



# Protecting and Preserving the Earth

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Toms Lush TrueBotanicals  
LoveBeautyandPlanet BVBI L'occitane  
TheBodyShop Aveda WetBrush  
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Puracy Parachute WestElm OurPlace Stasher  
Purifyyou Beeswrap WhiffBotanicals Sprout  
Squishful Dropps SmartSheep Thinx Publicgoods

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# Robotics gets moody

STORY AND GRAPHICS: GRACE O'DEA

How could a robotics team possibly help people manage their anxiety? Simple: a mood ring. Not the average arcade prize toy mood ring, though, but rather a “modern-day mood ring” as senior robotics team member Jill Grubb said she and her fellow robotics team members like to call it. With some robotics knowledge and creativity, Grubb and the robotics team have worked to create a ring to help people track their anxiety.

“Our goal is to lower anxiety and make it more manageable,” said Grubb. “We want to basically help people who have anxiety deal with it and give them coping mechanisms.”

When asked to make a product that would help either physical or mental health and benefit people both in and out of robotics for a competition, the robotics team first responded by throwing different ideas around for what to make. Although the concept of a mood ring is what ended up being used, this idea was first met with hesitation by team members.

“We were a little skeptical at first about if we would be able to put the technology needed [to track anxiety] inside the ring,” said Grubb.

After doing some research and looking into different smart devices that function similar to how the ring would, the robotics team came to agree on making the mood ring.

One of the main reasons the robotics team supported the ring was that it would help Mercy students’ mental health and wellness.

“It’s an anxiety ring,” said junior robotics team member Casey Baldwin. “Mostly everyone experiences anxiety at one point or another, and so we wanted to create something that not only benefits [the team] but also others.”

Before a blueprint could be made for the ring, the team had to spend quite some time doing background research. They looked into different apps and products built for anxiety and spoke with a therapist about helpful ways to approach anxiety. From there, building a model of the mood ring began.

“We used a system called CAD (computer aided design) in order to design an image for the ring,” said Baldwin. “So we have a semi-blueprint model of the basic structure of what the ring will look like.”

The ring functions in a way similar to other

smart devices like the Apple Watch and Fitbit fitness bands by using the same various sensors to track physical aspects of someone’s health.

By sensing heart rate and temperature, the ring can pick up on how anxious someone is feeling.

“The ring itself has a bunch of different sensors,” said Grubb, “and through those the ring can sense when someone is starting to get really anxious. Then the mood ring changes colors.”

The ring is also connected to an app on its wearer’s phone so that ring users can see patterns in their anxiety and learn more about how they feel throughout the day. LED lights inside the ring change color to show a shift in the ring wearer’s feelings of anxiety, while the app is designed to give more details on how the person is feeling and how their mood has changed.

The app would track anxiety and changes in mood, and also have the ability to send messages to its user.

“The ring would be connected to the app on your phone and you would get a text notification saying, ‘hey you’re very anxious right now, why don’t you try taking a break’,” said Grubb.

Along with tracking anxiety patterns and alerting its users when needed, the app is also planned to contain exercises to help ease anxiety. Features such as meditation devices, calming games and other coping mechanisms would be included in the app so that even people who don’t own the mood ring can still utilize the app the ring is paired with.

“One of our concerns was if the app would be useful to someone who didn’t own the ring,” said Baldwin, “so basically we wanted to make [the app] somewhat functional for those without the ring.”

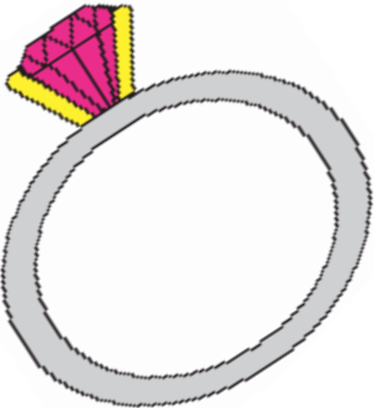
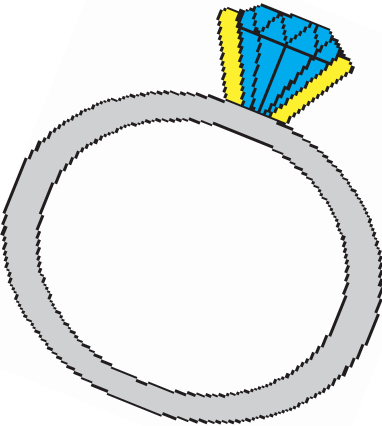
With the cost of production and the need for some profit, the ring is projected to cost about \$75. It is yet to be produced and as of right now only exists as a presentation for the robotics team’s competition, but the team hopes to make the “modern mood ring” a reality as soon as possible.



The projected front page of the app for the robotics team’s ring. Photo used with permission from the robotics team.



The robotics team made this image of the ring using CAD. Photo used with permission from the robotics team.





# Clare's Corner

## There is no planet B

STORY AND GRAPHICS: CLARE JONES, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

What is climate change? The most universal and the simplest explanation is the change in the typical weather that occurs in a particular location. According to scientists and the majority of the global population, the climate crisis is an existential threat that affects every region of the earth differently. This issue requires as many individuals as possible to make positive lifestyle changes to save the earth to avoid an environmental calamity.

Research suggests the fundamental cause of climate change is pollution. The negative environmental effects of climate change damage not only the air, water and land but also living habitats. For example, the online campaign for #savetheturtles promotes the protection of sea turtles, an animal that has been on the endangered species list since 2001. Due to the increase of marine debris, especially plastics, sea turtles have ingested harmful chemicals that have caused their immune system to weaken and shortened their lifespan. Furthermore, because of extreme weather that has significantly impacted coastal regions, sea turtles' habitats and reproduction have decreased.

One of the Sisters of Mercy's critical concerns is caring for the earth. The Sisters acknowledge the importance of maintaining sustainability and believe that all humans have the right to clean water. Nationally, they have promised to reduce their usage of greenhouse gas and to promote more prominent solutions in international, national, state and local agreements on public policy related to addressing climate change, which they have stated as an "urgent moral crisis."

Although endangered animals like sea turtles are E Pluribus Unum - one out of many- within the Oceania region, this example of a change in the marine ecosystem will also abruptly change the beach ecosystem, causing erosion. This land deterioration will lead to the dislocation of other plant and animal species.

Here at Mercy, although we don't attend school on coastal shores, students and staff remain cautious to adhere to this critical initiative to practice environmental responsibility. Last year in the cafeteria, there was a concerted advocacy by the administration and students for less plastic and waste in the building. This trend was supported by the use of more paper products and encouraged the school to invest in materials that benefit our planet like biodegradable paper napkins and bowls. Mercy has

also utilized napkin dispensers to manage waste.

Also, to increase our green footprint, last year the school has implemented a specific period during our advisor group for students to empty the recycling bins throughout the school.

If society does not take action now in protecting the planet to prevent these natural disasters from happening more frequently, the majority of Millennials and Gen Z will be here to witness and suffer the potential detrimental environmental effects.

NASA has reported that since the 1880s, the average global surface temperature has risen roughly two degrees annually. This rise in temperature caused by the pollution being put into the atmosphere creates higher sea levels, shrinking glaciers, droughts and increased human health risk, to name a few.

As the rates of pollution rise, the Center of Disease and Control (CDC) in December 2020 published

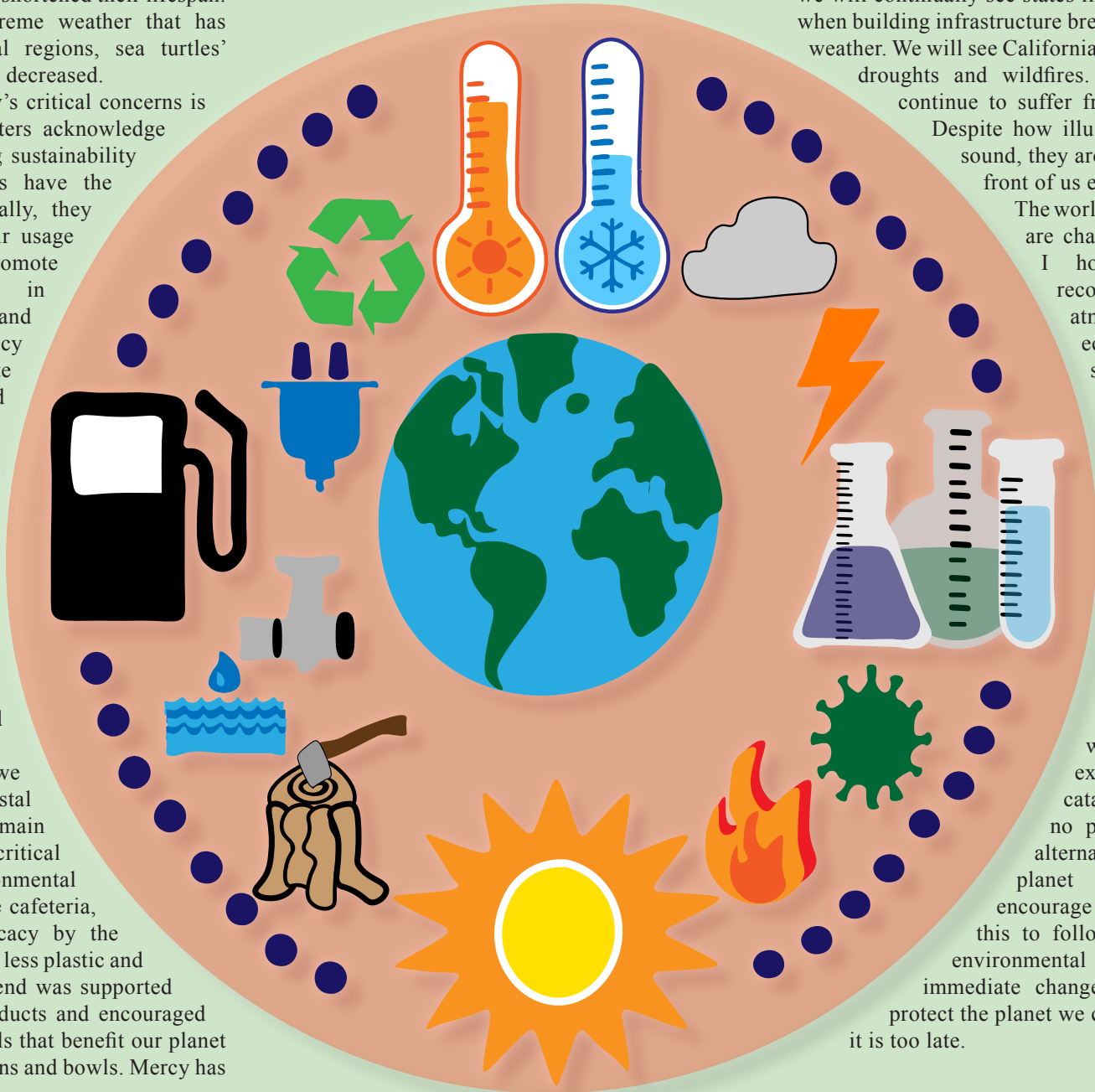
studies showing how this man-made issue is resulting in increased health risks, especially deteriorating the human respiratory system. Some locations within the United States have such high levels of air pollution including ground level ozone (a key component of smog) that over the past years hospitalizations and emergency room visits related to asthma and lung dysfunction have increased and caused premature deaths.

Here in Michigan, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a study analyzing how the Great Lakes' water temperatures are increasing and water levels are decreasing as higher temperatures have resulted in more evaporation. This has also affected the state's water supply and ability to use docks, piers and other shoreline ecosystems that the state relies heavily on to create business.

If more preventative measures are not implemented, we will continually see states like Texas go into havoc when building infrastructure breaks because of extreme weather. We will see California continue to experience droughts and wildfires. We will see Florida continue to suffer from severe hurricanes. Despite how illusory these events may sound, they are real and happening in front of us every day.

The world's living environments are changing. And as it does, I hope collectively we recognize how the earth's atmosphere is affecting ecosystems large and small, how and where we live, and creating human health issues. There are a plethora of ways individuals can transition into becoming sustainable people protecting the planet.

I am an activist for preserving the Earth because I, just like other Mercy students, will live to see the extreme effects of this catastrophe. We have no planet B to use as an alternative living space when planet Earth deteriorates. I encourage all individuals reading this to follow in the footsteps of environmental advocates to make an immediate change within our lives to protect the planet we currently live on before it is too late.





# Making a Mercyaire

STORY AND GRAPHICS: MEGAN MALLIE, ASSOCIATE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Music is a timeless experience. People shout songs in unison at concerts, sing along with friends on a drive, or solo karaoke in the shower. Whatever the occasion, music has the power to uplift the spirit and temporarily lose oneself in the moment.

Music is a time-honored tradition for Mercy's choral group, the Mercyaires, a group of 22 girls who are committed to channeling their musical talent into something that they and others can enjoy. Any Mercy student can audition to join the Mercyaires as a sophomore, although it is recommended to take Glee or Advanced Glee class the year before joining. Both classes better prepare a prospective Mercy student who wants to be a part of Mercyaires. Mercyaires is an elective, meaning each student in the class has the opportunity to practice what they are passionate about every day—singing.

"[What I love most is] being with a group of girls who are just as passionate about the songs that we're singing as I am," said senior Raquel Segars, a three-year member of Mercyaires. "I like the energy that we create."

Segars was in her middle school choir

and took vocal lessons, both of which spurred her to audition for Mercyaires.

What makes the commitment worth it to Segars is the stress relief that often accompanies singing, and the alignment with her own personal passion. She takes pride in performing with a group and working together to achieve something beautiful. Despite the hard work that accompanies it, the rewards and achievement are more than worth it.

"It's a wonderful way to further my interest and passion for music," said Segars. "I love to sing, and it's important that I cultivate that talent."

Some events coming up for the Mercyaires include the Spring Concert on May 12 and the Michigan Choral Festival, held virtually for the first time at the end of March. The student singers will record a performance and send it in for judgement, competing in state and regional competitions. Students in Glee and Mercyaires will combine to perform as the Mercy High School Concert Choir. They will perform two pieces; "Inscription of Hope" by Z. Randall Stroope and "O Magnum Mysterium", a Latin song by Ivo Antognini. This virtual performance video will be submitted for

judgement as well as shared with the Mercy community.

Mrs. Rebekah Ferguson teaches the Mercyaires class, and values the sense of community she has with the current members of the group.

"Being a full-year course means that I get to see the growth and development of my students over time," Mrs. Ferguson said. "There are Mercyaires graduating who I will have had for eight consecutive semesters, and that is pretty special."

A new aspect due to COVID-19 is the Singer's Masks, a specially constructed mask that allows proper mouth and jaw movement while singing. Although wearing masks during performance is not ideal, it does allow for performances to take place.

Auditions for new Mercyaires have not been scheduled yet, but will take place in late April with consideration for both live and virtual auditions. Interested students should sign up for the course when constructing their next year course load, as course selections occur before auditions.



Segars and the other Mercyaires receive direction from Mrs. Rebekah Ferguson during a 2019 class. Photo by Valaurian Waller, AOD photographer



Senior Raquel Segars sings with the Mercyaires in 2019. Photo by Valaurian Waller, AOD photographer



# Friday the 13th: a year later

STORY AND GRAPHICS: MADDIE SULLIVAN, COPY EDITOR

Many know about the conspiracies behind the notorious date, Friday the 13th. Research has found that conspiracies surrounding this infamous day take their roots in Christian tradition. In the Bible, Jesus and his 12 disciples attended the Last Supper the night before Jesus was crucified, which created the superstition that 13 guests at a table was a bad omen, specifically that it was courting death.

Although Friday has weaker negative associations compared to the number 13, these associations are also believed to originate from biblical translations as Jesus was crucified on a Friday, and Friday was the day in which Cain murdered his brother, Abel.

Reflecting on how 2020 began with “World War III” trending on Twitter after then-President Donald Trump announced the killing of Iranian Maj. Gen. Qasem Soleimani and the untamable fires that destroyed acres of land and wildlife in Australia and California, many people were skeptical of what Friday the 13th in the year 2020 would bring. And the date of Friday March 13, 2020 seemed to carry a particularly bad omen as it fell exactly 13 weeks after the previous Friday the 13th, which occurred on Dec. 13, 2019.

I’ve never been one for conspiracy theories, but the pandemic may have changed this. Roughly a year ago, the coronavirus reached the United States, and within weeks of the virus’ arrival, life was flipped upside down. As many of us were in a frenzy, stocking up on toilet paper and hand sanitizer last March, the Mercy Curriculum Council, which is made up of administrators and parents, was meeting to make arrangements for online learning. “On that Friday [March 13, 2020], when all the stu-

dents were off of school, we were in a meeting room trying to figure out what the next two weeks or so were going to look like, thinking we would be back in a few weeks,” said Mrs. Tarplin, Dean of Students. And later that day, it was officially announced that in-person learning would be suspended, and an online learning model was implemented.

At the time, we believed the E-learning model would only last a few weeks, but little did we know the start of quarantine was the end of the routine life as we knew it. It also made me question whether there really is some truth behind the Friday the 13th conspiracy, as it seemed the bad omens that had been predicted to occur on this day were manifesting themselves in forms of death, chaos and fear.

So while the impending outbreak of COVID-19 was festering in the U.S. for several weeks in late February and early March, Friday March 13, 2020 seems, for many, to signify the day in which our fears turned into realities as the events around us seemed to be taken straight out of an apocalyptic blockbuster film.

“I remember feeling excited at first because we got an extra Friday of school off and then an extended spring break,” said senior Grace Martin. “As school resumed online I realized the seriousness of what was going on and the surreal feeling of actually living through a pandemic.”

It’s hard to believe it has been over a year since the Covid-19 pandemic first erupted in the U.S. And it’s even harder to believe that we are still living in this coronavirus-dictated world since many of us believed life would be restored back to normal within a few weeks of the initial outbreak.

A question about how Mercy students feel a year after the pandemic started was posed in a Newsprint poll, and a majority of respondents expressed feelings of frustration and disappointment.

“I feel so sad that it has been a year since the shutdown started,” said Martin. “The pandemic cut into my senior year of high school so I was not able to experience all the regular senior events. Of course this is incon-

sequential in the grand scheme of things, and I am so blessed that no one close to me has passed away from COVID-19, but it is still very disheartening that the whole class of 2021 worked so hard and did not get the last year that they deserved.”

Although much was lost in the past year, if there’s one thing that we can take away from it. It would be that you never know what a new day will bring; however, as the next Friday the 13th, which will take place in September, approaches, I think we can all agree (or at least hope) that no Friday the 13th will ever outdo that memorable date from March 2020.

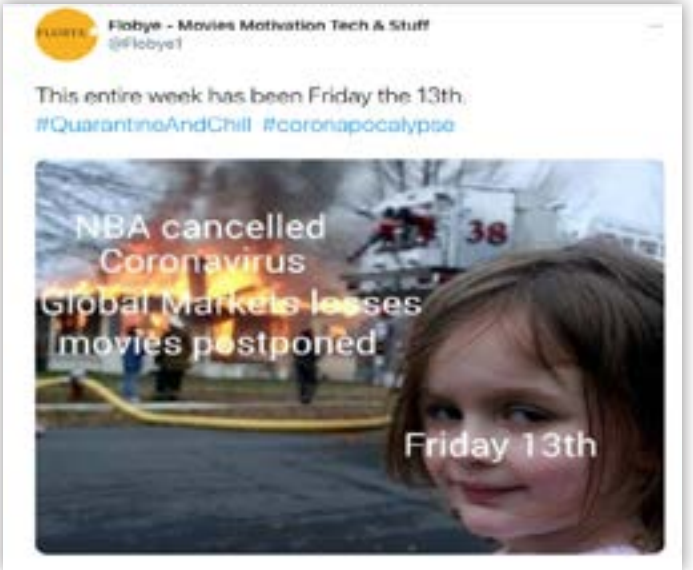
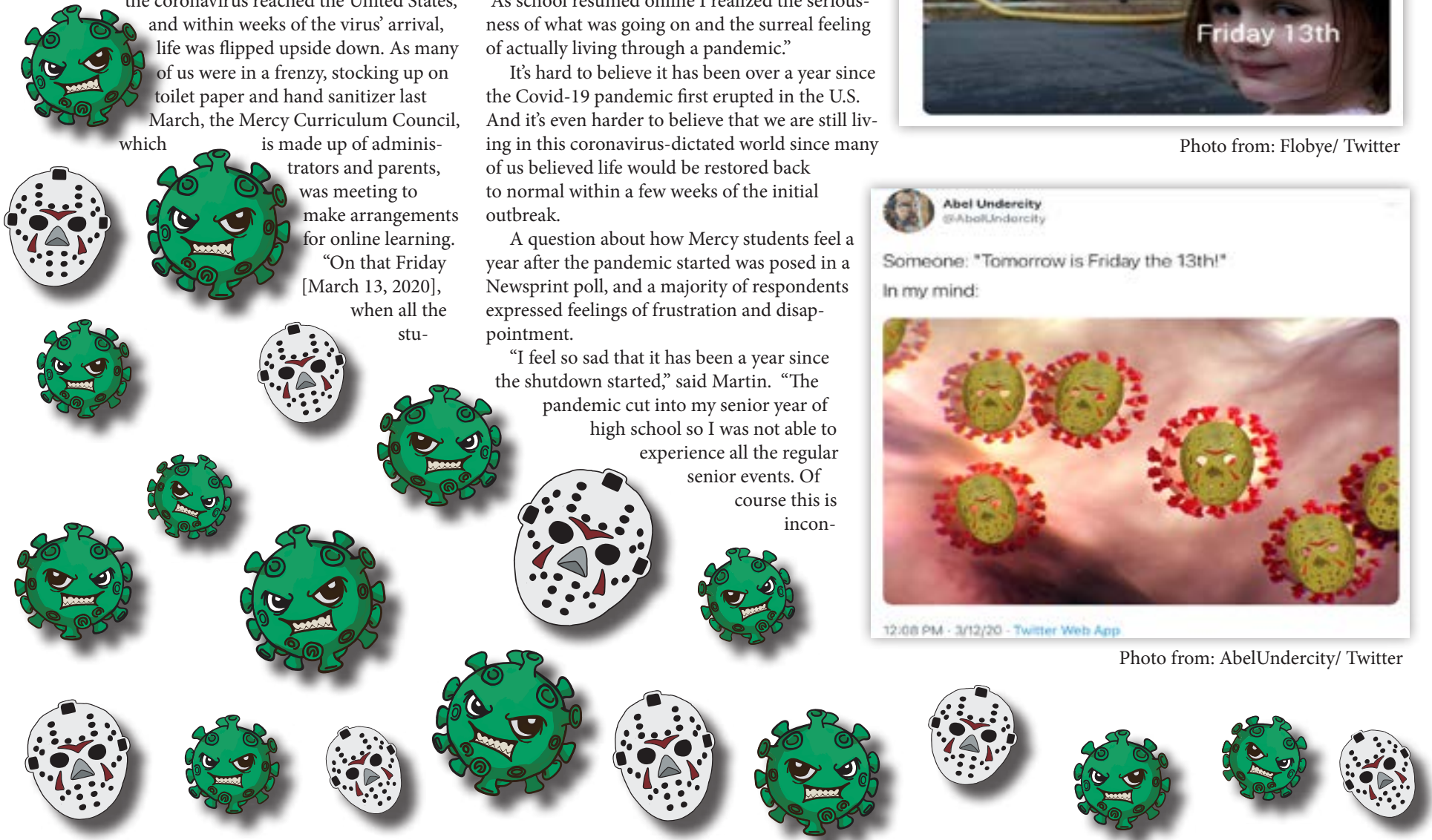


Photo from: Flobye/ Twitter



Photo from: AbelUndercity/ Twitter



# Houseplant hysteria

## the new craze that benefits humans and the planet

STORY AND GRAPHICS: MADDIE SULLIVAN, COPY EDITOR

As Earth Day draws nearer, it is important to reflect on old and new ways we can help the environment. From plant-based diets to electric cars, our society has become much more aware of our impact on the environment as we sense the pressure of the impending irreversible changes to our earth if we do not act promptly. And this environmental conscientiousness exists in our own Mercy community. It manifests itself in clubs such as the Green (Girls Reaching Environmental Enlightenment Now) Club and the Animal Rights Club, or Mercy initiatives like Make a Difference Day and Wellness Wednesdays (which have been disbanded because of COVID). But there is one particular way Mercy students are embracing their inner-environmentalist: plants.

Some Mercy students have become genuine green thumbs, creating gardens around their homes or in local parks, while others like to enjoy the great outdoors from the comfort of their bedrooms. You might ask how? The answer: houseplants.

Senior Olive Rents recently jumped on the houseplant bandwagon after her sister came home from college last spring because of the pandemic.

"My sister brought [her houseplants] home from college over the long break, and they were dying, so we found out a way to bring them back to life, and it made me very interested in house plants," said Rentz.

Houseplants are not a new concept. However, there has been a sudden boom in their popularity in the last several years, especially among Millennials and Gen Z. With the trending social media hashtags, Reddit forums, and newly emerging online shops and services dedicated to houseplants, I guess you could say we are slightly houseplant-obsessed. And the obsession is understandable because of the benefits associated with owning houseplants.

For one, keeping a couple of houseplants around the house may help keep you around longer, as there have been many studies on the correlation between nature and wellbeing. According to the Houseplant Resource Center, interacting with houseplants may calm the nervous system, lower blood pressure, and promote an overall feeling of wellness.

And in the wake of the pandemic last year, many of us were looking for ways to spend our time. For some, one of these ways was watering, pruning, and caring for their houseplants. Caring for plants provides a sense of routine and can be an outlet for relaxation.

"[My houseplants] make me feel very

happy in their sense of security," said Rentz, "especially because, for me, I like to water them every day at a certain time, so it's something to look forward to and something scheduled on my day just to get my mind off of things."

Despite the proven benefits of keeping houseplants, there may be another explanation as to why many are taking up botany, specifically Millennials, due to urbanization and the different life trajectory of younger generations. Because of recent urbanization, more people live in cities than ever before, leaving many without yards or greenspace. So they are forced to turn to houseplants if they want to spruce up their living spaces with greenery.

Additionally, the younger generations, especially Millennials, have shown a different pattern than previous generations in terms of settling down and starting families. According to the Houseplant Resource Center, whereas older generations began settling down in their 20s and 30s, many Millennials have put off home buying and starting families, possibly because of student debt, high home prices, or the competitive job market. And because it is an innate need to nurture something, the younger generations have turned to houseplants to fill the void of children.

So if you're dying to get your hands on some houseplants, *Newsprint* has a couple recommendations for you.

**Fiddle Leaf Fig:** The Fiddle Leaf Fig is native to tropical Cameroon in Africa, so the plant's giant green leaves need lots of sunlight for photosynthetic processes to occur. Although the plant needs lots of sunlight, it only requires watering every 1-2 weeks. The Fiddle Leaf Fig can be sensitive to temperature swings, humidity, and air drafts according to TheSill.com, but the plant's modern look and distinctive foliage have made it a popular houseplant for many homeowners.

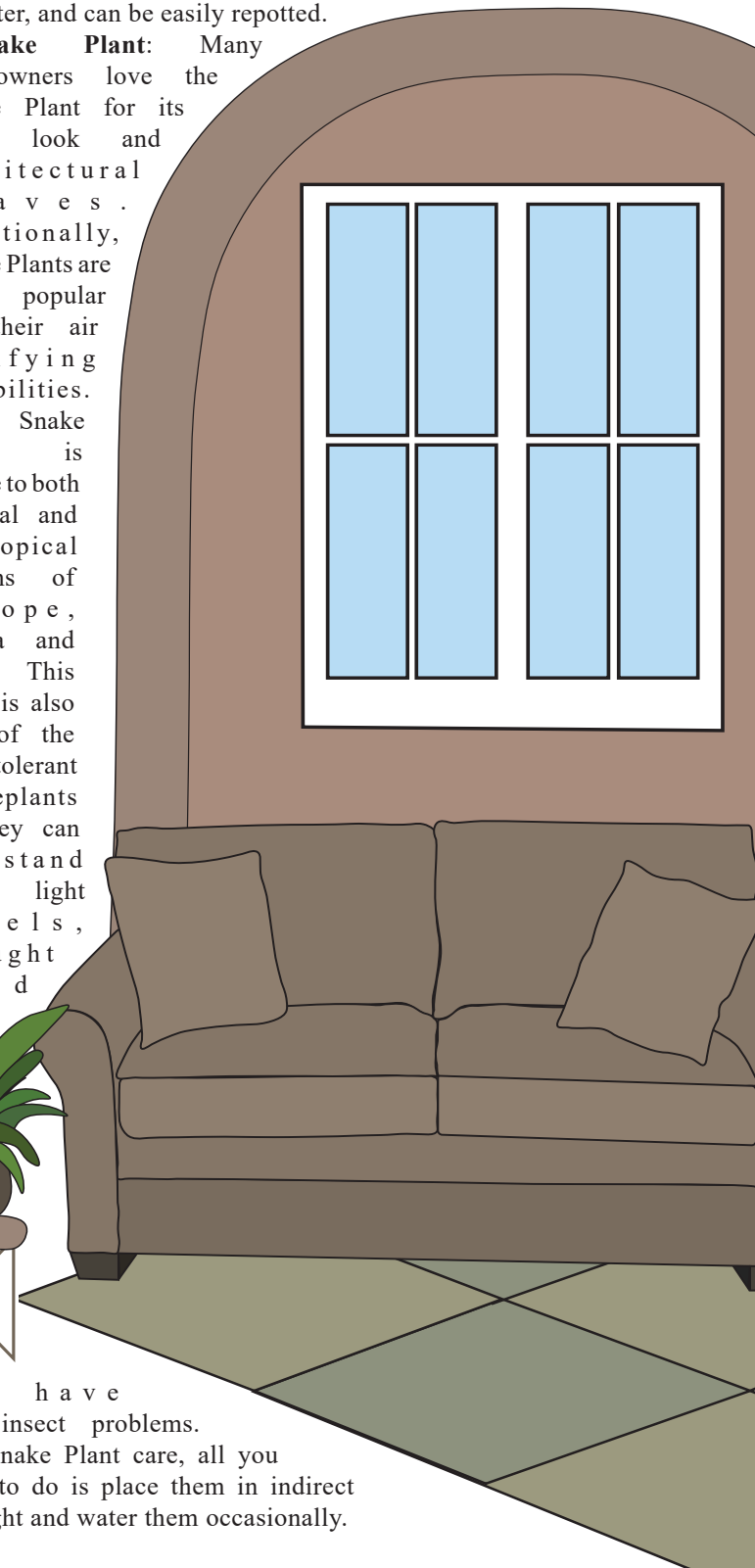
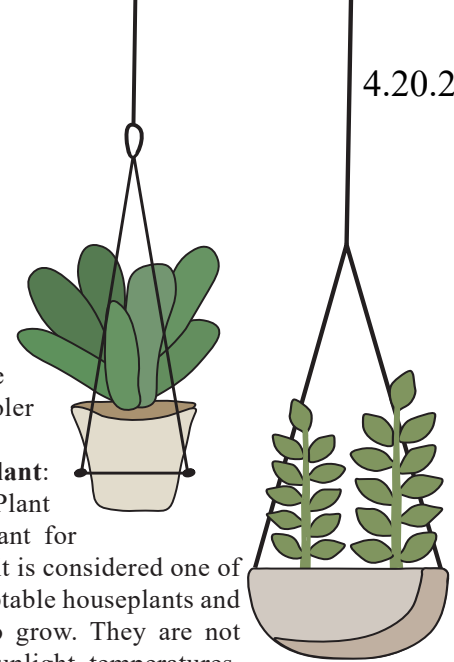
**Chinese Money Plant:** The Chinese Money Plant features green pancake-shaped leaves, which provide an adorable burst of color to home interiors. This plant originates from the Yunnan province of China, and it is not sold in most plant centers. If you're looking to buy the Chinese Money Plant, your best bet is to buy from an online seller like Amazon or Craigslist. This plant is considered to be pretty hardy, as it can withstand freezing temperatures and does not require direct sunlight. In fact, these plants tend to have larger leaves when grown in the shade. They may also bud small, white flowers, especially

if they are grown in cooler temperatures.

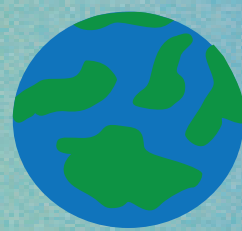
**Spider Plant:** The Spider Plant is a great plant for beginners as it is considered one of the most adaptable houseplants and the easiest to grow. They are not picky about sunlight, temperatures, or water, and can be easily repotted.

**Snake Plant:** Many homeowners love the Snake Plant for its fresh look and architectural leaves. Additionally, Snake Plants are very popular for their air purifying capabilities. The Snake Plant is native to both tropical and subtropical regions of Europe, Africa and Asia. This plant is also one of the most tolerant houseplants as they can withstand low light levels, drought and

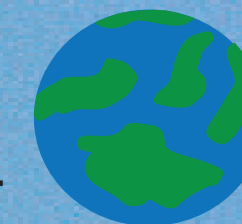
have few insect problems. For Snake Plant care, all you need to do is place them in indirect sunlight and water them occasionally.







# PROTECTING AND PRESERVING THE EARTH



STORY AND GRAPHICS: RACHAEL SALAH. DESIGN EDITOR AND MEGAN MALLIE. ASSOCIATE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

SUSTAINABILITY IS A TERM THAT HAS RECENTLY CREATED BUZZ IN POPULAR CULTURE. THE DEFINITION OF SUSTAINABILITY ACCORDING TO THE OXFORD DICTIONARY IS “AVOIDANCE OF THE DEPLETION OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN AN ECOLOGICAL BALANCE.” BRANDS PROMOTE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND AWARENESS TO ISSUES IN OUR WORLD TODAY. NEWSPRINT BREAKS DOWN FOUR CATEGORIES OF SUSTAINABILITY: HOUSEHOLD, BEAUTY, FASHION AND ENERGY.

## HOUSEHOLD

Did you know that in 2018, 37,410 tons of durable goods were placed in landfills? These durable goods came from household products thrown away from American homes. Consider how many paper towels you go through daily, or how many plastic bags you use in your lunch every year. These items, among many, often end up in landfills and stay there for decades. However, they can easily be replaced with more efficient products that provide the same purpose. Papaya Reusables is a reusable paper towel brand that is antibacterial, all-natural, and even compostable. Available for purchase on their website, one durable sheet of a Papaya Reusable replaces a whopping 17 rolls of paper towels. Lasting 2-4 months, these “paper towels” are multi-purposeful and eco-friendly. The best part—when you throw them away, they will decompose and give back to the earth! Another fantastic sustainable household brand is StasherBag. These reusable plastic bags keep thousands of single-use plastics out of landfills and oceans. They are made entirely free from BPA, BPS, lead, latex, and phthalates. Though more expensive than the usual single-use resealable bag, they end up saving more money and waste in the long-run. These eco-friendly beauties can be purchased at Target, Amazon, their website and many other places. Making the switch to alternatives such as these, or similar among many other products, can and will reduce climate change and the impact of landfills in America.

## BEAUTY

Sustainable beauty. Though seemingly difficult to find, there are actually a multitude of brands that qualify as sustainable beauty brands. Sustainable cosmetics are defined as products using natural ingredients from renewable raw materials. Although it may seem easier to simply purchase the typical Maybelline or Covergirl products, there are several alternatives with less harmful ingredients that impact our planet. The brand Nécessaire is a body care brand that has recently been certified as Climate Neutral. As their name suggests, the company uses products only necessary for the body—no additives or fillers. Nécessaire prides itself on being eco-friendly through using 85% post-consumer boxes and 100% recyclable paper for their shippers and boxes. They also never use any virgin forest materials. To maintain your commitment to reducing your beauty waste, Love Beauty and Planet is a great and affordable option to reduce your carbon footprint. Sold at Target and many other drugstores, Love Beauty and Planet strives to reduce its environmental impact. This brand is committed to the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan and strives for sustainable growth through it. Switching to brands like either of these among the many that exist, can positively impact our planet and our futures.

## FASHION

Sustainable shopping has been gaining traction recently, with a push from consumers about clothing companies’ ethics. Environmentalists have been advocating to decrease consumer support for fast fashion. Fast fashion is a term regarding the fleeting fashion trends that are mass-produced at a low cost and therefore a high profit for the company. Some adverse effects fast fashion can entail are fabric waste when making the item, using child labor or hazardous working conditions and disregarding a concern for the environment. Another issue is whether the clothing is made with materials that are sustainably sourced. Cotton, hemp, or linen are preferable to synthetic fibers such as polyester, nylon and spandex which are created from chemicals or polymers. Although these synthetic fibers are cheaper, the garments are not made to last as wearable fashion, and according to Forbes, it can take up to 200 years for a garment made of synthetic fiber to decompose. An outlet that many consumers have been shifting toward when shopping mindfully is thrift stores. Reusing and re-wearing already-produced garments reduces the demand for new products. One recommendation is rather than shopping fast fashion, invest in garments that are made to endure. Some notable sustainable clothing brands that appeal to high school students include CHNGE, a clothing brand that is trendy and, according to their website, sells “100% GOTS certified organic cotton, carbon neutral clothing, cut+sewn at a fairtrade factory.” Patagonia is also environmentally aware, with social responsibility programs to protect worker conditions. It also uses 100% organic new cotton in its clothing.

## ENERGY

Global warming is a highly debated topic, but we can all agree that we need to take care of our planet. Damage to our earth is directly caused by humans, mainly from burning fossil fuels when generating electricity for buildings and driving fossil fuel-powered vehicles. Another main source of carbon emissions is the deliberate burning of forests, called slash and burn fires, which are intentionally set to clear and destroy large areas of forests. These release huge amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and disperse soot and harmful aerosols contributing to the overall warming of the planet. With the amount of carbon emissions in our atmosphere, there are simple steps we can take to ensure a positive future. One step is reducing the amount of miles we drive, or reducing the usage of fossil fuels in our homes such as switching to energy-saving lightbulbs and buying rechargeable batteries. We can also advocate for change, and start looking for solutions to reduce our carbon footprint. Electric or hybrid cars have been on the rise, and developers are working on technology so that the electric car will be more environmentally friendly and sustainable, especially in ways the battery can be repurposed after the car life is done. Another idea is to reduce aerosol consumption and hold onto smartphones longer, or recycle them through programs such as Iron Mountain, a technology recycling service (Secure IT Asset Disposition) that has one location in Farmington Hills. It assists in destroying and recycling technological equipment. Even taking small steps to initiate change is impactful.



# Mercy's incoming E-Board

STORY, PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS: CAITLYN BEGOSA AND DELILAH COE, WEB EDITOR

The pandemic has dampened or canceled many student council-led events including spirit week and homecoming. Rising to the challenge, the newly-elected members of the executive board are excited to share their ideas for the upcoming school year.

GRACE O'DEA



O'Dea has a multitude of leadership experience including being a link leader, captain of the varsity pompon team, club leader of Healthy Habits and a class officer for the past three years. Even without a designated leader role, she always takes charge and tries to help others the best she can.

"I feel like I always try to take a leadership position or try to help people out and be as much of a leader as I can," said O'Dea. "I always feel like I try to exhibit leadership characteristics in the activities I do."

Next year, O'Dea plans to help integrate students into Mercy.

"As of right now, I want to achieve better integration for everyone into Mercy because after COVID-19, especially the freshmen of right now, it's probably going to be hard for them, even in these last couple of months we're at school fully, to adapt and get used to the environment," said O'Dea. "I want to help current freshmen and incoming students to really immerse themselves and get them more involved in how Mercy works and the fun that Mercy has. Overall, what I want to do is just anything that can help us have the same awesome celebrations we had prior to COVID-19 and make them possible in any way I can for next year with whatever the limitations might be."

This upcoming year, O'Dea is excited to be a senior and a member of executive board.

"I'm really excited to have this position because it's just such an awesome leadership role that I'm going to have and a great way to culminate all the work I've done on class officers this last couple of years," said O'Dea. "I'm really excited to be able to use my position on executive board to do fun things at Mercy and help my fellow classmates but also underclassmen and girls of all grades to have the best year they can and just really enjoy their time at Mercy and have it feel like what Mercy has always been and then more and make Mercy better than it was before COVID-19 in any way I can."

LILY NEDERHOOD



Voted by her peers, junior Lily Nederhood continues her path in student government by becoming Mercy's next executive board chair this upcoming school year.

"I'm really happy," said Nederhood. "I think next year is going to be awesome, and I hope that we're able to bring back a lot of events that weren't able to happen this year. I've loved being a class officer these past few years, but being executive board chair will allow me to focus more on school-wide stuff rather than just class-specific events, which I'm super excited for."

Being a class officer for the past two years and a leader of French Club, Nederhood has a wide range of leadership and plans to step up with her new role in the future by planning school-wide events.

Additionally, Nederhood is involved in many Mercy extracurriculars like (GIDAS) Genes In Diseases And Symptoms, HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America), Forensics, French Honor Society and tennis.

One goal Nederhood hopes to achieve next year is unifying the student body.

"Next year I think my main goal is unity because [the school has] been apart for so long and divided into cohorts," said Nederhood. "I think that it's going to be really important next year to come up with activities or events where everyone feels connected and together, like school-wide bonding events or spirit events to make everyone hyped up about Mercy and school spirit."

Ready to be on executive board, Nederhood is also excited for the upcoming school year.

"I am excited for everyone to be back together again," said Nederhood. "It's really been hard to be apart from half of our grade especially for so long. I'm just excited for everyone to be all back together and for sports games, hopefully homecoming and a normal spirit week."

ELISE COLLINS



Enjoying her time on student council for the past three years, junior Elise Collins is ready to step up to the challenge of being on the executive board for the 2021-2022 school year.

"I really enjoyed being on student council for the past couple of years," said Collins. "I really enjoyed working with the people who ran for executive board along with me this year. A super big part I loved [about student council] was planning the events and volunteering to help other students."

As well as being a class officer, she is a member of GREEN Club (Girls Reaching Environmental Enlightenment Now) and Forensics. Collins also plays boardercross at Mercy and volleyball for Legacy.

Along with being a Mercy leader, Collins also exhibits leadership outside of school by volunteering at places like the Humane Society and participating in the Michigan Youth activism Society (YAS) chapter.

One goal Collins intends for executive board is to implement new ideas revolving around improving students' mental health.

"One thing I've talked about [focusing on] in my speech was mental health," said Collins. "Because of this past year, I think it's really shown me how important it is to focus on mental health. It is easy to become overwhelmed with the stresses of high school and daily life even without being in a pandemic. I truly believe we are the best support system for each other. Mercy does a lot for mental health, but I think the really big thing is as students just being there for each other."

Collins plans to devote time to opportunities, such as stress relief activities, that will help improve the student body's mental health.

Collins is excited to lead events like senior tailgate, spirit week and sweepstakes this upcoming school year.

# Where, what, when, watch

## The war between media platform streaming

STORY AND GRAPHICS: CAITLYN BEGOSA



From mailing DVDs as a movie rental service to creating Golden Globe winning series like *The Crown* and *The Queen's Gambit*, Netflix is adapting to compete in the movie and television industry.

Founded in 1997, Netflix was originally created as a DVD rental service through the mail. Advancing to keep up with similar companies like Blockbuster, Netflix launched its online rental service in 1998 and implemented a subscriber feature to its company. Gaining new clients in less than 10 years, Netflix relaunched its company to become one of the world's first video streaming services. Many other companies like Hulu quickly followed Netflix's example and created their own streaming services.

Seeing the success of Hulu and Netflix, many well-known companies such as Amazon, Home Box Office (HBO), Apple and YouTube have released their own versions of a streaming platform in the late 2010s to keep up with the evolving movie and television industry.

The Walt Disney Company recently launched its own streaming service, Disney Plus, in late 2019. According to a CNBC report, Disney Plus has over 94.9 million subscribers as of February 2021. This new platform is rapidly growing in viewers and in popularity.

As many anticipated movies were set to hit the big screens in 2020, a global pandemic harshly hit movie theaters, forcing many of them to shut down and having many studios release movies to streaming services. With unpredictable COVID-19 lockdowns, many big film studios resorted to delaying the release of their upcoming blockbuster hits to release on streaming services instead.

Instead of waiting for theaters to open and having to delay the release dates of movies, Disney decided to release new films like the live-action *Mulan* and *Soul* to Disney Plus. Following in pursuit, Warner Brothers released its new films like *Wonder Woman 1984* to HBO Max in May 2020.

With many big film production companies having to rely on streaming services to broadcast their new content, streaming platforms similar to Netflix are starting to depend on their own production companies to release new original series and movies.

As television networks and film production companies decide to remove their programs from Netflix, the streaming service is planning

to release more original content this upcoming year to compete with other newly created streaming services. With slowed or paused production for filming due to the pandemic, Netflix plans to overcome these setbacks to launch new content for its viewers. Although many shows Netflix planned to renew got canceled due to COVID-19 like *The Society* and *I Am Not Okay With This*, the streaming service was still able to film new and popular shows, such as *Stranger Things*, in lockdown with the proper safety precautions.

"My favorite [streaming service] is Netflix," said junior Michaela Fitzsimons. "It's the platform I've had the longest, and I like their original shows and movies the best compared to other streaming services like HBO Max. I didn't find any shows [on HBO Max] that really interested me there that I couldn't find somewhere else."

Another factor that contributed to whether or not someone subscribes to a certain platform is advertisements. For example, Hulu has its viewers watch ads for movies and shows not included in their streaming platform, unlike Netflix where subscribers do not have to watch any ads for content they do not own.

"Hulu would have to be my least favorite because

of the ads you watch for some shows," said junior Charlotte Miner. "It's still a good show streaming service and has tons of shows and movies, but the ads can get annoying."

Streaming services like Amazon Prime Video are also losing interest in some subscribers as some content needs to be rented or paid for before streaming.

"My least favorite would have to be Amazon Prime Video because I feel like even if you pay for the prime, you still have to purchase or rent movies," said physical education teacher Mrs. Adrianna Horvath. "It seems backward to me. If I'm paying for it, I should get everything."

Additionally, the growing appeal of streaming platforms has quickly overcome the demand for cable television among the younger generations.

"I'd rather use a streaming platform where I can watch the whole season whenever I want, instead of having to wait a week to only see one new episode [on cable television]," said Fitzsimons. "Also, I like not having to watch ads every five minutes."

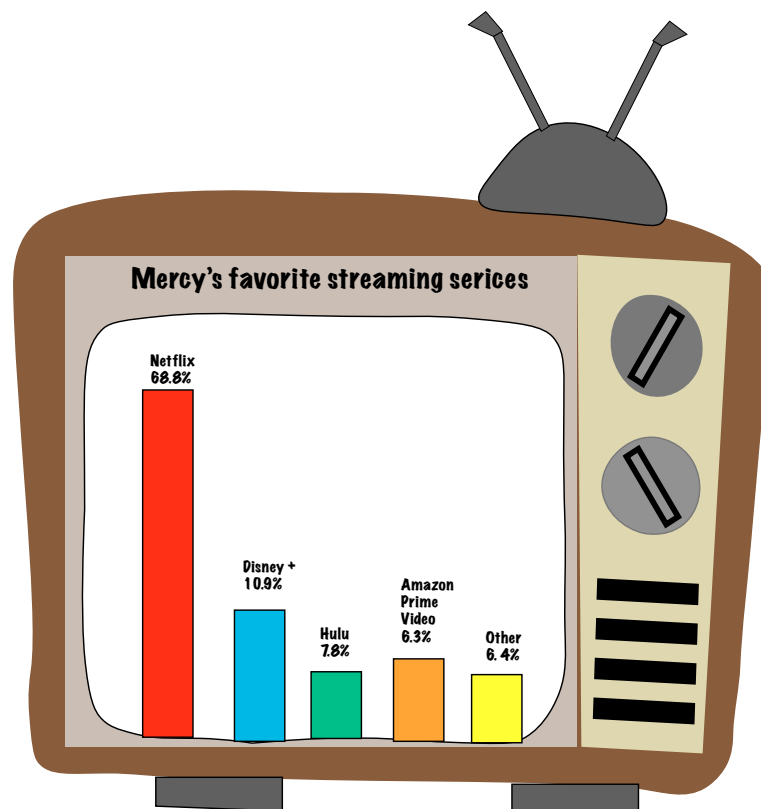
Not only is the rise in streaming impacting cable network shows, prime time sport events and new programs are also gaining traction within new media platforms. ]

In March 2020 Amazon Prime Video finalized an 11 year contract with the National Football Association (NFL) to give Amazon exclusive media rights to the franchise's "Thursday Night Football". The streaming deal will begin in 2023.

The newest streaming service to be released is Paramount+. Owned by ViacomCBS, the platform is one of the cheapest options for its users starting at \$4.99 per month. Along with having original content Paramount+ streams the majority of shows owned and operating under Viacom which includes CBS, Nickelodeon, MTV and Comedy Central.

Although the thrill of love of being able to binge watch an entire television is now at user's fingertips, the constant competition and division shows on different networks have now created an abundance of streaming accounts per customer to enjoy.

As COVID-19 rushes the decline of the movie theater industry and cable television, streaming services started a competitive battle for the most viewers with Netflix, Disney Plus and Hulu coming on top for Mercy students.





# #FreeBritney

STORY, PHOTO AND GRAPHICS: DELILAH COE, WEB EDITOR

Whether you know her as an early 2000’s pop culture icon, have heard about her infamous 2008 scandal, or one of her songs is on your playlist, most people in the U.S. easily recognize the singer, Britney Spears. Everyone knows bits and pieces of her story, but not many people know the misogyny, sexualization and trauma Spears faced in her rise to fame. *The New York Times Presents* documentary, “Framing Britney Spears,” gives viewers a shocking twist that can reshape how Britney Spears is viewed.

This one-episode documentary gives a more complete and empathetic picture of Britney’s life, getting famous as a young woman in a world where girls are sexualized from a young age. Through interviews with Felicia Culotta, Britney’s assistant who has known her since she was five, the audience gets a more holistic view of Britney’s transition to fame from an adult perspective. It starts by describing Britney’s childhood, coming from a middle-class household in Louisiana. However, at a very young age Britney’s amazing singing abilities would be able to attract crowds, starting with performing at local malls.

Her parents wanted her to be successful, but her father Jamie Lynn Spears, made it clear that he wouldn’t

mind the extra income from new-found fame. Through interviews, the audience learns how Britney quickly gained fame, making her a hot topic for the paparazzi and the news, but as she was covered by the media more consistently, she started being shamed and sexualized. Britney was on many talk shows where her sexuality and relationships were constantly questioned by the hosts, including her relationship with Justin Timberlake. The trauma Britney had to experience from the constant spotlight only got worse as she got married, had kids and went on to get a divorce. The paparazzi’s continual presence in her daily life may have factored into the incident where her life seemed to go from glamorous to disastrous, when she shaved her head then attacked the paparazzi. Although she was made out to be a monster by the tabloids and headlines, the documentary sheds light on how her life events drove her to be put under a conservatorship by her father, and we can not blame her for being upset.

A conservatorship is a legal contract where a court appoints a person to control the finances, physical care and living arrangements of the conservatee. This type of arrangement usually occurs when a person cannot take care of themselves anymore, and is very hard to absolve. While the agreement has lasted 13 years, Britney has expressed

that she doesn’t want her father to be the conservator anymore, in court as well as by refusing to appear live in Las Vegas while her father is her conservator. This has been followed up in a recent lawsuit (Nov. 10, 2020) where Britney had a small victory, because a third party has been added to the conservatorship. This third party gives Britney slightly more control over her personal financials and power to have someone to advocate on her behalf.

The “Free Britney” movement has gained a significant following with the release of the documentary, and more awareness has been brought to Britney’s situation. Britney’s father should not be a part of her conservatorship anymore, because she doesn’t want him to be and she is capable of making those decisions. Britney’s unfortunate story has taught us how the media can really destroy a person’s image, and mental health which is something that still exists in society and needs to be changed. People who have called her crazy, insane and out of control in the past now have a different respect for Britney because the documentary did a good job of revealing what she has endured as a young girl being sexualized and controlled in the spotlight.



# From home to worldwide: the rise in Korean Pop

STORY AND GRAPHICS: FATIMA SIDDIQUE

Whether you've heard "Dynamite" on the radio or are friends with a die-hard fan of the band BTS, you've definitely heard of Korean pop, however most commonly known as K-pop. This music genre, originating in South Korea has taken the world by storm as it tops charts all over the globe.

Psy's "Gangnam Style" in 2012 might have been the breakthrough for K-pop in the Western music industry. Or arguably it was BTS's 2017 American Music Awards performance. Whatever it was, there's no doubt that K-pop has now become a global sensation. But how exactly did K-pop manage to conquer the world and become a music sensation?

To put it simply, the answer is BTS. A group consisting of seven members, RM, Jin, Suga, J-Hope, Jimin, V and Jungkook might be the biggest artists in the world as they became the best-selling artists of the year globally. These boys were as young as 13-years old when they joined BigHit Entertainment to train for their debut in 2013. Eight years later, BTS has become proof that music truly does transcend language as fans all over the world have fallen in love with their inspiring lyrics, soulful vocals and impressive choreography.

BTS has begun to successfully overcome the hurdles of race, genre, nationality and the hostility towards K-pop regulated by the Western music industry as they continue to top Western charts. BTS has had to deal with refusal by radio stations to play their Korean songs as well as the stigma many people hold towards K-pop. Not only have they achieved phenomenal commercial success in the American music industry, they have also become a defining icon of our time, paving the way for many other K-pop

artists like NCT and Blackpink.

NCT is a group that shockingly consists of 23 members, although the number is set to change as members are often added or even removed. The idea is to have an infinite amount of members who are constantly shifting into different subunits depending on where they fit in. Although the concept behind NCT can be quite confusing, they have been one of the most popular K-pop groups since 2016. However, it might never be known whether fans are drawn to their music or the excitement and unpredictability that comes with a band consisting of an infinite amount of members.

Four-member South Korean girl band Blackpink has also benefited from the advancements made by BTS in Western music. The group debuted in 2016 and despite their small discography, their glamorous look and catchy songs garnered a huge amount of attention. A downside to the group's otherwise enjoyable music is the heavy use of electronic dance music (EDM) that is seen in almost all of their tracks and the rapping that doesn't always mix well with the bright upbeat melodies. The mixing of multiple genres in a single track is a style commonly used amongst K-pop artists, but it might not be Blackpink's strong suit. Nonetheless, the group became the first girl group to perform at a U.S. music festival when they were given a stage at Coachella in 2019. They have also made many successful collaborations with U.S. artists such as Lady Gaga with their song "Sour Candy." However, it's hard to compare Blackpink's success with BTS, who rivals the most successful Western artists like Drake, Justin Bieber and Ariana Grande.

Just to list some of their many groundbreaking accomplishments, BTS was named the best selling artist of 2020 by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI), which represents the worldwide recording industry. They became the first act in over a decade to rank three albums in the top 10 global pure album sales list since Michael Jackson.

They also topped the American Billboard 100 chart with their hit songs "Dynamite" and "Life Goes On," being the first

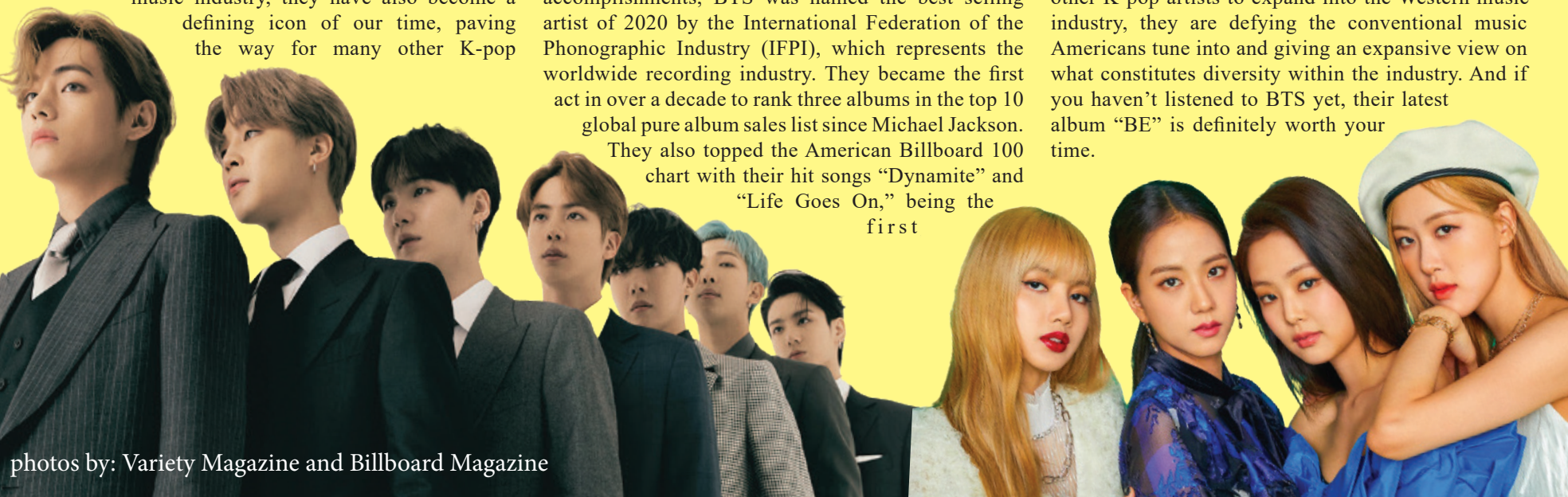
South Korean group to ever reach that spot.

The reasoning behind BTS's insane success could be credited to many things. Maybe fans are here for the band's amazing visuals, as member V was named the "Most Handsome Man of 2020" by TC Candler, Home of the Annual Independent Critics Lists. Or perhaps it is their impressively perfected choreo during their live performances that puts Western artists to shame. It's no doubt that their endearing personalities and loving bond amongst each other and with their fans is what draws many people to them.

But, unsurprisingly, the most impressive part of BTS is their music. If there is one word to describe their music, it would be diverse. There's no limit to the genres the members have proved themselves capable of conquering. From hip hop, R&B and lo-fi to pop, EDM and house, BTS has quite the diverse discography and mixes well with these genres together. Singing almost completely in Korean, the band manages to make addicting music that transcends language and breaks down the barriers that classify BTS as "just K-pop."

BTS — and other rising K-pop groups — have made it clear that the Korean language is part of their art and identity, and no amount of success in the Western music industry will cause them to change that. BTS has proved themselves capable of making music in Korean while also dominating charts in the U.S. Although K-pop is beginning to garner attention worldwide, it's evident that recognition from the Western music industry does not define their success.

BTS continues to break down boundaries and diminish the negative ideology and hostility many people hold towards K-pop. As they pave the way for other K-pop artists to expand into the Western music industry, they are defying the conventional music Americans tune into and giving an expansive view on what constitutes diversity within the industry. And if you haven't listened to BTS yet, their latest album "BE" is definitely worth your time.





# Latin is not dead.

STORY: NATALIE MURPHY ‘25 PHOTO & GRAPHICS: CLARE JONES EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The common and notorious phrase, “Latin is a dead language,” personally and socially lacerates me, as it has grown to become a colossal part of my life and heart. In reality, the poetic and soft-spoken language is the exact opposite: a critical element of countless tongues and historical circumstances, personal experiences and opportunities. The dialect is utilized throughout several studies, including law, medicine, economics, history, theology and various languages. The English speech itself is rooted in Latin terminology and etymology. A life without Latin is a life without color; a life without direction; a life without passion; a life without crucial community.

Upon observing my older brother’s Latin studies at University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy, I was personally intrigued by the Latin expression and examination of connectivity the ancient civilization brought forth. He would immerse himself in compelling vocabulary, describe proper sentence structure, and unfold the influence the Roman society upheld, influencing me to begin a new career and enter a new field of study at Mercy.

I couldn’t be more confident while selecting my four-year language course, beyond ecstatic to dive into the deep, foundational material. Since the very beginning, our Latin II class has studied various parts of speech, vocabulary terms and their English derivatives,

sentence structure and composition, countless declensions, endings and cases, numerous culture ideologies and studies and so much more.

Throughout my engagement in Mercy’s Latin program, I have mastered a lesson far greater than adverbs or knowledge regarding the diverse Roman bath houses; I have found a family. Similar to many Advance Placement (AP) courses, each Latin class holds a singular hour, allowing for the class to develop as a whole, both intellectually and socially.

Mrs. Marquard, head of our Mercy Latin program, is dedicated to educating us in the most enriching manners possible; acting out exuberant scenes from our textbooks, creating several inside jokes for our class, leading us to pursue our careers and interests outside of the classroom, maintaining positive relationships with students and parents, enriching our faith, and educating us on how to apply the foreign language to our lives today. The constructive impact our teacher upholds assisted us largely during the troubles of online learning. While opening our daily Zoom call, you can always count on Mrs. Marquard to wave excitedly and question you about our personal life, creating a passionate learning environment and a class to look forward to everyday.

“Mrs. Marquard showed me that even though we may be currently distanced from each other, our sense of belonging and connection will never keep us apart,” Latin II

student Katherine Young expresses.

“Despite being in-person or on Zoom, she would always make sure we felt included and important by counting us in group discussions and as anxiety-provoking as it is, unmuting and voicing our opinions.”

The multifunctional, enhancing language of Latin has encouraged my drive in the medical field, as the study has expanded my knowledge in the core sciences. As the Latin course study is fairly difficult and progressive, we have many tests and quizzes, each pushing our wisdom and thought process; we are assigned several homework assignments and projects, assisting us in time management skills.









Not only has the language supported my scientific interests, but it has additionally enriched my prioritization and organization abilities. It has continued to prepare me for college in the best ways recognizable; it has taught me that studying and dedication will always pay off; and for this I am so thankful.

The Latin language is a crucial part of human civilization, history, communication, and emotion. The beautiful dialect has taught me several lessons, both intellectually and socially, as well as expanded my universal knowledge. The importance of the classics remains to be relevant in our everyday lives, around us every hour. Latin is far from dead, but just the opposite; alive in all ways possible.



Sophomore Natalie Murphy stands by a Latin project that highlights medical terminology that stems from Latin derivatives. Photo by Clare Jones

## Common Latin Roots

 <p><b>jur</b> (law)</p>	 <p><b>geo</b> (earth)</p>	 <p><b>logue</b> (thought)</p>	 <p><b>aqua</b> (water)</p>	 <p><b>dict</b> (say)</p>
 <p><b>vid/vis</b> (see)</p>	 <p><b>bene</b> (good)</p>	 <p><b>Pax</b> (peace)</p>	 <p><b>photo</b> light</p>	 <p><b>script/scrib</b> (write)</p>

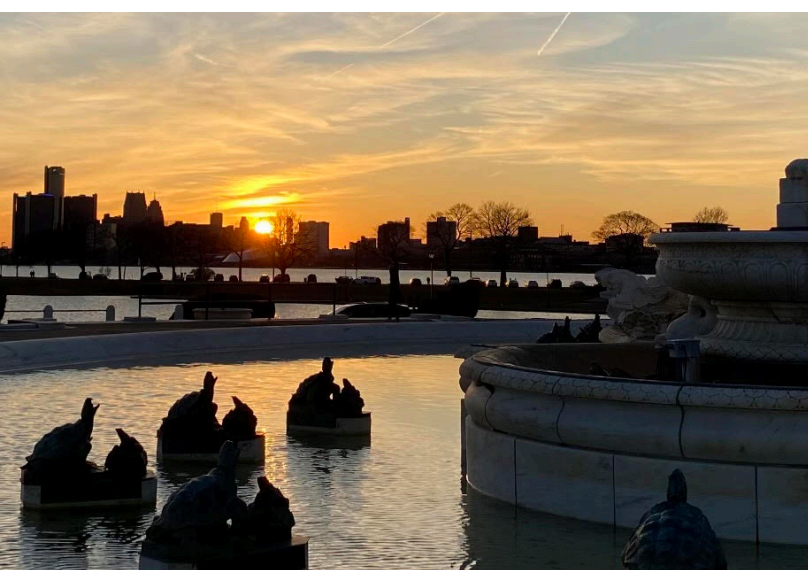




# 60 walks in 60 days

STORY AND PHOTOS BY: **JULIA METAS** '25 GRAPHICS BY: **CLARE JONES**, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As the world has shifted to a new and arguably more unusable environment that has been filled with stay-at-home orders, lockdowns and so- cial distancing, my family and I were at a loss about what to do. Everything was shut down. We knew we could not do a lot of the things we loved such as going to restaurants, gyms and traveling. However, we quickly realized that in order to survive this quarantine we would need to take advantage of the world around us and make the most out of a challenging situation. After sitting at home excessively and giving it some thought, an idea came to us: we should start going on walks. Each day my mom and I would find one unique place in Michigan to walk through and explore, giving us something to look forward to during these uncertain times. We discovered over 60 locations and walked every day with the inten- tion of exploring something new. From small neighborhoods in Detroit by our home, to nature trails on Mackinac Island, we never ran out of places to walk. Out of the 60 locations, I have chosen three I recommend the school community observe and visit as we continue through this pandemic.



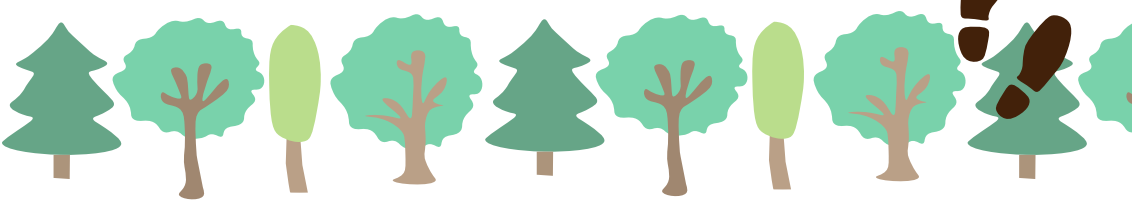
The first is Belle Isle in Detroit. I personally loved walking around Belle Isle because of the beautiful Scott Fountain and the stunning view of the Detroit River. Detroit has definitely gone through some major economic issues in the past, but the city is coming back and has so much to offer. I have been living in Detroit for a very long time, and there are always so many amazing activities to do around here. Belle Isle has done a lot of renovations, and along with visiting the memorial fountain, you can also check out the aquarium and the botanical gardens. While walking through- out Belle Isle, you are able to see Canada across the Detroit River, which is a cool aspect to this location. The skyline of the Renaissance Center is also very unique and looks very cool at night. We walked in Belle Isle during sunset, which gave us a beautiful view of the sun setting behind the foun- tain and the river in the background.



The second location I enjoyed was the Cranbrook Gardens in Bloomfield Hills. The scenery there is incredible, and there were so many beautiful aspects to this location. The Cranbrook Gardens is also an ideal place to take pictures, particular- ly by the areas with intricate sculptures surrounded by lush landscaping. Within the gardens are many interesting art pieces found throughout the grounds of Cranbrook. One art piece I enjoyed in particular was the “Europa” and “The Bull” sculptures created by Carl Milles. The sculptures are based off of a story in Greek mythology of a Phoenician woman whom the Greek God Zeus fell in love with. You can see the fearless woman-sitting on top of the bull. The Cranbrook Gardens is also roughly 40 acres, which means there is plenty of space to walk safely and distanced from other people. The Cranbrook school’s campus is located right by the gardens and so is the greenhouse and Tudor Manor House. There are also virtual tours available to see more interesting parts of the gardens.



The third special place we discovered was the Carpenter Lake Nature Pre- serve in Southfield. I had no clue this place even existed, yet it is only one mile away from Mercy located 10 Mile road and east of Inkster Road. This nature trail was extremely beautiful and relaxing, which made for a lovely place to walk. When you first arrive, there are hundreds of large boulders stacked up creating a stunning scene, and as you walk further down the path, a tranquil lake is waiting at the bottom. The Carpenter Lake Nature Preserve was an unexpected find, and one of my favorites. Carpenter Lake is open all year round, is pet friendly and eco-friendly.





# Go shorty, it's your Earth Day!

STORY AND GRAPHICS: RACHAEL SALAH, DESIGN EDITOR

Hey, Earthling how much knowledge do you know about the planet? In honor of Earth Day, read below to become educated about unique facts relating to our beloved planet!

1. **The United States' Hawaii's Mauna Loa is the largest volcano on the planet. It is 4 kilometers above sea level.**
2. **Earth Day was first celebrated in 1969 after Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson proposed a nationwide teach-in about the environment.**
3. **The Earth is roughly 4.5 Billion years old!**
4. **The Vegas Strip is the brightest place on Earth due to the concentration of lights on its hotels and casinos.**
5. **7.3 Billion people live on Earth according to the United Nations.**
6. **The actual holiday name for Earth Day on April 22 is named "International Mother Earth Day" by the United Nations.**
7. **Earth is the most densest of all the planets.**
8. **Earth is the only planet in the solar system not named after a mythological being.**
9. **Seventy percent of Earth's surface is covered in water.**
10. **The highest point found on earth is Mount Everest (8.8 km).**
11. **The lowest point on earth is called the Challenger Deep (10.9 km below sea level).**
12. **During his presidency President Theodore Roosevelt set aside millions of dollars for wilderness acres to get preserved and created over 200 national forests, monuments , parks and wildlife refuges.**
13. **Actor Leonadro DiCaprio has created a foundation that supports protecting fragile ecosystems and key species world wide.**
14. **Environmental activist Greta Thunberg is the youngest person to ever to be named Time Person of the the Year (2019).**
15. **Actress Jane Fonda has been arrested six times for civil disobedience in Washington D.C. in her efforts to combat climate change.**
16. **As of March 2020, the largest earthquake to shake the United States was a magnitude 9.2 and struck Prince William Sound region of Alaska, on Good Friday, March 28, 1964.**
17. **The fiery award for Earth's hottest spot goes to El Azizia, Libya, where temperature records from weather stations reveal it hit 136 degrees Fahrenheit (57.8 degrees Celsius) on Sept. 13, 1922, according to NASA Earth Observatory.**
18. **Because our globe isn't a perfect sphere, its mass is distributed unevenly. And uneven mass means slightly uneven gravity.**

Sources: NASA, CNN, NATGEO and Live Science.