding of Blackness continued: the mini-protest in the Commons; Koffee House and all its incessant hollering; writing poetry about my skin.

I have titled this article as a reflection but it is really a love letter- a love letter to this building and all the beautiful Black artists of past and present and future that have made it what it is today. It is my hope that these people are never underestimated; not a shred of doubt should be held in their abilities. I urge you to uplift the brilliant black artists between the walls of this school and beyond. I urge you to do this even after March 1st, even after the Twitter posts and kente cloth and poster board disappears. I urge you to appreciate them for being.



Totally Official Dating Advice

by Rafael Valdes

We’ve come to the end of cuffing season, and it is prime time for love being in the air and cupid shooting arrows or whatever corny stuff is on those Dollar Tree Valentine’s cards. Yet, for some odd reason, many of you failed to read my last article, Steps to Survive Cuffing Season, and are so miserable that you’ve resorted to sending your love life problems to your school newspaper... that is one new low I’ve never heard of... But alas! Fret not troubled ones; I shall aid the ones in need of help for this Valentine’s Day season.

“I love my partner but don’t want to date them in college. I don’t want to bring up breaking up too early because, honestly, I’m having a great time dating them now. How/when do I tell my partner I don’t want to do long-distance or date them in college?” - Senioritis Sally

Hmm, this is a tough one. Honestly, if you’re already thinking about breaking up with them in the near future, maybe you should break up with them now. I mean, imagine your significant other having a premeditated breakup for the past 5 months... that wouldn’t be so good. So if you’re already thinking of a future without them, why do you need them now?

“I’ve had a crush on my best friend for a year and still haven’t told him. We’re always honest with each other, so it’s really hard to not tell him. I don’t want to ruin the friendship, but I also don’t want to hold it in anymore and give us a chance. I’m obsessed with planning and have been trying to plan what to do for six months straight. What should I do? Because if I mess it up, I feel like we’ll never be the same again.” - I don’t have one

First, some points off for not being creative enough to fill out the anonymous name section on the google form... Second, girl, I promise it’s not that deep. You’re in high school, and you’re not gonna see these people for a very long time once you graduate. Be crazy. Live your life. If you’re a wimp right now, all you’ll remember is “the one who got away” or whatever Taylor Swift said... I don’t know, besides the point.

Also, people can move on. If he genuinely gets hindered by you having feelings for him, maybe he was not the one anyway.

“I like someone I haven’t spoken to since 6th grade because of COVID, and I still have yet to speak to him. My friend asked him if he remembered me, and he said he thinks so. I don’t know how to talk to him, but something we have in

common is that we have the same taste in music for the most part (I only know because his Spotify is linked on his Instagram).” - Spotify Stalker

It is a dead giveaway that this person is clearly a freshman, so my only advice is: please just be normal. Like... Just. Talk. To. Him. Like. A. Normal. Person. This is mildly concerning that you need some stranger to tell you this, and I already mentioned in my last article to talk to people in real life, so please leave his Spotify alone and have a conversation with him.

“My love life problem is that there is no love life. Ain’t seeing nobody, phone dry, and I can never make more than friends. Someone needs to get on that quickly because what am I doing out here single? It’s a borderline travesty!” - Romantic Rae

This is just a you problem- like maybe if you didn’t say “borderline travesty,” you’d pull, but... Maybe let’s work on ourselves a little longer and then try reentering the dating scene... Bro’s got borderline medieval rizzedry out here...

“I choose the worst guys, but I should know better because they have literally so many red flags YET I KEEP GOING BACK. Plus, my friends always warn me about them, and I don’t listen.” - Big Booty Belle

Okay, Big Booty Belle, I’m sorry to break this to you, but... this is also a you problem. Your friends have been trying to tell you about these guys, and I’m sure they’re really tired of watching you ignore what they’re saying and seeing you get hurt over and over again. I know he seems like he might be the one after the 23rd guy. Unfortunately, I’m gonna have to break the news to you and let you know that he doesn’t wash his feet in the shower, and he is not the one. You’re in high school. Do not pick boys over your friends, and learn to appreciate the people around you.

“Hello, my cupid Raf. I’ve liked this guy off and on for too long to admit. Usually, it’s just a passing crush, and I push through it, but this time is different. I really, really like him, but I flip-flop on whether or not I would want to date him truly. He’s a really great guy, and I care about him. I don’t even know if he likes me back and what would happen if we dated? What would happen with college? I feel like I’m stuck like a rock and a hard place. I wouldn’t forgive myself if I ruined our friendship, but I always think about how good a relationship could be. Help!” - Crushing Camille

Thank you for addressing me by my name, Ms. Camille. For that, I shall put your distraught worries to rest.

The advice I have to give is this: now will always be a perfect time. As I said, you’re in high school. This is the prime time to be stupid and do crazy things, like tell a boy how you actually feel about him. The great thing about this situation is that he will be off to college either way, so even if things get ruined, you only have 4-5 more months, and then boom, he doesn’t exist anymore. With the problem of dating him during college, I mean, yeah, it’s gonna be pretty hard, and you both are guaranteed to be busy. However, you never know until you try. Just #YOLO and do whatever you want. Don’t be a loser and be sad that you never tried; we do not exemplify loser behavior around here. Just be cray cray, and live your best truth.



And that wraps my Totally Official Dating Advice segment in this edition. Thank you to everyone who submitted their problems for me to be nosy and never respond to them! And thanks to the brave people with no shame who are being posted in their school newspaper that will forever be kept at HSPVA! Your poor dating life will be making PVA history!

A Brief History of Galentine’s Day

Galentine’s Day is a holiday that celebrates female friendship, regardless if one is in a romantic relationship, an “it’s complicated” situation, or just relishes the single life.

The holiday started in 2010 on Parks and Recreation, where character Leslie Knope gathers her gal-pals on February 13th for breakfast and expresses her gratitude for them. Leslie even

showers her friends with homemade gifts: crocheted flower pens, personalized mosaic portraits from soda cans, and heartfelt 5000-word essays.

The fictional event has since been popularized in America. For example, in Houston, there is a pop-up market at the Black Page Brewing Co., a gala at Post Oak Hotel, and a floral design

by Izzy Issakhan

workshop and social at Headquarters (to name a few) which celebrate the now well-known Galentine’s Day.

The Eve of Valentine’s Day is a day to recognize the significance of female friendships. It’s a time for festivity, frittatas, and feminine strength, and will be for many years to come.



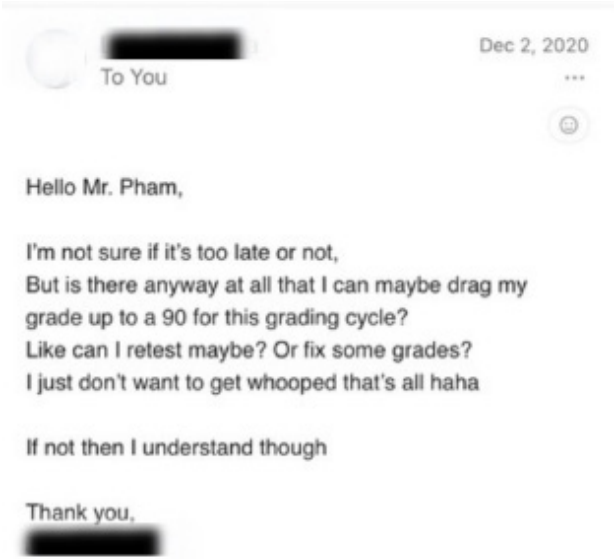
The Phamomenon

by Quentin Pham

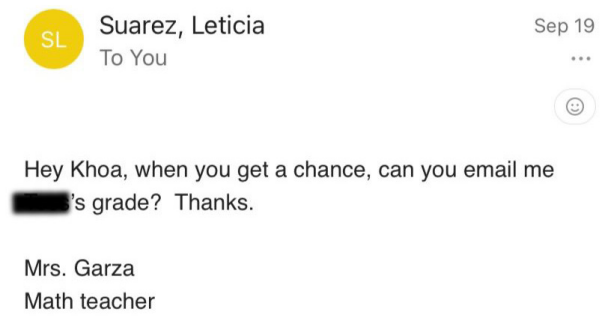
Names can get confusing. And as someone who’s last name is shared with more than 1,500 people, I was destined to come upon another individual whose last name was also Pham. Little did I know that individual would be an ac-claimed math teacher at my school.

Having the same last name as a teacher at your school may not seem like a New York Times-worthy article, but bear with me. Thanks to HISD technology, you’re able to search up any HISD teacher in Outlook email just by typing their last name. However, if you don’t know their first name, a problem arises. An email to Assistant Principal Perez could end up being an email to a random student at DeBakey High School who also happens to have the name Perez. Or in my case, an email to math teacher Mr. Pham could end up going to me, Quentin Pham, a senior at Kinder HSPVA.

It started off harmless. Shortly after Mr. Pham became a teacher at our school, I would re-ceive occasional emails from his students. Things like “Please bump my grade up to a B” and “Here’s the homework assignment” —the normal things we email our teachers for.

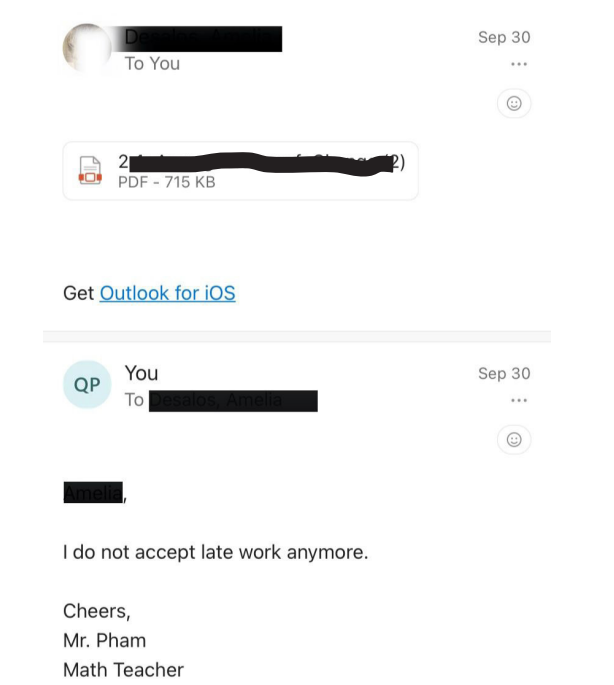


And it wasn’t just students; teachers would also fall into the trap.

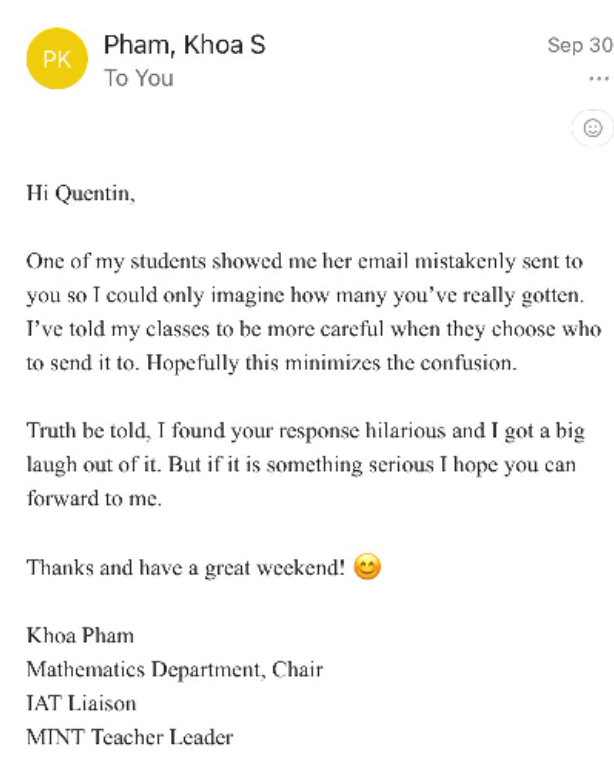


It got to a point where I got so many student emails, I essentially knew Mr. Pham’s curricu-lum. The mistaken emails even got sent the other way around; I realized this when Mr. Pham began forwarding me NHS hour emails that were accidentally sent to him.

Eventually, it got to a point where I decided that if I got another student email, I’d respond back as if I was Mr. Pham the math teacher. I mean, these people had to learn the importance of double-checking who they’re emailing. So, when one of Mr. Pham’s students emailed me a PDF of their homework assignment, I made sure they learned their lesson.



This, however, did not end well when Mr. Pham found out:



The moral of the story is please ensure you know who you’re sending things to when you send things. Double or even triple check be-cause one day, someone might not be as nice as me and could share something really per-sonal with the whole internet. I will say that after reading all those desperate, repetitive, semi-professional student emails, being a teacher may not be for me.

All emails have been used with permission.



A Comprehensive List of In’s and Out’s

by Kate-Yeonjae Jeong and Dillon Hillard

It might feel like there are so many things going on to the point it’s giving you whiplash, but fear not: we can help you out. Introducing our list of what’s in and what’s out- without context, because, frankly, there’s none needed. Also: our words are final, so don’t come finding us to negotiate.

What’s In:

- The Oxford comma
- Rock climbing
- Self-help podcasts
- Collecting something (i.e., coins, rocks, lint)
- Gerber Baby Snacks Puffs
- Having a Goodreads account
- Netflix’s Love Island Reality Show
- Having a sleep schedule
- Handwriting your letters
- Drinking tea
- Being bilingual
- Knowing how to format your emails

- Funky and/or fuzzy socks
- Donations (on both receiving and giving ends)
- Dying your hair red
- Actually going to movie theaters
- Art museums
- Calling your grandparents
- Obscure emojis
- Headphones
- Chipotle bowls
- Senioritis

What’s Out:

- Typing in only lowercase
- Snapchat
- Fast fashion

- Blaming things on zodiac signs
- Canvas (we’d rather the Hub...)
- The word “slay”
- Microsoft Word
- Not knowing the difference between your and you’re
- Social experiments
- CashApp
- Saying “bless you” consecutively after each-sneeze
- TicketMaster
- Apple Maps
- The uterus art piece on the fourth floor
- PVA Confessions
- BeReal
- Meetings that could have been emails
- DJ Fridays
- Letting your inbox mount up
- Hotdogs

Your Character in The Wiz, Based on Your Zodiac Sign

Aries - Aunty Em

Feisty and temperamental, easily bored and impulsive. You let your daredevil attitude get the best of you and say things without thinking. A natural leader overflowing with strength, your steely drive will send anyone running to Oz.

Taurus - First Mouse of Mice Squad

Stubborn and determined, small and sense based, don't underestimate the power of this little critter! If you break the law, expect an adorable invasion of privacy.

Gemini - A Munchkin

Like the Munchkins, Geminis are everywhere, it seems. Playful and erratic, Munchkins aren't afraid of a little fun. Productive and itching to get their hands busy, Geminis make the cutest little minions Oz can offer.

Cancer - The Tin Man

You have a heart of gold, bronze, and steel. You are compassionate and sensitive, and strive to put others before yourself. There's nothing you wouldn't do for your Dorothy, and there is a little Dorothy in everyone you meet.

Leo - The Wiz

Leos, the life of the party! Except the party is all in their heads and nobody came. The Wiz worries about appearances and maintaining adoration among their subjects, though it may not all

by Andrew Hernadez, the Rizz-ard of Oz

be as it seems.

Virgo - Scarecrow

The Scarecrow, despite missing a heart, is the most logical out of the group, and approaches all situations with strategy first and foremost. Virgos are connected to the goddess of wheat and agriculture, much like the Scarecrow is connected to the vines and crows of Oz.

Libra - Emerald City Citizen

So conflicted and so afraid of committing! There's so many brick roads to take and only one of them contains the truth. Will you put your heart in the hands of another wizard, or follow your own road home?

Scorpio - Evillene

Dark and brooding, mysterious and edgy, complicated and complicated again. People don't quite get you, and you love it. You revel in the shadows and you shut your curtains when the sun shines. Despite being a water sign, I recommend avoiding buckets of water in this context.

Sagittarius - Addaperle

Honesty and zero modesty. Bold and beautiful, Addaperle dazzles and sugarcoats nothing. Her magic makes the Munchkins stare in awe, but her sister Evvamene would say otherwise. Controversy is Sagittarius's specialty!

Capricorn - Gatekeeper

Strong and resolute, stickler for rules and order. Gatekeepers and girlbosses, Capricorns are responsible and afraid of chaos. They protect their peace and defend their space.

Aquarius - Glinda

Creative and delicate, Glinda knows and sees all. She reveals and restores, like the healing waters of Aquarius. Esoteric and free, liberated and kind, Glinda provides and serves it with a smile.

Pisces - Dorothy

The most absorbent sign, Pisces comes last. A culmination of all the lives lived through the other signs, Pisces represents the boundary between the real and fake, the realm of dreams and consciousness. Dorothy experiences all three of her friend's journeys, as well as her own. She comes out of Oz as the most grown and matured character in the show, ready to take on anything the real world throws at her.



The Care and Keeping of Your Spring-Semester Senior

by Katie Randall

So your best friend is a senior. It's their very last semester of high school! Go them! But of course, where are they going next? What are they majoring in? What do they want to do with the entire rest of their lives?

These questions are normal to want to ask. However, they may not be the best way to take care of your senior (or seniors! Start a collection!). I'm here to dispel the myths and help you keep your senior(s) as healthy as you can.

1. Water your senior(s) daily. With love, affection, tea, coffee... figure it out. Everything is good.

2. Avoid questions about where they're going next unless their eyes have a glimmer of competent functioning. I recommend allowing your senior(s) to approach you with college information, to reduce the risk of spooking them.

(Maybe try a vaguer "How's it going?" and see where the conversation leads.)

3. Nutrition is always important. Don't keep snacks on you that you aren't willing to give up. I recommend offering them voluntarily.

4. Don't ask them to take you to prom. Have some decorum.

5. If you're a junior who's beginning to think about college, awesome! Epic! Yay planning ahead! The seniors are sick and tired of thinking about college. They are not the people to have in or around these conversations.

6. If you really want to ask them a college question, make sure they have the space to answer it. Or schedule a time in advance! Lots of seniors will help you out if they have the brainspace for it.



7. Go to senior shows!! Show them some love for all the hard work they've done!!

And now, armed with your newfound knowledge, you are ready to take the best care of your senior(s). Happy spring semester!

A huge thank you to the Dance Department for their generous contribution of funding this issue! We love you guys!

If you're reading this, thank a dancer!

Make Every Day A Flex Day

Every student attending this school appreciates flex days. Extended lunch periods to finish classwork or socialize with friends; what’s not to like? I’m sure we’ve all wondered why every day isn’t a flex day, too. But is it even possible at HSPVA?

According to the HISD Attendance Policy, “A student must be in attendance for at least...four hours to be considered present for one full day. These time limits refer to instructional time, not including lunch, homeroom, [or] passing periods.” Most students at HSPVA have 5 classes dedicated to academics and 4 to the arts, averaging 3 hours and 45 minutes of academic instruction and 3 hours of arts daily. On flex days, we are given 3.5 hours of academic instruction and 2 hours and 50 minutes of art. From 7:50 AM to 3:30 PM, we spend 460 minutes at school. 380 of those minutes on a flex day are

put towards our classes, so we are meeting the 4-hour instruction rule. This allows the remaining 80 minutes to be put towards passing periods and a 55-minute lunch.

However, one could argue that our art areas don’t count as instructional time since they’re electives. Furthermore, study halls are included under the category of “instructional periods,” so there is no reason art shouldn’t be, too. In addition, other high schools incorporate art classes, P.E., and electives in the places where we have our art areas, so HSPVA is receiving

by Catie Gieson

the same amount of time towards academics as them.

Since we are meeting the curriculum requirements, flex days are technically possible every day. Why isn’t that the case? How important are the last 5 minutes of class time? I asked around, and every student I talked to said that the last 5 minutes of class were never spent learning new material, so there would be little harm in replacing it with an extended lunch that could be used by many students as a study hall. Almost everyone I know has used the second half of flex day lunches to be productive through tutorials, studying, or getting some homework done early. Making every day a flex day would benefit every student’s well-being and should be implemented into the school schedule.

Zech (Unknowingly) Rates Romcoms

Zech* doesn’t have the passion that I do for Rom Coms. By that I mean that he doesn’t watch *13 Going on 30* every year on his birthday for sentimental value, he can’t quote *Mean Girls* word for word, or find a way to reference *Clueless* in any given situation. In fact, before we started dating officially, I generously gifted him with a list of eighty-five Rom Coms I thought he should watch (before the making of this article he had watched two). However, in true Rom Com style, I thought it would be best to make a grand gesture this Valentine’s Day and simultaneously give him an idea of the chivalrous expectations he is up against.

To make this a surprise, I told him I needed to watch these movies with him for a Psychology project on human behavior and will be using his facial expressions and personal commentary to give each movie a rating.

Clueless
Rating: 5/5
To kick things off, I wanted to start with a classic. This romcom, based on the Jane Austen novel *Emma*, follows a shopaholic Beverly Hills high school girl and step brother Josh who taunts her for being too self absorbed. In an attempt to prove him wrong, she devotes herself to various random acts of kindness with unfavorable outcomes. Through these endeavors, she strengthens her existing relationships and discovers her feelings for Josh.

As someone with step siblings, Zech wants to make it clear that he thought the relationship between Josh and Cher was borderline incest but had a nice development nonetheless. He also thought the movie should have leaned more into its campy and over the top tendencies.

10 Things I Hate About You
Rating: 4.5/5
10 Things I Hate About You is another classic rom-com about two sisters, Kat and Bianca, who’s overprotective father will only allow Bianca to date if Kat does. The catch is, Kat Stratford (Julia Stiles) is an antisocial nonconformist who seemingly no one will go out with. Thus Patrick Verona (Heath Ledger), an outcast rebel, is paid to take her on a date by a jock trying to take her sister to the prom. Zech thought the ending to this rom com was satisfying and even though I warned him that the script was poorly written, he thought it added to the charm of the movie. Overall, he supports this couple. However, he thinks that Julia Stiles and Heath Ledger look too much alike to be a couple in the real world and it “weirds him out”.

Princess Diaries
Rating: 5/5
Mia Thermopolis (Anne Hathaway), is an ordinary klutzy 15 year old girl until one day her grandmother makes a visit and tells her that since her father’s death, she is to become a princess. As Mia struggles to balance her teenage life and royal life, she shares a budding romance with her best friend’s brother, Michael (Robert Schwartzmann).

When I suggested watching this movie, Zech asked if it would be anything like the diaries of Anne Frank. While in my opinion, the second movie is even better than the first, we did not have time, given the length of this article. Zech thought this was a very entertaining movie (even though he didn’t understand why anyone would want M&Ms on their pizza). Below is a picture of Zech after he found out he couldn’t be a princess (he is crying).



by Lucia Maynard

The Kissing Booth
Rating: 0/5
I think this movie speaks for itself. Elle Evans (Joey King) and her best friend Lee Flynn (Joel Courtney) use the Kissing Booth as a way to raise money for the school. However, it also brings Lee’s brother Noah Flynn and Elle together- and Elle ultimately has to choose between her best friend and her boyfriend. Zech hated this movie immediately. The only part of this movie that made me laugh was watching Zech’s confused expressions at the poorly written script.

13 Going on 30
Rating: 5/5
This is my favorite rom com of all time. Jenna Rink (Jennifer Garner), tired of being an awkward 13 year old girl and wants more than anything to be popular. Her geeky boy-next-door best friend Matt (Mark Ruffalo) gifts her with a dream house for her thirteenth birthday and wishing dust to go along with it. Jenna wishes to be thirty, flirty, and thriving like the women she sees in the magazines.

Zech’s sinister theory is that the wishing dust was actually a very strong hallucinogenic drug that Matt planned all along. Zech revealed that he watches people getting cheated on to make himself sad. He continued that he did not approve of Matt cheating on his fiancée with Jenna because there was “nothing wrong with her”. Obviously, I explained to him that in rom coms, cheating is commonplace and that the “sweet guy” is only a sweet guy for the right girl. Regardless, the best part of watching this movie with Zech was hearing him try to figure out the melody to the 80s soundtrack on his recorder and overall I think he found it entertaining.



If you see Zech please congratulate him on his feature in paper and on his amazing, lovable, drop dead gorgeous, hilarious, talented, intelligent, generous, perfect girlfriend!

paperviews*

*in case you care what we think

ENTERTAINMENT

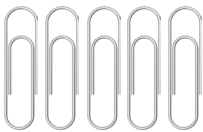
Andor

by Erick Arakelian

As a die-hard *Star Wars* fan, I was ecstatic to hear that we were getting a prequel show based on a secondary character in a spin-off *Star Wars* movie. How could I not be? However, I’ve learned that part of being a *Star Wars* fan is embracing the often mediocre content that we’ve seen recently. You can only imagine my surprise when *Andor* turned out to be not only one of the greatest *Star Wars* properties ever but one of the best shows of the year. *Andor* is simply amazing.

The show follows Cassian Andor and his struggle to survive under the galactic-sized military dictatorship that is the empire. It seems generic, but the sheer amount of passion put into this project is hard to miss. *Andor*, a show nobody asked for, somehow manages to blow properties such as *Kenobi* and *The Bad Batch* out of the water with its writing, characters, phenomenal soundtrack, and some of the best pacing I’ve seen from any project, *Star Wars* or not.

Andor provides a completely new, mature take on a universe that often feels stagnant and genre-bound. It doesn’t feel like your normal



Star Wars. Throughout all twelve episodes, there’s never mention of lightsabers or Jedi. Instead, *Andor* thrives in its lack of importance to the overall *Star Wars* universe. No longer focusing on Jedi or bounty hunters, it examines the average people affected by their decisions. Through its portrayal of fascism and its scarily realistic politics, *Andor* manages to be deeply profound and even disturbing at times.

Moreover, the characters are some of the most intriguing we have ever seen. *Andor* chooses not to rely on cameos and fan favorites, having almost none (sorry, Saw Gerrera). Standout performances come from Stellan Skarsgård, who you may know as Bill in *Mamma Mia*, and Diego Luna, who has already received an Emmy nomination for his performance.

Andor can be a slow burn, but it all pays off in the show’s standout exciting and emotional episodes. This may be blasphemous, but I truly think that *Andor* is the best piece of *Star Wars* media we have ever received, going miles above many of the recent shows (looking at you, *Book of Boba Fett*). Plus, it features one of

paperviews* Ratings
Valentines Edition

Getting a bundle of roses from the Cupid paperboys*

Going to the Valentine’s Day Happening!!

Buying all the Valentine’s candies for yourself

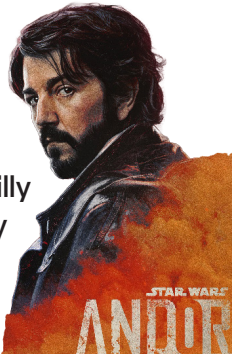
Being sick of all the love songs everywhere

Spending another year alone...

the cutest droids in cinema.

Andor is everything that *Star Wars* should be, and it has set the bar for all future content. I cannot stress enough how much you should watch this show. *Star Wars* fan or not, it is a masterfully crafted piece of anti-fascist art that transcends the label of the “silly *Star Wars* show” that so many people see it as.

(P.S. Don’t miss the post-credits scene. It’s worth it.)



Avatar: the Way of Water

by Baydinh Do

I’m not the type of person who usually dedicates time to films, especially for the longer ones. But this sequel, to me, was extraordinary. James Cameron, the director of the film (who has also directed many other movie hits such as “The Terminator”), truly showcases the hardships of a family relationship while showing its unbreakable strengths. What keeps the movie going is the tension between the Navi (the Avatar species) and the humans. Now that may seem obvious, but for a 3-hour long movie, it can be difficult to hold the viewer for that long. But Cameron knows how to create and stack conflict(s) to push the viewers to the edge of their seats.

Now for my thoughts on the design and acting. The first film, “Avatar”, introduces a beautiful landscape, already setting the scenery bar high for upcoming films, but the design for “the Way of Water” takes the bar and shoots it to Pluto. The water, the beaches, the sea life and (very) interesting creatures, the different species of Navi, shows a level of creativity that leaves you breathless. For the acting...I say it was great. Actress Zoe Saldana brings back her strong emotion, facial expression, and strength for her female character. In my opinion, without her, the film would have been different (trust me, I don’t have a crush). I will say, Cameron knows how to kill someone and have everyone crying.

The addition of children to the series allows the audience to relate more to the film, adding the innocence that comes with youth as well as the need for knowledge. But children can count as targets (I won’t spoil any further).

Would I say this movie is a must watch? Well, it depends. If you were a fan of the first film, I definitely encourage you to indulge in its sequel. If you are a fan of intense fighting scenes, a good storyline and lore, then this film is perfect for you.

But I will tell you, this film has got me wanting more, and excited for the rest of the series.



them feel relatable with the whole “being an outcast in society,” but there is nowhere in this film where I felt bad for them. They are literally cannibals. I’m not sure when I’m supposed to be like, “awww they’re so cute!” when all they did in this film was eat people or trauma dump about eating people... I wish they had a connection with each other based on not only their odd eating habits but also something human, so the audience could actually relate and feel for these characters.

Unless you like super boring road trip movies and watching Timothee Chalamet’s face for a really long time, this movie isn’t for you!

Bones and All

by Rafael Valdes

I was expecting a lot from this movie, having heard good reviews and liking the people behind and in front of the camera. However, the film felt like hours had gone by when only thirty minutes had passed.



Luca Guadagnino’s film *Bones and All* follows a young girl named Maren Yearly (Taylor Russell), who is a cannibal, as she tries to navigate her way through the world with her “quirk.” In

the first ten minutes of the movie, she eats her friend’s finger right off.... Delish! She meets a guy around her age named Lee, played by Timothee Chalamet, and they travel to find her mother to explain why Maren craves human flesh, and she eventually falls in love with him.

Luca Guadagnino tries to combine horror and romance into a movie, which unfortunately doesn’t work. These characters are so painfully shallow that you spend the entire ice-age-long movie trying to find something about them other than that they’re cannibals and did some pretty weird cannibal crap. The film is clearly trying to humanize these characters and make

M3GAN

by Cassie Cardenas

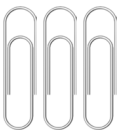
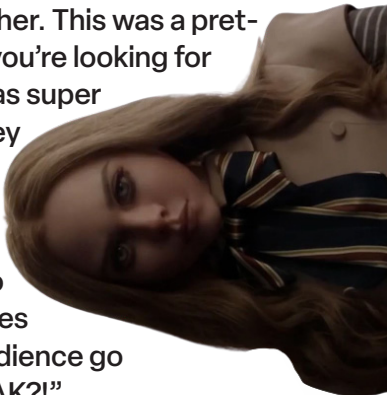
Gaslight, Gatekeep, GrrlBOT.

This movie was so obviously facetious. From the futuristic programming to the take on AI’s effect on society, this film takes Techno-Horror to a whole other level. *M3GAN* reminded me of a *Black Mirror* episode because of its theme of humanity’s dependency on social media, cell phones, the internet, and other forms of multimedia technology. We begin this film with robotic engineer Gemma (Allison Williams from *Get Out*) losing her sister in a car explosion, leaving her to take custody of her niece. Gem-

ma doesn’t seem to be grieving throughout the whole movie, and it’s unclear whether or not she was close to her sister, making the whole situation seem even more artificial.

Gemma doesn’t know how to cope with her niece’s emotions, and besides, she’s too busy creating a computerized lifelike doll, also known as the “Model 3 Generative Android” (M3GAN). Gemma eventually gives the doll to her niece, instructing M3GAN to never let her niece cross harm’s path. The movie takes a turn when M3GAN takes this instruction literally,

killing countless people and a dog while using her wicked dance moves to distract anyone that tries to stop her. This was a pretty good movie if you’re looking for a quick laugh. I was super excited to see they added a Soulwax Remix to the soundtrack and that weird flare to some of the scenes that made the audience go “WHAT THE FREAK?!”



Pinocchio

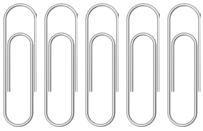
by Brian Oliveira

After Pauly Shore’s yassified Pinocchio and Disney’s soulless live-action remake, 2022 finally got a great Pinocchio adaptation, courtesy of visionary director Guillermo del Toro. This film was in development for over a decade, and it’s clear del Toro and the entire crew put their heart and soul into it. Pinocchio’s



stop-motion animation is gorgeous, bringing so much warmth and life to the story while also conveying the slightly darker and more gothic atmosphere del Toro aimed to create.

The movie would be worth a watch for the stunning animation alone, but it doesn’t stop there. The story is moving and mature, delving deep into themes of grief, mortality, and what it means to be human in a way few other adap-



tations of the source material have achieved. It also manages to subvert the traditional Pinocchio narrative in a way that enhances the story without being incredibly on-the-nose about how different it is (a lesson many modern remakes and retellings need to learn). Overall, this film radiates artistic passion and wonder, and I highly recommend it.

MUSIC

Frida’s Rhythm and Beats

by Frida Ruiz Berman

February—the month unabashedly dedicated to slacking off on New Year’s resolutions, celebrating Black history, and, of course, everything love. Whether you’re looking for music to add to a CD for your honey bun or just to expand your taste, paper* has your back this wintry, romantic month.

“Let’s Stay Together” / “How Can You Mend A Broken Heart” - Al Green

“Let’s Stay Together” by Al Green is a quintessential February song. This song is unbeatable feel-good R&B and takes the cake as one of my personal favorites of all time. However, in this month of all things couple, many of us are prone to getting the blues. As a partner song, I recommend “How Can You Mend a Broken Heart,” where Al Green nurses all those broken hearted with the comfort that they are not alone. Al Green is a seminal figure in the American Soul scene, and his music will forever be adored by millions everywhere.

“Things To You” - Skeeter Davis

Skeeter Davis! After her seminal hit “The End of The World” in the 1950s, it seemed like she had fallen off the surface of the earth—but no! She returned in 86 with this amazing Fleetwood-Mac style song, “Things To You.” Breezy, sweet, and incredibly easy to listen to, “Things To You” feels like the air as it begins to get just a little bit warmer during the February craze.

“Cien Años” - Pedro Infante

The next artist perfect for this February is none other than Pedro Infante, the king of Mexican Golden Age Cinema. This song owns my entire existence. Another romance ballad filled with pure charm and feeling, “Cien Años” vividly tells the story of someone aching over loving someone who has completely forgotten them. Arranged in a classic ranchero style, “Cien Años” is performed in such a way that it capti-

vates non-Spanish and Spanish speakers alike with its composition and message.

“Rock With You” - Michael Jackson

Alas, we have arrived at the month of pure passion pop - Michael Jackson! Despite his hairy past, the ‘King of Pop’ delivered like his bills were due in this album. “Rock With You,” the second song in his seminal 1979 album *Off the Wall* is incredibly contagious. Jackson’s first studio album has the excitement of freshness and greatness to come. With its pop and funk influences, it has a gleeful energy and feels purely danceable. This song is perfect for February cruising or just spinning while your special someone comes over for a night together to rock with you...

“Where or When” - Benny Goodman

If there’s any month for throwback 1930s ballads full of hazy ambiance and charm, it’s this one. In “Where Or When,” Benny Goodman paints a vivid picture of a scene of *deja vu*. Benny Goodman’s interpretation of the melody at the beginning of the song sets the scene, and the vibraphone fills throughout the song really sells the dream-like atmosphere. This song creates the same atmosphere that sells February as a month of wonders and close-knit adoration.

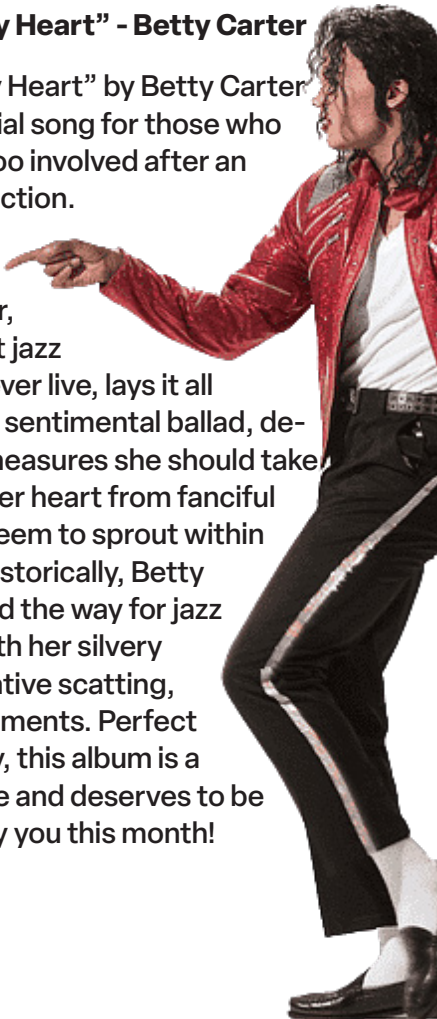
“Suffering With The Blues” - James Brown
James Brown was one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. Through his influence on Funk music and his incredible presence

in the 20th century, James Brown remains eternal. His single “Suffering With the Blues” was released in 1968 and remains just as poignant. With its subtle horn section, organ opening, and guitar arrangements, it gains its impact by backing up Brown’s expressive voice. Yet another single which speaks to the brokenhearted this month, “Suffering With The Blues” is a perfect song for your playlist.

“Beware My Heart” - Betty Carter

“Beware My Heart” by Betty Carter is an essential song for those who get a little too involved after an initial connection.

Betty Carter, the greatest jazz vocalist to ever live, lays it all down in this sentimental ballad, detailing the measures she should take to protect her heart from fanciful ideas that seem to sprout within her head. Historically, Betty Carter paved the way for jazz vocalists with her silvery tone, innovative scatting, and arrangements. Perfect for February, this album is a masterpiece and deserves to be streamed by you this month!



How To Lose A PVA Kid in 10 Days

by Camryn Dallas and Andrew Hernandez, the Rizz-ard of Oz

You’ve heard of the critically acclaimed, award winning, life altering romcom, *How to Lose a Guy in 10 days*. In the Valentine’s Day spirit, we present to you: **How to lose a PVA Kid in 10 days: A complex and In-Depth 10 Step Guide to Get Rid of That Pesky PVA Kid.”**

1. Assert yourself as center of the universe. We are all here to learn and grow as artists and people. There is nothing worse than a person who has a god complex and thinks that they know everything. We all get it, people love you. Stand taller than others and talk about how much everyone loves you. I swear, no PVA kid will EVER want to be around you.

2. Distract them from work during flex lunch. Though we love this school, academics feel like they’re often pushed to the side to make room for our art or friends. That’s why flex lunches are so important. It’s designated time to sit and get all that geometry work done. But when your significant someone doesn’t understand and whines about you leaving them to finish an assignment, that’s it. No second chances. This person needs to be OUT!

3. Chew with your mouth open. Someone chewed with their mouth open around us once. It’s been three months. Not one word has been exchanged between us since then. Heed our warning, chew with your mouth open and get your knee broken.



4. Cut people in line at the school store. Picture this: you’re waiting in the agonizingly long line to get yourself a sesame seed bagel and a pack of fruit snacks. You’ve almost made it to the front. You can taste the sweet artificial flavor in your mouth and can’t wait to go back to your friends when someone... steps in front of you in line. They could be the most talented person in the world but at that moment, they’re the scum of the earth and all our respect goes right out the 5th floor window.

5. Fish for compliments. Ask a PVA kid if you’re ugly with a cute little pout and the urge to say “yes you are” will overpower their body. They’ll start to shake and convulse. They’ll start foaming at the mouth. Their feet will rise off the ground, and they’ll levitate off to space, never to be seen again.

6. Sit in the middle of the hallway. Since we don’t have a lunchroom here, people tend to sit right in the middle of the halls to eat. We warn you though... DON’T DO THIS! The embarrassment of being known as “the person dating that really annoying roadblock” is enough to send a PVA kid into a coma! If you stop people from getting somewhere on time, or even worse, block them from entering a room, you deserve to be stepped on over and over and over again by the stampede of people speeding down the halls.

7. Get hit by a ping pong ball from the ping pong club. Walking past the Ping Pong Club during a match is the most terrifying, daring thing you could ever do at this school. With that being said, the feeling of pure shame when you are inevitably hit by a ball is life ending. Your social standing will crumble, your skin will break out, your knee will be fractured in three places and your PVA Valentine will have so much second hand embarrassment that they will have no choice but to dematerialize into thin air.

8. Insult the performers at the Happenings. The performers at the Happenings are talented people who have put everything into these performances. Debbie Downers are the biggest cold sores in the audience. Nobody wants to attend a show with someone who doesn’t appreciate fun when they see it. Happenings are a staple of PVA culture and if you’re not with someone that wants to leave their pretentiousness at the door, maybe you should walk out that door first.

9. Don’t participate in spirit weeks. Imagine this. You’re with the smartest and prettiest person you could find, a Greek god in the simplest terms. They have it all, good grades, wonderful art and friends in the millions. But there’s a catch, this person hates Silly Sock Day! See how that person went from Hero to Zero? It’s that simple! Wear your silly socks, and wear them with pride!

10. Wear shoes with no socks. Ultimately, this is all it takes. If you choose to live this life, more power to you. This is something nobody can bring you back from.

Good luck soldier, may that nauseating PVA kid never think of you again.

HSPVA Survival Series: Valentine’s Day

How to Deal with Rejection:

Be prepared to be rejected. Although believing in yourself is always good, it’s also good to be realistic. Rejection is always possible, so brace yourself for the disappointment or sadness that might come from rejection. Preparing for failure will make it easier to cope with if it does (hopefully not) happen.

Hang out with friends. Move your mind off of your crush and onto your friendships. Your friends are (should) always be there to support you, so go to them after your rejection. It’ll help you move on from your temporary crush and onto your much longer-lasting friendships.

Binge your favorite pastime. One of the most effective (albeit less healthy) coping mechanisms is returning to your comfort zone. Rather than emotional eating, though, try marathon-watching your favorite show, cooking a feast,

or playing a sport. Still, the tub of ice cream is always an option...

Turn it into art. Make your sorrows into a sappy love sonnet, a sad-girl drawing, a depressing sonata, etc. Perfect if you want to be productive but also cope with your feelings.

Buying Valentine’s Day Candies:

Buy them a year before. Most grocery stores have post-Valentine’s-Day sales since they’re trying to get rid of their themed candy, so snag the candy then. Most sweets (except Chocolate Hearts) will last well over a year.

Use Costco for bulk. If you have a Costco membership, you know that Costco has amazing prices for many products. If you’re buying candies for a class or a friend group, get them from Costco.

by Chloe Cheuk

Don’t buy online if you’re in a time crunch. Online shopping can be unreliable, with many delays and hit-or-miss quality. Just purchasing the candy from a local store (although more time-consuming than buying candy online) is a surefire way to get your candy on time.

‘PVA Valentine’s Day Culture:

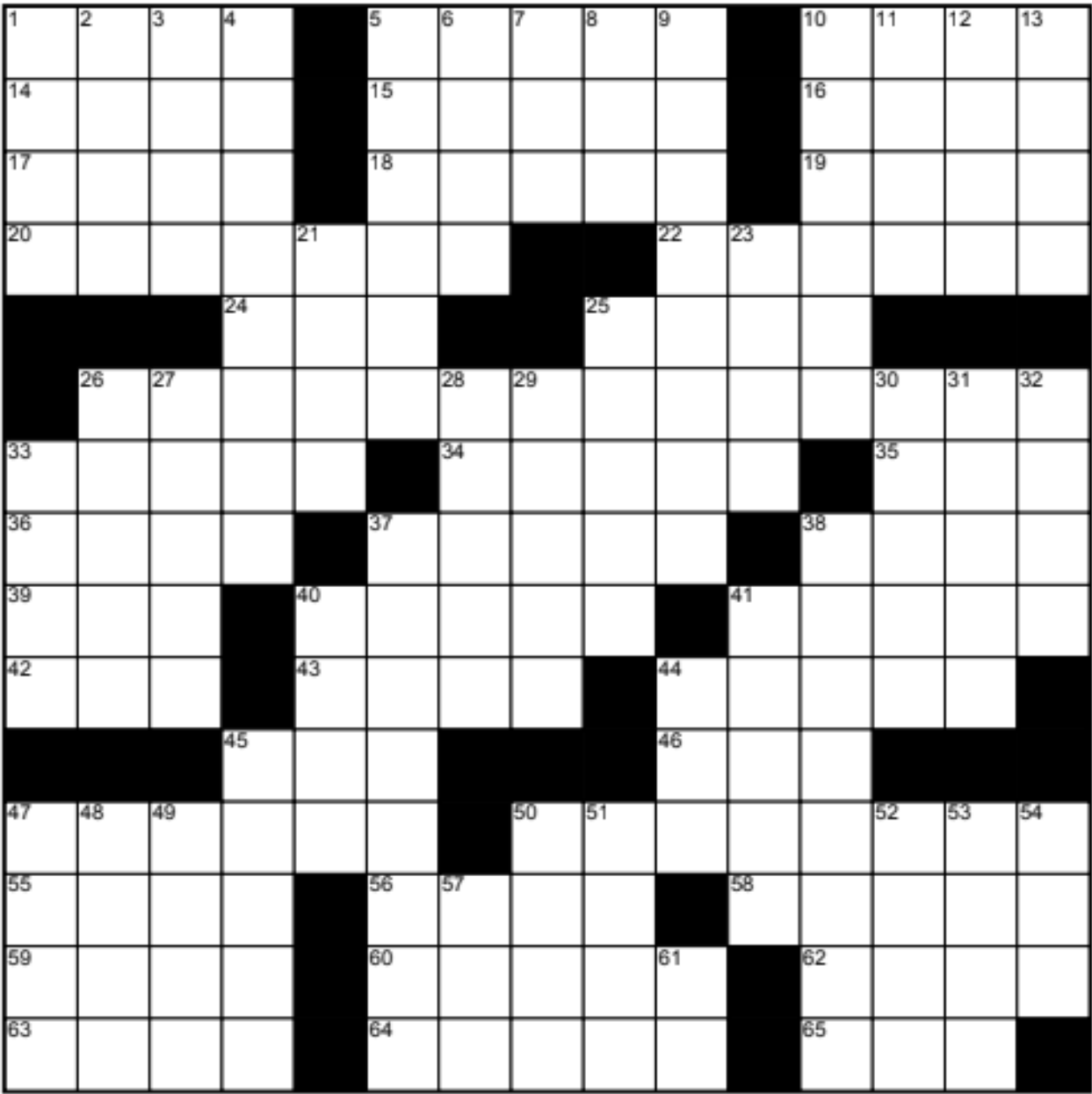
Expect the Valentine’s Day Happening!

Don’t feel pressured to dress up. A few Valentine’s Day-themed accessories will do.



Crossword: Staying In Shape

by Sofia Fontenot



ACROSS

- 1 Letter opener?
- 5 Still in bed
- 10 Stuck-up sort
- 14 Anderson who sang with Duke Ellington
- 15 Chicago international airport
- 16 Prefix for ‘sapien’ or ‘phone’
- 17 Bird call or lullaby
- 18 ___ Wafers: Nabisco cookie
- 19 Half of zwei
- 20 *Latin American ballroom dance with two sets of partners?
- 22 *Divine magic wielder, in D&D
- 24 Shortest sentence in the English language
- 25 Bee ___: 70s disco group
- 26 Upset, and a hint to what each starred clue spells when rearranged
- 33 Palindromic Pokemon
- 34 Get off of an HISD vehicle, say
- 35 Never-been-used
- 36 “Orange you ___ I didn’t say banana?”
- 37 Impossible to improve
- 38 *Fairytale opener, often
- 39 Huitzilopochtli or Zeus
- 40 For days ___ (ceaselessly)

- 41 Pseudonym for a criminal or spy
- 42 Be in debt
- 43 Give it ___ (go for it)
- 44 Of yore
- 45 “Why ___ long face?”
- 46 Comic book sound effect
- 47 How one might be snug in a rug
- 50 *Disease-causing bacterium
- 55 “Phooey!”
- 56 Stair climber’s support
- 58 Acids which combine to form proteins
- 59 Corn or soybeans
- 60 Fishbowl overgrowth
- 62 Keen
- 63 They don’t lie
- 64 Cowboy’s catcher
- 65 ‘The Simpsons’ neighbor

DOWN

- 1 It might be floppy or compact
- 2 High-quality vinaigrette ingredient
- 3 “If it ___ broke, don’t fix it”
- 4 Got back
- 5 Label in a health food aisle

- 6 Cleveland’s state
- 7 ¿Que ___?” (“¿Como estas?” alternative)
- 8 Address in cyberspace
- 9 Tranquil
- 10 “Geez Louise!”
- 11 Detective film genre
- 12 Prefix for ‘present’ or ‘potent’
- 13 Brown-skinned pear variety
- 21 Kid-lit’s ‘__ the Great’ or ‘Big __’
- 23 Not as much
- 25 Sprout mold, perhaps
- 26 Underneath
- 27 Cleverly dodge
- 28 Bag of milk?
- 29 Itsy bitsy
- 30 “It’s the Hard Knock Life” musical
- 31 Nut in some sticky pies
- 32 Woolly mamas
- 33 “Leggo my ___!”
- 37 *Fundamental
- 38 Shoe dweller of nursery rhymes
- 40 Honolulu’s island
- 41 Greeting in 40-Down
- 44 Choose
- 45 Butter amts.
- 47 Half of McDonald’s golden M
- 48 Kashmir dress
- 49 Sitting upon
- 50 They’re unlikely to fly
- 51 “What a pity!”
- 52 Donate, perhaps
- 53 Sinclair the pink-haired werewolf girl of “Wednesday”
- 54 Silent yes
- 57 ___ mode: with ice cream
- 61 2022 film about a donkey who travels across Europe

Ranking Controversial Historical Figures ft. Mr. Bingham

by Matthew Jeong

You know them by all the infamous acts listed on the pages of ten-pound history books- and how they have affected society today. In this article, PVA’s local world history expert Mr. Bingham takes a deep dive on ten of such controversial figures in world history.

Ranked, Worst to Best:

- 1. King Leopold II**
“King Leopold was a genocidal, mutilating, giant jerk.”
- 2. Che Guevara**
“ People who have never studied history think Che was a cool guy, but he was a murderous psychopath.”
- 3. Andrew Jackson**
“A populist narcissist that was responsible for the Trail of Tears.”
- 4. Vladimir Lenin**
“An over-the-top zealot who wasn’t interested in a willing transformation to communism but rather forced it on the Russian people. I guess on the murder scale, Lenin is worse than Jackson since he was responsible for more deaths.”
- 5. Hernán Cortés**
“In his quest for gold and glory, he didn’t care about the culture he was destroying. However, I’ve always considered Cortes an automaton of the Spanish Empire. He wasn’t much of a thinker. He was just sort of a commandant at a death camp, just ‘doing his job.’”
- 6. Napoleon Bonaparte**
“See, that’s the thing with Bonaparte. Bonaparte may have been one of the smartest people that ever lived. He was a brilliant tactician and politician and was responsible for

- spreading Enlightenment ideals throughout Europe with the French Revolution. The French civil code is still based on the Napoleonic code. Napoleon was a legitimate genius, but he was still quite willing to commit murder in the pursuit of his goals.”
- 7. Caesar Augustus**
“Augustus was also another murderous populist. However, he did bring about a revitalization of a withering empire- the Republic had collapsed under its own weight, and he replaced it with a just rule. But again, if you got in his way, you were gonna get killed.”
- 8. Karl Marx**
“Marx is a guy with a good idea. Even the simplest people can understand the idea of collective ownership and the evils of personal property. Unfortunately, his ideas were interpreted in more of a totalitarian way than an equality-based system, but you can’t blame Marx for others’ misinterpretation of his writings.

The phrase from the Manifesto that resonates is, “From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs,” which is a great idea; you can contribute whatever your talents and energies, and you receive what you need to live a rewarding life.

But people always wanna get rich; that’s the problem. It’s possible to critique Marx by saying no human organization will exist without personal ambition.”
- 9. Genghis Khan**
“Genghis Khan accomplished the impossible by uniting the fractured Mongol people into an effective empire. Many people died at his hands, but they usually had a choice- to fight the Khan or to accept his fairly reasonable

- offers (at the time). He should be revered for making religious tolerance an organic element of good statecraft, and he certainly ushered in the modern world.”
- 10. Sigmund Freud**
“Freud had things mostly right. Freud is still reflected in any new movement within the psychotherapy field. It’s fair to say that he was a little obsessed with sex and sexuality, but he wasn’t completely wrong in that regard, either. He overemphasized the importance of childhood on personality, but nobody talked about childhood and development before Freud.”
- Matthew:** “If you were given a chance to eat dinner with one of these people, who would you go with, and which restaurant would you pick?”

Bingham: “I’d have to go with Napoleon to Lombardi’s. He’d probably want to go for a fancy restaurant, and his first victory was in Italy.

I’d want to talk to him about the moment he takes the crown out of the pope’s head and places it on his head. What was on his mind at the time? I would ask him about what he saw as a flaw in his opponents that allowed him to consistently outwit them on the battlefield. I would also ask him what would happen if he had been a Navy man instead of an Army man. How would that have changed the path of his achievements?

Ranking Popular Valentine’s Day Candies

by Chloe Cheuk

- 1. Sweethearts (Candy Hearts): 9/10**
The classic Valentine’s Day candy: cute, sweet, yet tangy, and with a fantastic pastel color selection. These candies are reminiscent of sidewalk chalk (in the best, nostalgic-childhood way) with their powdery texture and pastels. Overall, Sweethearts are a great aesthetic and flavor experience. 1 point off, though, because some hate the taste (though haters will always hate).
- 2. Chocolate Roses: 7/10**
Chocolate roses are the epitome of expensive and romantic chocolates. The wine-red foil screams fancy, and the rose is so old-rom-com-high-school movie (if you know, you know). In addition, they’re a cheap alternative to real roses (\$29 vs. \$45). The only downside is that the chocolate can taste fake (like a dry Hershey’s bar), although that depends on the brand.
- 3. Chocolate Hearts: 6/10**
Chocolate Hearts are another Valentine’s Day classic, effortless and timeless at the same time. Chocolate Hearts are a solid 8/10, but only if you get an undamaged package. As I’ve seen many times before, Chocolate Hearts tend to come half-melted or completely squashed, ruining the once-romantic and thoughtful gift. Overall, Chocolate Hearts are either a complete win or loss that can leave you proud or disappointed.
- 4. Ring Pops: 5.5/10**
Ring Pops are perfect for silly Valentine’s Day “proposals” and are tasty accessories to wear on a busy Valentine’s Day. The only problem is, they don’t exactly scream Valentine’s Day, although they have a slight connotation towards it (ring = marriage = romance = Valentine’s Day). However, they get extra points for having a more original design (and better taste) compared to the standard Valentine-themed candy.

- 5. Valentine’s Day Themed Popular Sweets (Jelly Beans, Reeses, Etc): 4/10**
Clever at best and cheap at worst, Valentine’s Day Themed Popular Sweets (all about the same, hence being put in the same group) represent capitalism at its finest. They’re a low-effort attempt to cash in on the Valentine’s Day craze that leaves us with red-white-pink, heart-shaped candy. They’re unoriginal but get extra points for tasting good (but nothing new).



Teacher Talk!

Mr. Landry: This is always such an interesting time of year for seniors. So much mystery awaits! Where are they going to be next year? What do they plan to do with their lives?

Ms. Manchac: Yea, when I was a senior in high school I thought for sure that I would be president of the U.S. But my 11th grade U.S. history teacher told me that I would definitely be a history teacher... and after dabbling in substitute teaching after graduating college, I knew that he was right. Now I’m a decade and a half in and it seems like all I do is teach kids, teach teachers, teach future teachers, and think about how to make history impactful for young people.

Mr. Landry: Awe...There is still time for you to be president! I remember wanting to be a teacher since middle school, but I officially didn’t “commit” to it as a career until my Junior year of college. So many of my peers at Rice spoke about how a great teacher either inspired them to pursue their degree or a poor teacher dissuaded them from doing so. I had to give it a try, and now it has been 13.5 years! When do you think our colleagues knew they

by Mr. Landry and Ms. Manchac

wanted to teach or if they were not teaching, what would they be doing?

Ms. Manchac: Let’s ask and find out!

Sr. Alarcon:
I knew I wanted to be a teacher at the end of my first year in college. It was by accident since I thought I would be in the languages program for a short period of time, and then transfer to what I originally planned to study, but I got a job where I had the opportunity to tutor adults who wanted to obtain their high school diploma. It was a life changing experience, and why I decided to teach languages.

Mr. Falomo:
I love teaching, but if I was not a teacher, I’d love to be a museum curator. Besides the obvious fact that I love all things art, as any museum curator would, I would want that job because of the kinds of necessary conversations I imagine I would be able to facilitate. It also would allow me the opportunity to create spaces for undervalued art and artists, so they

could be part of the larger conversation surrounding art and culture.

Ms. Garza:
As a little girl, I would play teacher with my stuffed animals. I chose teaching as a profession, because it’s rewarding, fun, and I love kids. If I wasn’t teaching, though, I would be a hairstylist!

Ms. Rosales:
I’ve always wanted to be a teacher, but it was a matter of which. I originally wanted to be an ESE teacher, which is a special education teacher in Florida but then, in college, I decided I was going to move to Texas and the special education program is different in Texas, so it wasn’t an option anymore. I decided on majoring in biology because I love plants, animals, and I had a great biology teacher in high school. That then translated to being a biology teacher because I loved explaining biology to my classmates and students I tutored. If I was not teaching I would totally be a veterinarian!

How to Navigate Valentine’s as a Lonely Grinch

by Jasmine Lin and Frida Ruiz-Berman

Alas, so the time of romance and the celebration of sweet love has come upon us, and it becomes difficult, almost repulsive to watch couple after couple manifest itself and revel in the festivities of the month. Although many may claim jealousy as a petty label to diminish our woes, we know it is much deeper than that - a grinch is living within the walls of our bodies. Written by two grinch

enjoying each other’s company, think on if you would rather be dealing with someone virtually incompetent or taking some time to just enjoy your solitude.

4. Do heart exercises to try to expand your minuscule grinch heart.

As a grinch your heart is constantly spoken about with hateful regard as being small, and although size obviously doesn’t matter, take this season to begin expanding your current cardiac capacity. Instead of continuing in your usual villainous grinch ways, take a chapter from the who’s and strive to make a resolution of exercising your heart by complimenting the lowly who’s around you. You might even realize that among



1. Plot the demise of couples.

Some of the greatest stories ever written revolve around the demise of couples - think Romeo and Juliet, Titanic, and Othello. These age-old tales ultimately benefited from the meddling of unhappy people! To soothe your troubles in seeing happy people all around, never hesitate to take a couple to the knife - perhaps that jab will even make things better, strengthen their foundations. Personally, I would recommend step by step elaborate plans to knock down un-sturdy high school buildings and make your winter chill just a smidge warmer.

2. Throw yourself into your work and not onto an instrumentalist.

As a grinch, your life is filled with very meaningful tasks, even in the brisk bone chilling cold of January, or the 60 degrees of Houston. Nonetheless, you must keep focused like a horse with blinders on - for if your eyes dart for even a second onto an unsuspecting but potentially gaslighting instrumentalist you will go crashing into your blindspot, and the path to your sparkly grinch future may never come to fruition. So as a precaution, stick to the blinders and keep-trotting through the work because eventually it will pay off and your future grinch self will thank

you dearly.

3. Remember: would you rather be alone or date someone who doesn’t see you as the holistic grinch you are?

As grinch

Answers for your crossword!

Tag us @hspvapaper and tell us what you think about the crossword! Are you a whiz kid or do you have a harder time? What’s your best time?

	D	E	N		O	S	S	V	L		S	P	I	H
D	I	V	A			A	G	A		P	O	R	C	
O	N	I	M	A		L	I	A		S	A	T	R	
N	E	G	O	H	T	P		G	U	B	A	S	A	
		W		P	O				E	H				
	N	E	D	L			Y	R	T	A		E	W	O
S	A	I	L	A		D	N	E	N	O		D	O	G
E	C	N	O		L	A	E	D	I	D	A	D	L	G
W		N		S	U	S		D	E	E	E	V	E	E
E		A	P	H	S	F	O	T	U	O	T	N	B	
		S	E	E	G			M	A					
C	I	R	E	L			O	G	N	A	T	O	O	C
S	N	I	E		A	L	L	I	N		G	N	O	S
O	M	O	H		E	A	R	H	O		E	I	V	I
B	O	N	S		P	U	T	O	N		A	R	E	A

Overheard@PVA

“You’d be surprised, human tears are pretty tasty- I shouldn’t have said that, that sounded weird.”
- Mr. Landry

“Maybe the ginger gene is the real STD.”
-Chris Crawford

“All you blonde girls look the same to me.”
- Ms. Curtis

“I don’t know how people haven’t bullied you into being normal yet.”
-Elliott Hoyt

“Did y’all just plagiarize the Bible?”
-Ms. Rolater

“Are you testing the rigidity of your pickle?”
-Mr. Fetting

“My mom’s gonna kill me... actually, no, she can’t, because she lost her voice.”
-Hazel Britton Dansby

“I once used Clorox wipes on my [redacted].”
-Ari Katz

“My dreams just have a line of people getting sturdy.”
-BJ Spillman

“I went through a Ben Franklin phase for a while because he’s really hot.”
- Frida Ruiz-Berman

“Y’all are actively shortening my lifespan.”
- Ms. Hill’s substitute teacher

“I always have an ego when I google myself because I pop up.”
-Lila Mankad

“If you had the chance to eat a person, wouldn’t you want to satisfy your curiosity?”
-Jamie Garcia

“PVA is like a social experiment where they put all the gay people in one room and see what happens.”
- Meg Routh

“When I found out John Cena wasn’t black... that was a really hard day for me.”
-JJ LeGrand

“I only cry at home.”
-Dominic Glaze

“This just proves my theory that all short Mexican men are gay.”
-Rafael Valdes

“You dress like a Bingham in training.”
-Ms. Manchac

“You’re a special kind of gay. You’re a creative writer.”
-Harry Barnett

“I’m gonna be overrun with tampons in about a day.”
-Ms. Chase

“I wear the stiffest pants here and I feel free as a bird.”
-Robert Wise

“Am I dreaming or did I just survive the last 6 weeks?”
-Ms. Hall