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NEWSPRINT

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



INDEX

3 FEATURE

Grease: Behind the Scenes
by Julia Lorelli

4 NEWS?

What are NFTs?
by Caitlyn Begosa

5 NEWS

History of Russia-Ukraine War
by Maura Sullivan

6/7 FEATURE

I am strong, I am woman
by Grace O'Dea

8 LIFE

Business Professionals of
America
by Alyssa Tisch

9 LIFE

March Madness: Mercy Cafe
Edition
by Caitlyn Begosa

10 LIFE

Marlins get inked
by Grace O'Dea

11 LIFE

Five-by-five
by Fatima Siddique

12 FEATURE

Mercy Meet and Greet
by Caitlyn Begosa



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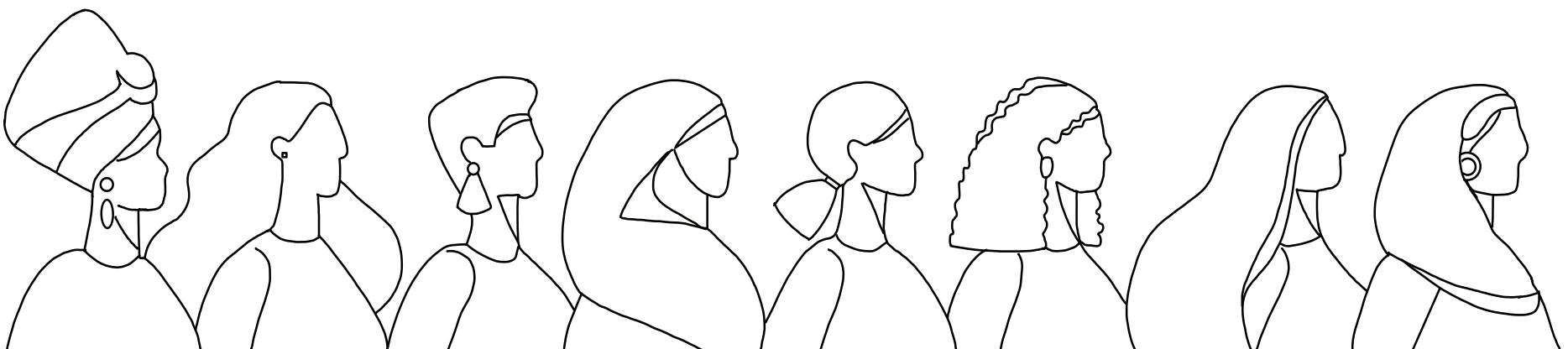
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🎵 Grease: Behind the Scenes 🎵

STORY AND GRAPHICS: JULIA LORELLI

The 1978 musical film, *Grease*, left the big screen and came to the Mercy auditorium. The successful singing and dancing of the cast could not be done without the hard work and dedication of each crew to bring this classic musical to life.

Costume crew began working on the play in November, but started ordering pieces at the end of October.

“We start work on the spring musical as soon as we finish the fall play. This show takes a lot of pieces that we did not already have,” Gracie Grady, costume crew head said.

The costume crew had to find, buy or make any costume they needed for the play.

“For the beauty school dropout hats, we were able to borrow them, but we did have to fix them,” Grady said. “The capes for the beauty school dropouts and the pink lady jackets were made by [the crew]. The pink stitching on the silver capes was hand sewn.

According to Grady, the pink lady jackets were the hardest to find.

“We had to find jackets of the right era and style, but we knew we wanted to costume them ourselves,” she said, “The first jackets that we ordered were so loud so we had to order different ones. It was such a simple piece, but it took a lot of time and work to find the right one.”

The show was full of costumes that brought the looks of greasers and girls from 1959 into



Leads Ella Harris (Sandy) and Reid Michener (Danny Zuko) at a drive-in movie. Photo used with permission by Ella Harris

2022. Some of the cast and crews' favorite outfits included the teen angel costume for senior Rhys Coleman and junior Tina Hutter's greaser outfit. Hutter said she enjoyed looking like a bad boy from 1959.

“I like [my costume] because I get to carry props, like a comb, while I'm in the costume,” Hutter said.

The cast worked on the play for about three and a half months.

Fans of the 1978 film, *Grease*, were familiar with the storyline of the play. There were some changes, like switching out certain words

and rearranging some songs, but overall, the musical was very similar to the original production.



The Cast of Grease dances and sings “You're the one that I want.”

The makeup crew covers various aspects of how the actors look on stage, from touching up female makeup to doing the males makeup.

“Males are inefficient in their own make up,” makeup crew head and senior, Corey Baldwin said.

The makeup crew is also responsible for the actors' hair during the show.

“A lot of it's curling the hair,” Baldwin said. “but we've also been doing a lot of the leads' hair and sometimes we give people haircuts.”

The makeup crew had to approve the cast before they went to mic check. The crew also designed their own makeup looks for each cast member.

“It's standard theater makeup with hints of the style, and which blush is applied is based off [of] the decade. In *Grease*, since it's the 50's, it's more of an over the shadow blush,” Baldwin said.

Stage Crew began working on the play in November. Senior Lily May has been on stage crew for the past two years, and *Grease* was her favorite set to build.

“The hardest set piece to build was the things that spin under [the revolving stage],” May said. “It took me and Lily Fromm a while to build it.”

The stage crew was also active during the play, moving props and changing the scene.

“During the play, I move the tables and bed, and we spin the scenes,” May said.

While most of the time at rehearsals was spent working to get the play right, there was still a ton of fun that happened behind the scenes.

According to Hutter, “After *Encanto* came out, David, [a student at UofD] just randomly started singing (We don't talk about Bruno.) There's just an energy that makes it chaotic.”

Junior Abigail Sobeck's favorite memory was bonding with everyone on the crew

through stressful, yet fun quick changes.

“It is because of those quick changes I have such wonderful memories with my costume crew members and the cast,” she said, “[The] seniors Chloe, Aubrey and Gracie are the most amazing leaders, and all underclassmen are so full of life and talent! I have loved being with them throughout the duration of this show.”

Grady said that one of her favorite memories is when she helped set dress one of the bedrooms for the show and they had extra pictures of the actors.

“Now, we have a wall in the costume shop filled with pictures of Marlon Brando, Elvis, James Dean, etc. We love to decorate our room with silly stuff like that and lots of sentimental notes and pictures,” Grady said.

The makeup crew and prop crew often work together, which has led to a switch up happening behind the scenes.

“One of the main actors didn't know we were makeup crew,” Baldwin said, “He just assumed we were prop crew until the point that he was like ‘hey prop crew’ and I was like ‘we're not prop crew.’”

Each year, backstage has a different theme for stage right and stage left.

“This year, the crew heads, Riley and Lily, they did [Captain America] Civil War so they made that with all the members,” May said.

From working hard to having fun, every event behind the scenes is a memory for both the cast and crew.

“Mercy theater has a level of professionalism that is unlike anywhere in the area,” Hutter said. “It's very professional. It's more like the real theater if that's what you want to do in the future. You make a lot of good friends, and it's such a fun experience, being there. It's a unique thing to do.”



Members of the cast of Grease line up to take their final bow.

What are NFTs?

STORY AND GRAPHICS: CAITLYN BEGOSA, ASSOCIATE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



NFT: this three-letter acronym recently became mainstream among investors, collectors and in the search bars of those confused about how NFTs work.

The first NFT was created in 2014 during the rise of CryptoArt, digital artwork that has verified ownership and authenticity like physical pieces found in an art museum.

NFT stands for non-fungible token, which is the easy part to explain. Non-fungible tokens are unique and cannot be replicated or traded while cryptocurrencies and physical currencies are fungible, identical tokens that can be exchanged during commercial transactions. Similar to bitcoin and other forms of cryptocurrency, NFTs are facilitated in a blockchain, a ledger that records the transactions of assets.

From drawings and short films to real estate, NFTs can be virtually anything, anything people are willing to buy.

“Some of these things are pretty trivial items and efforts in my opinion,” science and math teacher Mr. Nicholas Furiak said. “We’ve always valued souvenirs, mementos and things like that, but this seems to be a very accelerated stream line path to what appears to be nonsense.”

Since people are willing to pay millions of dollars on NFTs, many ponder what value NFTs actually have.

“Our money isn’t backed by anything, so what’s an NFT backed by?” social studies teacher Ms. Cynthia Richter said.

Although they have no monetary value, NFTs create value through scarcity and uniqueness. Since no NFT is the same,

scarcity is a large factor for an NFT and has the potential to increase value over time.

Similar to gathering a mass collection of Pokémon cards or Calico Critters as children, NFTs also act as collectibles, creating large value for niche NFT collectors.

Like art in museums, NFTs’ values can increase through the credibility of the artist and their creations. For example, Mike Winkelmann, also known as Beeple, is comparable to Claude Monet or Pablo Picasso in the world of NFTs. According to The U.S. Sun, Beeple’s net worth is estimated to be \$50 million due to his work with NFTs.

“People have the option to assign a value to [NFTs],” Mr. Furiak said. “What you’re betting on is that somebody else will agree that there’s value and give you more money for it, so the value would increase.”

However, the value of NFTs is highly volatile. The new market faces difficult factors such as the majority of the population not understanding what an NFT is and a plethora of those who think NFTs are impractical.

Additionally, NFTs are illiquid, making them difficult to trade and make a profit from.

NFTs also harm the environment. The purchasing of NFTs uses a large amount of energy since they are dependent upon a blockchain. Thus, transactions of NFTs utilize computers with high energy capacities to record data on a blockchain, resulting in carbon emissions.

However, advocates for NFTs are searching for more sustainable methods to

continue the market. For example, Beeple and other NFT artists are looking to invest in technology that uses renewable energy for future projects, offsetting greenhouse gas emissions.

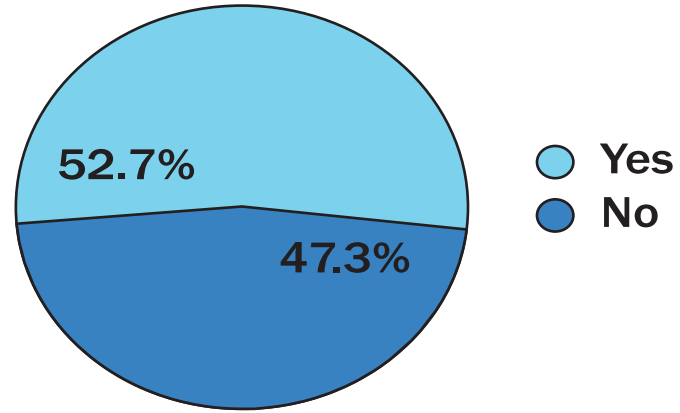
When individuals “buy” NFTs, they are actually purchasing a code to authenticate their ownership over the piece. Thus, anyone can view them online. Pak, a prevalent NFT artist and cryptocurrency investor, sold ‘The Merge’ for \$91.8 million to various individuals, but the NFT is free to view online.

With all of the complicated jargon that goes into NFTs, they are quite easy to buy. First, set up a digital wallet and purchase some cryptocurrency. Then, do a quick Google search for an NFT marketplace, like OpenSea or Mintable, and connect your digital wallet. Finally, find an NFT, place a bid on it, and complete your transaction after the auction ends.

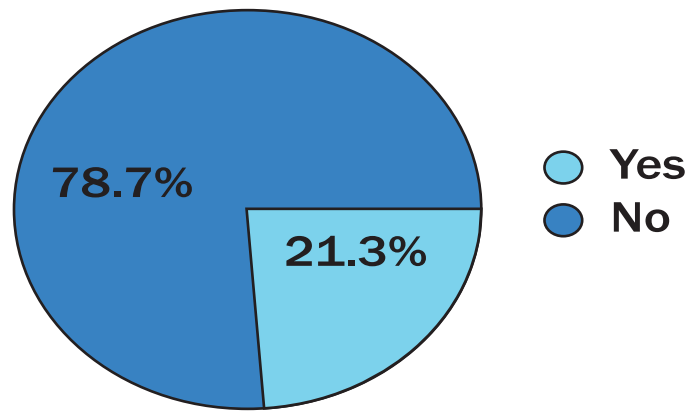
In addition, anyone can create an NFT for free through certain websites. On the other hand, selling one is a different story as the process often comes with hefty transaction fees.

Whether you think NFTs are the future of cryptocurrency or a nonsensical investment, at least you are now informed about the basics of NFTs.

Do you know what NFTs are?



Do you know how NFTs work?



Graphs based on Newsprint poll with 96 responses

History of Russia-Ukraine war

STORY: MAURA SULLIVAN

Three decades after gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Ukraine is fighting for its freedom once again. The debate over the possibility of war has been ongoing. However, that debate was settled on the night of February 24, when Russian missiles hit military installations and civilian targets in Ukraine and Russian armed forces invaded.

To understand how this came to be, people must first understand a bit about Ukraine's history, its struggles in the past and its hopes for the future. The following provides a brief glimpse into the activities that led to this current state of affairs.

For most of the past century Ukraine has suffered under one form of foreign rule or another. For a brief period from 1918-1921, Ukraine gained independence, but portions of western Ukraine were still ruled by Poland, Romania and Czechoslovakia. In December 1922, Ukrainian Bolsheviks defeated the national government in Kyiv, and Ukraine became one of the founding republics of the Soviet Union as the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Once Ukraine was under control of the U.S.S.R., the suffering intensified, specifically under the rule of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin. One of the most significant events in the history of Russia and Ukraine was Holodomor. The Holodomor, or "death by hunger", was a period of famine in Ukraine caused by Stalin after impossibly high quotas were placed on the amount of grain Ukrainian villages were required to give to the Soviet state. When citizens were unable to meet these quotas, authorities confiscated seed for planting and levied fines on meat and potatoes. Soviet authorities issued a decree forbidding Ukrainian peasants from leaving the country, forcing millions to starve and die in the dire conditions, while the U.S.S.R. sold Ukrainian crops abroad.

The Ukrainian famine was man-made. Between 1932-1933, about 3.9 million Ukrainians died. Stalin

wanted to replace individually owned farms with large state-run collectives. Farmers resisted giving up their land and livelihoods. Stalin created the famine in order to punish those who posed a threat to his totalitarian authority. The abuse and domination of Ukraine at the hands of Russian authority is not new or uncommon.

When the Soviet Union began to unravel in 1990-91, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic declared sovereignty, and then independence on August 24, 1991. With the dissolution of the U.S.S.R. in December 1991, Ukraine gained full independence, and helped to found the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), an association of countries that were formerly part of the Soviet Union.

Since gaining its independence in 1991, Ukraine's transition to an independent state has been filled with conflict and strife. In 2004, Pro-Russian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich was declared president in what most citizens deemed a "rigged election". Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians filled the streets of Kyiv, the capital city, to protest in what became known as the Orange Revolution. As a result, the popular candidate Viktor Yushchenko, the internationally recognized winner, was able to claim his rightful position instead of Yanukovich.

However, by 2010, Yanukovich, that same pro-Russian candidate, who was unseated in the rigged 2004 election, was finally able to take control of Ukraine and immediately revived ties with Russia and suspended trade with the European Union.

By February 2014, Ukrainian revolutionaries forced Yanukovich to flee the country. But in March 2014, the Russian President Vladimir Putin took advantage of the situation, sending Russian troops into Ukraine's Crimean region and formally annexing the peninsula. At a joint session of the Russian parliament, Putin justified this annexation, saying that he needed to protect the rights of the Russian people in Crimea and southeast Ukraine. This crisis heavily heightened ethnic divisions between the two countries.

From April 2014 to January 2022, violence between Russian-backed forces and Ukrainian military has resulted in more than 10,300 deaths and 24,000 injuries throughout eastern Ukraine. Efforts to reach diplomatic settlement between Russia and other European countries have been unsuccessful. Since 2014, security assistance to Ukraine has been increased, with Ukraine working with NATO in a series of large-scale air exercises in eastern Ukraine. The U.S. also placed sanctions on a number of individuals linked to Russian conflict.



Creative Commons: Maxim Dondyuk

A building burns after bombing in Kyiv, Ukraine, Thursday, March 3.

In January 2021, Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy asked President Biden to allow Ukraine to join NATO. In response, Russian troops began massing at Ukrainian borders. In December 2021, Russia issued a set of demands calling for the U.S. and NATO to cease military activity in Eastern Europe or Central Asia to stop the expansion of NATO towards Russia. These demands were rejected and Russia was warned that NATO allies would impose severe economic sanctions if Russia invaded Ukraine. However, tensions remained high and Russian forces did not back down.

On February 21, 2022, Putin delivered an hour-long speech essentially denying Ukrainian statehood. He claimed, "Ukraine has never had its own authentic statehood. There has never been a sustainable statehood in Ukraine." He argued Ukraine was a creation under the Soviet Union under Vladimir Lenin, denying any evidence of Ukraine's national identity, despite the linguistic and ethnic differences that have always existed between Russia and Ukraine.

In a televised speech on the morning of February 24, 2022, Putin announced he was launching an assault "to defend people who for eight years [were] suffering persecution and genocide by the Kyiv regime." Soon after this speech, explosions began being reported around Ukrainian cities, including the capital Kyiv.

Since these first attacks, conflict has continued, leaving thousands of civilians dead. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as of March 27, more than 10 million people have fled the violence, making it the fastest-growing refugee crisis in Europe since World War II.

These attacks have been heavily condemned by NATO, with countries placing economic sanctions on Russia and providing aid to Ukraine.

Despite this, there are still many questions about the future and the involvement of western countries. What is not in question is that Russia has been impeding on Ukraine's freedom for years.



UNHCR, March 17

Map displays the locations of Ukrainian refugees who have fled since the Russian attacks.

I am strong, I am woman

STORY AND GRAPHICS: GRACE O'DEA, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Women. Where would we be without them? The simple answer to this question is “nowhere” considering the human race would cease to exist if women weren’t around. However, this answer fails to encapsulate the spectrum of advancements women have contributed to society since the dawn of time and their awe-inspiring achievements that have encouraged countless more women to dream big and achieve their goals. Now more than ever, women are dominating workplaces and holding positions of power in their careers, oftentimes while also balancing a busy home life. If history has shown us anything, it’s that women are a force to be reckoned with. *Newsprint* details the lives and accomplishments of some modern notable women.

Mary Barra

Mary Barra is the CEO of General Motors (GM), a position she has held since January 15, 2014. Barra became the first female to hold the title of CEO for an automobile company when she was named to this position. A Michigan native, Barra was born in Royal Oak in 1961. She received her Bachelor of Science from General Motors Institute (Kettering University) in Flint and went on to earn her Masters in Business Administration from Stanford University. Prior to being named CEO, Barra worked her way up through the ranks of GM, serving as the vice president of global human resources and as executive vice president of global product development. Barra’s tenure as CEO can be marked by her strides to increase GM’s production of electric-powered vehicles. In 2021, Barra was ranked #4 in Forbes’ “The World’s 100 Most Powerful Women”.



Photo from businessroundtable.com

Rosalind Brewer

Rosalind “Roz” Brewer is the CEO of Walgreens Boots Alliance, the company which owns pharmacy stores Walgreens and Boots. This is not her first CEO role, though, as Brewer was previously CEO of Sam’s Club. She is another Michigan native, born in Detroit in 1962. After graduating from Cass Technical High School in Detroit, Brewer attended Spelman College, an all-female HBCU, for her undergraduate degree, making her a first-generation college graduate. For further education in business, Brewer attended the University of Chicago, Stanford and Wharton Business School at the University of Pennsylvania. Brewer has had immense success in business, holding high positions at Kimberly-Clark, Walmart and Starbucks, and in 2019, Brewer became a member of Amazon’s board of directors. She was ranked #17 in Forbes’ 2021 “The World’s 100 Most Powerful Women”.



Photo from hbr.org

Serena Williams

Serena Jameka Williams is a world-renowned athlete and entrepreneur born in Saginaw, Michigan in 1981. Williams was raised in Compton, California, where she started playing tennis at age four. Having been a standout tennis star from a young age, Williams went back and forth between attending tennis academies and focusing on school. At only 14, Williams made her professional debut, participating in the 1995 Bell Challenge in Quebec. In the coming years, Williams would participate in hundreds of tournaments, eventually earning the number one ranking in the world for women’s tennis after her success at the 2002 Wimbledon Championships. At the 2012 Summer Olympics, Williams won gold in female tennis singles, and in 2017, while pregnant, Williams won the Australian Open and regained her number one spot for women’s tennis. Williams has had several movies made about her and is the founder of her own fashion brand, S by Serena. Forbes ranked her #85 in their 2021 “The World’s 100 Most Powerful Women”.



Photo from thecut.com

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) is a U.S. representative from New York. AOC took office for the House of Representatives at age 29, making her the youngest female ever to serve in U.S. Congress. She was born to a Puerto Rican family in the Bronx in 1989 and attended Boston University, where she received a bachelor’s degree in international relations and economics. While working for Bernie Sanders’ presidential campaign in 2016, AOC was inspired to run for public office. AOC ran a grassroots campaign with small donations and few endorsements from big names in NYC politics. With the odds against her, AOC won her primary election, making headlines across America for defeating 10-term incumbent Joe Crowley. She went on to eventually win the general election, granting her a seat in the House of Representatives for New York’s 14th district. In her three years in office, AOC has made tremendous strides for progressive policies in the U.S., advocating for programs such as Medicare for All and the Green New Deal.

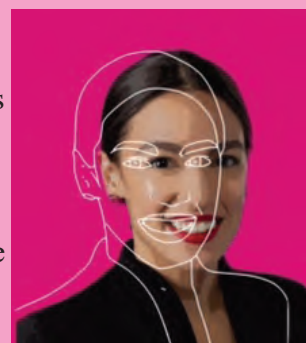


Photo from psuunderground.com

Reese Witherspoon

Reese Witherspoon is a critically acclaimed actress and social advocate. Born in Louisiana in 1976, Witherspoon’s acting career started at a young age, debuting at age 15 in the 1991 film *Man in the Moon*. Witherspoon has been performing in TV and film ever since, and holds numerous nominations and awards, including an Academy Award, a BAFTA Award and one Golden Globe. Witherspoon established her own production company, Pacific Standards, in 2012 with hopes of increasing female representation in film production. It was through this company Witherspoon helped produce *Gone Girl* and *Wild*. Witherspoon’s career is far from done, as she currently produces and acts on the streaming series *The Morning Show*. Her love for reading prompted her to establish her book club in 2017, Hello Sunshine, which she uses to recommend books to fans. Witherspoon was ranked #74 in Forbes’ 2021 “The World’s 100 Most Influential Women”.



Photo from imdb.com

Mindy Kaling

Mindy Kaling is a prominent comedian in TV and film, working as an actress, producer, screenwriter and director. Kaling was born to a family of Indian immigrants in Massachusetts in 1979, and went on to graduate from Dartmouth College. She became a household name through her work on *The Office* (US). Kaling had an on-screen role in the sitcom while also working behind the scenes writing, directing and serving as executive producer. Prior to her work on *The Office*, though, Kaling did her own stand-up comedy work while simultaneously working for other comedians, such as Conan O’Brien. Kaling made efforts in her work to include people of diverse backgrounds and ethnicities. Her dedication to promoting diversity in film and TV is especially prevalent in *The Mindy Project*, a comedy series she produced and acted in. Kaling, now a mother of two, continues to work in film and TV in various positions, serving as one of the few Indian-American female leaders in the industry.



Photo from imdb.com

Women words of wisdom

“No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.” -Eleanor Roosevelt

“I tell my story, not because it is unique, but because it is not. It is the story of many girls.” -Malala Yousafzai

“Women have to learn to harness their power—it’s absolutely true. It’s just learning not to take the first ‘no’. And if you can’t go straight ahead, go around the corner.” -Cher

“Think like a queen.” -Oprah Winfrey

“Women, like men, should try to do the impossible. And when they fail, their failure should be a challenge to others.” -Amelia Earheart

“I am a woman. Phenomenally. Phenomenal woman. That’s me.” -Maya Angelou

“As women achieve power, the barriers will fall. As society sees what women can do, as women see what women can do, there will be more women out there doing things, and we’ll all be better off for it.” -Ruth Bader Ginsburg

“We have to reshape our own perception of how we see ourselves. We have to step up as women and take the lead.” -Beyonce

“Women don’t need to find a voice, they have a voice, and they need to feel empowered to use it, and people need to be encouraged to listen.” -Meghan Markle





Business Professionals of America

STORY AND GRAPHICS: ALYSSA TISCH

Business Professionals of America (BPA) is a national student organization here at Mercy that helps students gain experience in different careers for their future. The organization offers over 90 different competitive events through its Workplace Skills Assessment Program, which allows students to apply knowledge and skills in realistic job scenarios. Events are grouped into overall categories including Business Administration, Finance, Management Information Systems, Digital Communications and Design, Marketing and Management and Health Administration, according to bpa.org.

Members of BPA meet before school once or twice a month, more so when competitions are coming up, though freshman Seeley Bell says that she typically works on her own outside of these meetings to study for her Legal Office Procedures event.

“We usually come in the morning, [Hallie Smith, the club moderator,] hands out any permission slips needed for upcoming competitions,” Bell said. “We talk about what will happen at the conference, what our events will be like, where to go etc. Then she tells us about being a state officer and what some of the responsibilities are.”

They will additionally talk about possible fundraisers they could do as well as some of the basic office procedures that go on in the business world.

In January, Mercy BPA members competed against other students from nearby schools at the Regional Leadership Conference (RLC), which is a one-day event held at Henry Ford College in Dearborn. Those who placed well at the RLC are then able to compete at the three-day State Leadership Conference (SLC) held in March in Grand Rapids. If members do well there, they are then eligible to compete at the National Leadership Conference (NLC) in May, held in Dallas, Texas this year.

At the Regional Leadership Conference, students have time to chat and enjoy themselves before and after their specific event.

“We go and set up a table with all of our materials and then you go to your event at the scheduled time, compete and then head back to the table,” senior Erin Mahoney said. “Usually they have entertainment like a DJ or a magician and then they will present the awards once all of the entries have been scored.”

Juniors Riley Hollis, Claire Harris and Maddie Morgan competed in the event Small Business Management Team.

“We are given in advance a small business case that has a failing business that we have to try to come up with solutions on how to fix these issues,” Hollis said. “We decided to make a slideshow for our business to present all of our business solutions. After we present, the judges ask us questions about any concerns they have or further questions about our design plan. This year, our small business event was on a food truck who was having issues receiving business.”

In the Legal Office Procedures event, Bell said she had to complete a 50 question Scantron test covering law basics and legal vocabulary as well as create two legal documents which could include an affidavit, power of attorney, interrogatory and final judgment, to name a few. She placed third at regionals, landing her an opportunity to go to states along with several other members of BPA.

In addition, members of BPA have a lot of fun while still working hard.

“My favorite moment from BPA was at regionals this year when we had an hour before our event was supposed to go, and Maddie and I decided to run to a Dunkin’ Donuts like 20 minutes away to get donuts for everyone. It was so funny because we were racing around trying to make it in time,” Hollis said.

Treats in hand, they were able to make it back in time and proceeded to take first place.

Not only did several Mercy members place well and have fun at regionals, but senior Riley Condon also represented Mercy this year as the executive vice president for the Michigan Association of Business Professionals of America.

When she applied, Condon got to pick her preferred role on the State Executive Council, but she could not run for a specific position. It came down to how many votes she received from the voting delegates as well as where the current state council slated her. As a part of the process, she had to complete a multitude of activities including giving speeches, creating campaign materials, completing a worksheet and a test and participating in multiple interviews.

“As the executive vice president my official role basically states that I serve as president in his absence,” Condon said. “However, I actually have a lot of different tasks to do that aren’t ‘officially stated’. First, since there are only four of us on this year’s team, I also took on the role of historian as well, meaning that I am in charge of all the articles posted on our website and collecting photos throughout the year for a scrapbook. As a team, we set a lot of different goals at the beginning of the year and actually create an outline called our program of work where we list all the steps needed to complete each goal. Overall, the biggest role of mine is to help plan out every detail needed for the State Leadership Conference.”

BPA has clearly presented Mercy students with many opportunities and has helped students figure out if they should pursue business as a career.

Mahoney said she had been exploring different careers and BPA has helped her to learn a lot about the business world and how to succeed in it as well.

Bell said she felt the same way.

“I decided to join BPA because I have always been interested in becoming a lawyer or doing something in business and BPA just has an event for pretty much any interest from art to mathematics, but they show you how to apply that interest to the business world,” she said.



Senior Riley Condon, the executive vice president for the Michigan Association of Business Professionals of America, inducts the new executive vice president at the State Leadership Conference. Photo used with permission of Hallie Smith



Juniors Claire Harris, Riley Hollis and Maddie Morgan, who compete in the event Small Business Management Team, take a photo together at the State Leadership Conference. Photo used with permission of Riley Hollis

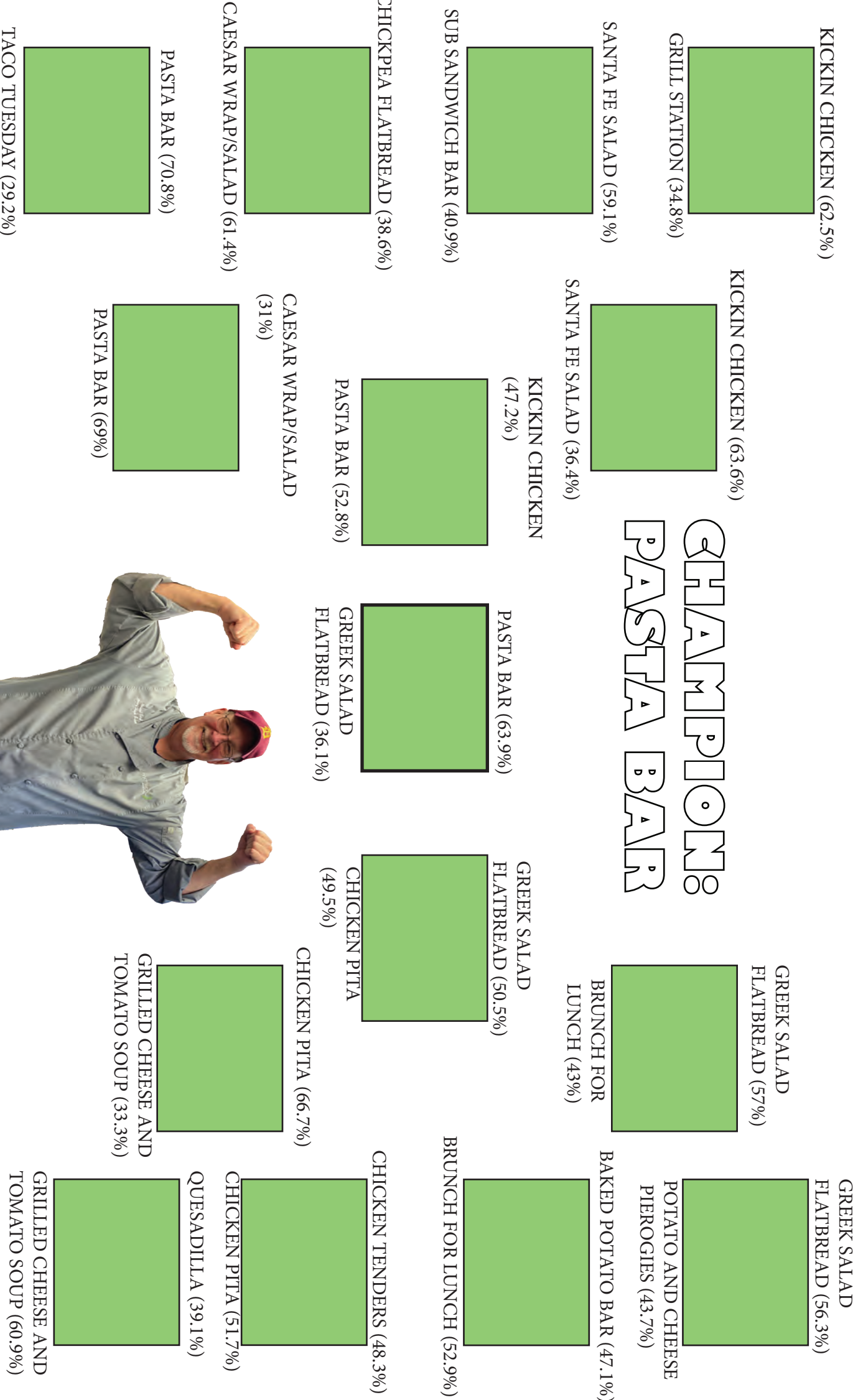
Margh Madness Mercy Cafe Edition

STORY, PHOTO AND GRAPHICS: CAITLYN BEGOSA, ASSOCIATE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

March Madness doesn't only have to be about intense college basketball, free throws, and half-court buzzer beaters. For this month's issue of Newsprint, Mercy students completed polls about their favorite cafe lunches. Follow along with Newsprint's bracket to see aspiring underdogs, close matches and the champion lunch.

which will be served on April 7th.

CHAMPION: PASTA BAR



Marlins get inked

STORY, PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS: GRACE O'DEA, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

If there's one thing Mercy Marlins are good at, it's accessorizing, and what more permanent accessory is there than tattoos? Now more than ever, having a tattoo or tattoos is commonplace. To have a better idea of what it's like to be "inked up", *Newsprint* presents the tattoo experience of staff and students here at Mercy.

Ms. Tosha Willis, the counseling office support specialist, has four tattoos, her first being from when she was 18. This first tattoo, though, is one she recognizes as having been more a result of teen angst than thoughtful consideration.

"The tattoo is stupid," Willis said laughingly. "It totally signifies being 18; I wanted to get it because I could then."

Her other three tattoos came about over the course of several years, and were also unplanned. Willis said she never exactly thought about an appointment or what to do next in advance.

"Every last one was on a whim, nothing was planned," Willis said.

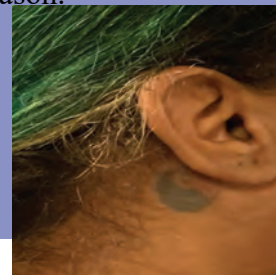
Although Willis has never precisely planned out when she will get her next one, she does believe that any tattoo in general should have significance to someone and be thought about.

"[Tattoos] definitely have to have a meaning," she said. "The reason mine are so spaced out is because I have to have a reason."

Of her four tattoos, Willis's favorite is the Yin Yang symbol behind her ear, as she says she has always appreciated what the symbol itself represents. Prominent in Chinese culture, the Yin Yang emphasizes how opposing energies can complement each other for a greater good.

In the time since she got her first tattoo, Willis has seen the climate around tattoos and permanent body art change.

"I don't think people blink as much when they see people covered in tattoos," she said.



Senior Carissa Hodges boasts a single tattoo on her upper right arm, a constellation of a star and moon. She got her tattoo done in December of 2021. Hodges's tattoo is a prime example of how people often get tattoos in memory of someone.

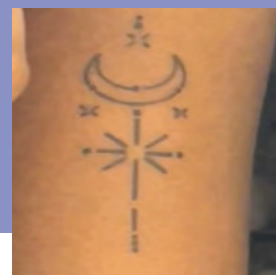
"My tattoo is a memory of my grandmother, who used to call me her moon and her star," Hodges said. "So I got a constellation tattoo that reminded me of her and our connection."

While some people flaunt intricate, complex tattoos that look like they took hours to have done, Hodges admires her tattoo for how minimalistic it is. However, that is not to say future tattoos will be as simple or modest. Although she has no current plans for what she'll get next, Hodges is intent on having more ink added at some point.

"After I got my first tattoo, I was already thinking about getting another one," Hodges said. "I will for sure be getting tattoos for the rest of my life as I believe that they are beautiful art pieces that we can display on our bodies."

Hodges views tattoos as body art and feels the stigma against tattoos is odd considering tattoos are really just a great outlet for self-expression.

"Tattoos don't represent someone's character or how they treat others," Hodges said. "They are just a reflection of that person's way of being confident and displaying something that they like."



Junior Madison Faraj has a single cross tattoo near the wrist of her right arm. She got it on her 17th birthday in January of this year.

"I'm not 18, so my mom had to sign for me," Faraj said.

Faraj opted for a cross for her first tattoo because of the role her faith plays in her life. Because her religion is important to her, she knew she would not regret getting a tattoo that represents her faith background.

"I'm really strong in my faith and [the cross] is something I've always wanted to get just because it's a constant reminder of living with Jesus every day," Faraj said. "And I'm allergic to jewelry, so a tattoo was kind of the only thing I could get for that reminder."

Her biggest shock in getting a tattoo was how painless her experience was, which she found odd considering her low pain tolerance.

"I almost backed out walking into the place because I was so scared," she said. "But it wasn't painful at all."

Although she has just the one now, Faraj does hope to get more tattoos in the future.

"It's definitely harder to not want another now," she said. Despite her want for another tattoo, Faraj does warn against getting a shared tattoo with someone else, unless special circumstances apply.

"Maybe I'd get a shared tattoo with my family, and that's probably it, just because you never know," she said.

Her precautions for getting a tattoo aside, Faraj does feel that there should be less judgement against tattoos.

"It's just a form of art and a lot of times the tattoos people have are really significant to them," she said.





FIVE-BY-FIVE

STORY, PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS: **FATIMA SIDDIQUE, DESIGN EDITOR**



Zaara Ahmed '25



Ariel Sovereign '24



Ana Fryer '23



Chloe Fanning '22



Ms. Cindy Richter

What is your zodiac sign?

“Cancer”

“Leo”

“Sagittarius”

“Libra”

“Capricorn”

What element is your zodiac sign?

“I think water.”

“Fire”

“Fire”

“Air sign”

“Earth”

Do you believe in horoscopes?

“No, I don’t think everyone who is a Cancer will experience the same things; it’s sort of unrealistic.”

“Sometimes. I wouldn’t base my choices on them but sometimes I do believe them.”

“Yes, I don’t read them in depth but I do believe in them.”

“I guess, but I think the descriptions are so broad they apply to anyone.”

“I mean if it’s a good thing, I’ll believe it. I’ll manifest it.”

What’s a common stereotype you’ve heard about your zodiac sign?

“I’ve heard we cry a lot and are sensitive.”

“We are self-centered and have a big ego.”

“We are party animals.”

“They’re always like the Barbie aesthetic and the early 2000s mean girls type of vibe.”

“We are stubborn.”

Do you think you identify well with your sign?

“Not really because I’m not really sensitive.”

“No, not really. Something may be accurate but I wouldn’t say I have Leo qualities.”

“Yes, I don’t like to be stuck in one place. I like to be on the go and go out with friends which are Sagittarius qualities.”

“Yeah, I think I have a lot of Libra qualities but I don’t know who determines these qualities for each sign.”

“From what I know, yes. We are loyal and have really big hearts and give it our all.”

Mercy Meet and Greet

STORY AND GRAPHICS: CAITLYN BEGOSA, ASSOCIATE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For this month's edition of *Newsprint*, Mercy Meet and Greet introduces the 2022 Heart of Mercy Award winners: senior Riley Condon and dean of student affairs Mrs. Eleasha Tarplin. These two individuals were nominated by staff and students for inspiring others on a daily basis and exemplifying the Mercy Values of human dignity, justice, service, option for the poor and mercy.

Riley Condon



Photo by Caitlyn Begosa

What characteristics do you have that are attributed to the Heart of Mercy recipient?

“Based on what people said, I think I am a compassionate person and good at connecting with people, especially listening to them. Also, I just am a people person, like I have a lot of different friends, and I try to be kind to everyone.”

Which statement that you heard on stage was the most impactful for you?

“Someone said they felt seen with me and that just made me feel really good even if it was just a small moment. I don't know who it was obviously, but it just showed [me] how small moments can have such a big positive impact on someone's life.”

Mrs. Tarplin



Photo by Caitlyn Begosa

What characteristics do you have that are attributed to the Heart of Mercy recipient?

“I don't see myself having those characteristics, so it's really tough. I try to treat everyone with human dignity. It's very important to me to listen to people, to be available to hear them. I always want everyone to be happy, which is impossible. It's still something that I strive for, so if someone has a problem, I'm going to try and fix it. It doesn't always work that way, but I'm going to try. I like people to be happy, satisfied and feel content with whatever is going on.”

What was your first reaction when they announced your name as the winner?

“No, they didn't call my name.' I stood in the back of the auditorium for a while, and I remember hearing somebody saying 'you got to go up there' like no, no. I was in total disbelief.”

Looking back on this month...



The Riveters competed in the Milford district event for robotics. Photo used with permission from Juliana Santillan



At the Alumnae Luncheon, seniors met with former Mercy students to learn more about college and careers. Photo by Grace O'Dea



The Quiz Bowl team poses together after competing in Detroit Country Day's Charity Quiz Bowl Tournament. Photo used with permission from Lauren Marquard