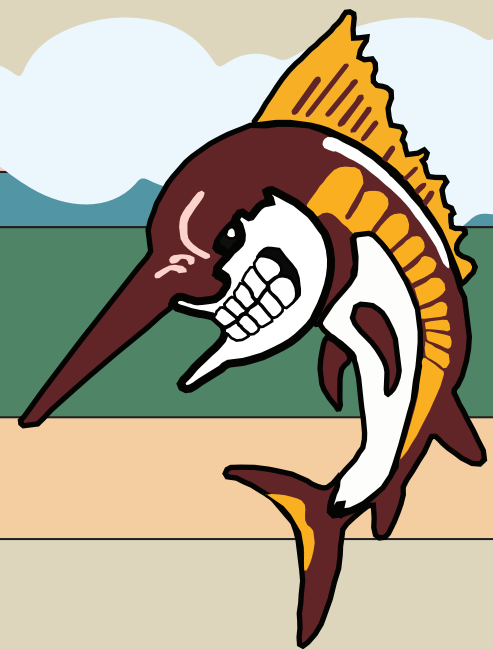


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# Global Wednesdays

STORY AND GRAPHICS: MAURA SULLIVAN

From Kickin’ Chicken to Chickpea Flatbread, it is safe to say that the Mercy cafeteria has something for everyone. This school year the Mercy cafeteria decided to try something different: Global Wednesdays.

“Global Wednesdays is kind of an offshoot of Wellness Wednesdays,” cafeteria manager Anne Hallberg said. “Wellness Wednesdays was more just keeping it vegetarian and trying to keep it healthy. We kind of ran into some issues of not being able to be creative enough with that limitation. So we decided to highlight some different cultures instead.”

Providing authentic cultural cuisine in the cafe has more advantages than just the meal itself. Trying different foods broadens your horizons and exposes you to different cultures.

“Society today is just so global, and you shouldn’t be afraid to try something that’s out of your comfort zone,” Hallberg said.

So far the cafe has made Middle Eastern, Asian, and Italian food. “The feedback has been really good,” Hallberg said.

Many students have expressed their love for the new lunch meals.

“I really enjoy Global Wednesdays in the cafe,” sophomore Zahra Jamil said. “I enjoy trying new things and think that being exposed to other cultures is really important. My favorite so far has been the Asian cuisine.”

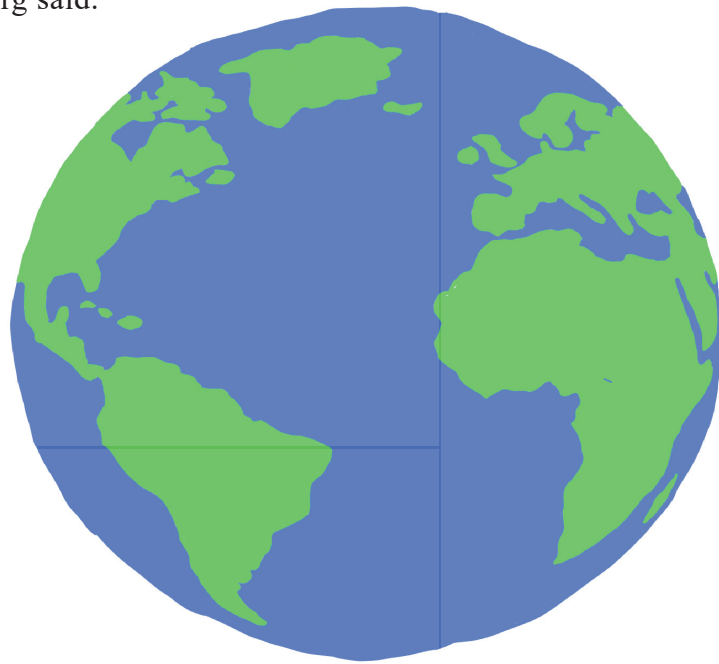
You can look forward to seeing Caribbean, Latin and Indian food on Wednesdays in the near future.

“I’m most excited to try Indian food in the cafe. I think it is really cool that we get to have food from different countries in our school

lunches,” junior Allison Wildern said. “None of my friends from other schools really enjoy the lunches they get at school or think they are really gross, so it’s cool that at Mercy people actually look forward to the lunches.”

The Mercy cafeteria staff agrees.

“I’m excited that the way we serve lunch allows us to do something like this because you don’t find that in many other high schools,” Hallberg said.



# French Week

STORY AND GRAPHICS: MAURA SULLIVAN

“It is an amazing week, and you have the opportunity to participate in so many different activities, and oftentimes discussions [in French class], all of which help to enrich your knowledge of French,” French Honor Society leader Riley Condon said.

From November 1-5, the French Department will be celebrating National French Week. National French Week is an annual celebration organized by the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) to highlight French culture and society.

Not only is it an opportunity to learn more about the language, but it also gives students an opportunity to learn more about the many countries where French is spoken and the French culture.

It is a celebration of French cuisine, science and technology, arts, music, sports and traditions.

Much preparation is required for French Week. Students in the past have engaged in activities from dining at French restaurants, to learning French Cajun dancing and engaging in a crepe eating contest.

“I have worked with Madame Campbell a lot, so I have seen how much work she

alone puts into making this week the fun time it is,” Condon said.

French week allows students to delve deeper into the language and traditions that they learn about in school.

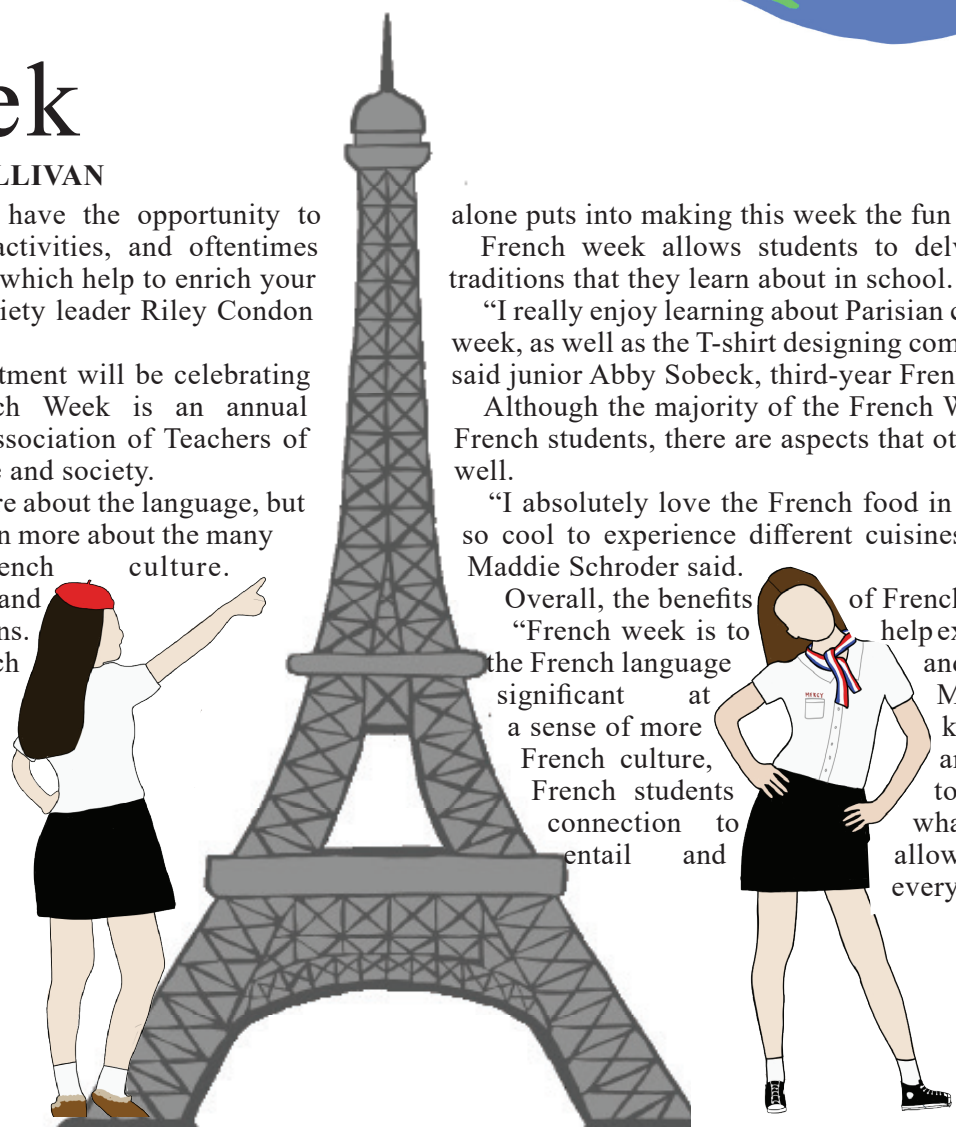
“I really enjoy learning about Parisian culture and traditions during French week, as well as the T-shirt designing competition and crepe day, obviously!” said junior Abby Sobeck, third-year French student and French club leader.

Although the majority of the French Week activities are centered around French students, there are aspects that other students at Mercy can enjoy as well.

“I absolutely love the French food in the cafe during French week. It is so cool to experience different cuisines from different countries,” junior Maddie Schroder said.

Overall, the benefits of French week are undeniable.

“French week is to help expand everyone’s knowledge of both the French language and culture,” Condon said. “It is so significant at Mercy because it gives all students a sense of more knowledge of different aspects of French culture, and mostly because it helps all French students to gain a deeper understanding and connection to what certain aspects of French culture entail and allows them to be more immersed in everything French for a whole week.”



# The mask acne variant

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



Although masks help to stop the spread and outbreaks of COVID-19 within Mercy High School, the facial coverings are causing an unfortunate side effect: mask acne.

When protective face coverings are worn for a prolonged time, the pores in your skin become clogged with oil, dead skin cells and bacteria, developing into pimples and other skin blemishes like whiteheads and blackheads. Additionally, wearing a mask creates friction as the material rubs against your face, resulting in irritation, redness and sensitivity.

According to the October *Newsprint* poll, approximately 83% of respondents get acne, breakouts and other skin-related problems from wearing a mask. Additionally, many had no advice on how to get rid of mask acne, some requested tips to help.

Before getting into tips and tricks about washing and moisturizing your face, it's important to consider the type and condition of your mask. Bacteria, dirt and other skin aggravators from your face get on masks every time you use them. Since acne is caused by oil and dirt clogging your pores, it's important to wash reusable masks or wear a new disposable mask every time you have to wear a facial covering.

Additionally, maintaining a skincare routine is a great way to prevent mask acne and other blemishes from forming. The main three components you should have in a skincare routine are cleansing, toning and moisturizing to have your skin stay healthy and troubleshoot any problem areas.

The first step of a good skincare routine is cleansing. Washing your face and having a cleanser specific to your needs help you maintain a clear complexion as it removes bacteria, dirt and other impurities on your skin. Additionally, facial cleansers boost hydration to decrease dryness and sensitivity and act as a base to soak other products like toner and serums into the skin.

"I use the Equate Hydrating Cleanser," senior Rachel George said. "It helps my skin breathe from wearing a mask all day. After school, I feel so gross, so it helps remove all the oil, sweat and dirt I have. It makes my skin feel so soft and hydrated."

Toner helps remove all the dirt and

grime left over on your face after washing it. Moreover, toners refine rough patches, restore the skin's pH levels, impact your pore's appearance and provide many other alleviating benefits.

"After wearing a mask all day at school, oil buildup can get pretty bad," junior Amelia Hambrick said. "My go-to skincare recommendation is always toner. It's perfect for evening out skin tone and coloring and eliminating excessive oil. Just get yourself an exfoliating cotton pad and The Ordinary's Glycolic Acid Toning Solution, and you are on your way to much clearer skin."

After toning, moisturizing is the way to go. Using a moisturizer maintains the skin's healthy cells and protects its barrier from irritation. Moisturizers also hydrate and soften the skin, while stopping acne breakouts.

"I use a moisturizer with hyaluronic acid in it," George said. "It hydrates my skin and doesn't make it feel sticky or oily."

Taking preventive measures before school is a strategy many Mercy students use to prevent acne. Freshman Olivia Wiljelm has a preventative method to stop acne as she prepares for a 7-hour school day of wearing masks.

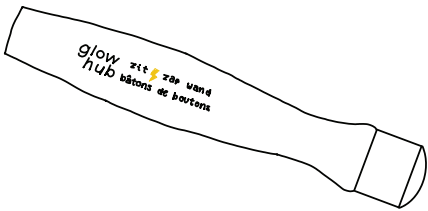
"Always put acne cream on the 'mask line' of your face before you go to bed," Wiljelm said. "It works wonders!"

In the midst of breakouts from your mask? Don't worry, sophomore Carson Kecskes has an effective and discreet way of stopping acne from getting worse.

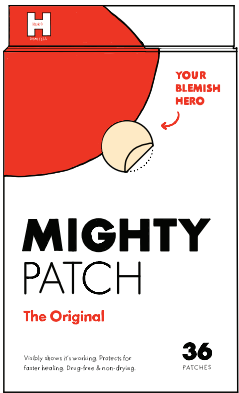
"Sometimes, I wear hydraulic acid pads under my mask," Kecskes said. "[The pad] sucks up the bad bacteria in your pores."

Although these tips and products may work for your peers, everyone's skin is different. Before raiding your local Target for these products, learn about your skin type. While some may have sensitive or dry skin, others' skin types might be oily or normal.

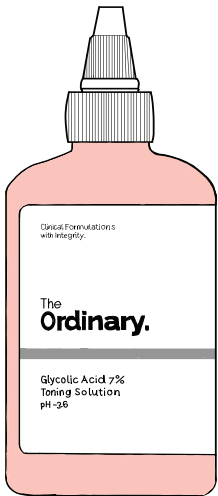
If all else fails, see a dermatologist to prescribe products that are right for you.



**Glow Hub's zit zap wand** is a favorite among Mercy students. Through salicylic acid, hyaluronic acid and papaya abstract, the zit zap wand targets breakouts and clogged pores.



**Hero Cosmetics' Mighty Patches** are perfect to wear discreetly during the school day. These hydrocolloid patches shrink breakouts by extracting all the bacteria and gunk in your pores without leaving scabs or scars on your skin.



**The Ordianry Glycolic Acid 7% Solution** is a great toner to add to your skincare routine. This solution targets uneven skin tones and textures to give your skin a radiating glow.



# Victory requires payment in advance

STORY AND GRAPHICS: JULIA LORELLI

The varsity field hockey knows a thing or two about victory, as it has gone on a 12-game winning streak. A team made up of seniors, juniors and one sophomore, the Marlins have proven that they are more than just chicks with sticks.



Team members have been training for this season since the summer, when they started with two training camps, conditioning and occasional drop-ins. Getting an early jump on the season has led to a 12-game winning streak.

“We do all sorts of running, and it varies by day, but typically we run about three laps,” junior team member Lily Thornton said.

Head coach Kristina Sikora said that they play well as a team. “Everyone has contributed to the team. It wasn’t just one or two players doing all the work,” she said. “The teams that I have coached in the past have had more wins when everyone contributes, than the teams where only one or two players did the work.”

While the team and coach might disagree on who their hardest opponent is, (Cranbrook, Marian, East Grand Rapids or themselves) they all agree that there is not one superstar single player.

On game days, varsity has early morning practices that allow them to work on new skills and technical training that they wouldn’t be able to work on during regular practices. It seems the bribe to get players to go to early morning practice are the bagels. Thornton said, “the after practice morning bagels have helped boost team morale.”

Senior Laura Mallie agrees.



Mercy varsity field hockey celebrates after beating Cranbrook-Kingswood. Picture used with permission by Mercy field hockey Instagram

“The bagels motivate us to go to early morning practice.”

Sikora’s big message to the team is “teamwork beats talent when talent doesn’t work.”

Everyone has their strengths and weaknesses. Some are faster, some are better at passing or scoring.

“We all kind of just bounce off each other,” Thornton said. “Everyone’s in the right position.”

The varsity players also all trust each other to do the right thing.

“We all trust each other and I think that’s why we haven’t lost a game,” Thornton said.

With trust, hard work, talent and a little luck, the varsity field hockey team defeated Cranbrook-Kingswood in the Catholic League Championships, 1-0, with the lone goal scored by junior Mikaela Williams. The streak continued as they beat Marian 1-0, and faced East Grand Rapids for their last divisional game of the season. Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end as the two goals put up by junior Abby Coscarelli in the 4th quarter weren’t enough to defeat East Grand Rapids, who won 3-2, ending the 12-game winning streak.

“Our energy was down and it was a morning game,” Mallie said, “but our energy went up by the fourth quarter and we scored two goals in like 15 minutes, which is really hard to do.”

The Marlins were able to rebound the next game, beating Farmington 2-1, with goals scored by junior Allison Contat and senior Julia Rea. However, that one goal victory was short lived as Grosse Pointe South managed to win 2-1. Varsity’s 12-game winning streak trumped their two losses and now, the Marlins have advanced to the next round of the Michigan High School Athletic Association playoffs.

Sikora said that the team is “a nice way to meet people and be involved.”

According to Mallie, “it’s a great program and a great environment.”

The team engages in many team bonding activities throughout the season.

“We have gone over to people’s houses for dinner or for team bonding,” Thornton said.

Along with team meals, the team also bonded this season by attending a University of Michigan field hockey game against Michigan State.

“Team bonding has made the team feel like a second family,” Thornton said.

Months of bonding, dedication and hard-work continue to benefit the varsity field hockey team in its record season.



Mercy varsity field hockey gather after its first victory over Father Gabriel Richard. Photo used with permission by Mercy Field Hockey Instagram



Mercy field hockey is #1. Photo used with permission by Mercy Field Hockey Instagram



# Mercy goes global

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



**L**isa Stefanon said “ciao” to her village in northwestern Italy and “hello” to Michigan. Her home village has a population of only about 1500 people, and with its smaller buildings and scenes of the Swiss Alps, looks far different from where Stefanon is now. In Italy, she lived about 40 minutes out of Turin with her mom, dad, sister, grandma and dog, Arturo, whom she misses most.

Stefanon lives with senior Anna Merucci and her family. She has been here since August 7, 2021, but her current stay is not her first time visiting the U.S.. Stefanon came to the states in 2018 for a vacation with her family and visited Michigan, where she was introduced to Merucci for the first time through Stefanon’s grandpa, who lives in the area. Stefanon had always wanted to be a foreign exchange student. Her vacation to the U.S. solidified her desire

to live and attend school here for a year.

“I like how the school is here; I hate Italian school,” Stefanon said. “I wanted to do a year of school without stressing out every single day and crying.”

She described school in Italy as being extremely stressful and leaving her with hours of homework each night. Stefanon hoped to receive a better education by coming to Michigan and has so far enjoyed her time experiencing American schooling. She is especially fond of Mercy’s unscheduled hours and said she appreciates how much teachers care about students. Stefanon has also enjoyed the freedom that comes with being an American teenager.

“Teenagers can do whatever they want,” Stefanon said. “You have cars and can hangout whenever.”

Stefanon not only likes the amount of free time and space she has to make plans with others, but also the close proximity she has to shopping malls and restaurants. In Italy, she has to travel nearly an hour for restaurants and shopping, but now she is just minutes away from such. However, the greater extent of urbanism she now lives around has made her miss the more natural environment she was accustomed to.

“I miss green around me,” Stefanon said. “When you’re driving, you don’t see trees around you a lot.”

Although Stefanon misses her more rural surroundings, city life is nothing new to her. Back home, she traveled to Florence often.

“I love Florence; it’s my favorite city ever,” she said. “There’s a lot of art. I want to live there.”

Despite the language change and the completely new setting she’s living in, Stefanon is enjoying her time in Michigan and looks forward to experiencing life as an American teenager as much as she can until her departure on June 30, 2022.

What other countries have you traveled to?

**Stefanon:**

France, Germany, Switzerland,  
England and Croatia

**Zhang:**

Korea and Japan

What do you miss most about where you’re from?

**Stefanon:**

Food

**Zhang:**

Food



**Jialing “Josie” Zhang** left her forever home in Beijing, China to study in the U.S. for both high school and college. Zhang is a sophomore at Mercy, but is in her first year of high school, since high school in China is grades 10-12. In Beijing, she lived with her mom and dad, but now lives with her aunt. Both Zhang’s parents and her aunt thought it would be a good idea for her to attend school in the U.S., and all three supported Zhang’s moving here for educational purposes. Zhang’s aunt was especially supportive of her move.

“My aunt’s son lives in Atlanta,” Zhang said, “and we are really close, so she wanted me to live with her.”

With China’s upper education being extremely exclusive, Zhang was very accepting of coming here to complete her high school and college education.

“Education in China is really hard,” Zhang said.

Although the language barrier and change in how she receives her education has posed struggles for Zhang, living with family here has kept her in touch with her roots and created a sense of home. Zhang said what she especially misses about China is a dish known as hot pot, a big pot that can be separated into two separate sides for different flavors and types of soup.

“My aunt and I can make it,” Zhang said. “She bought the food for it.”

Luckily for Zhang, her aunt is able to cook a lot of the cuisine she is used to dining on. Although Zhang is able to bring some of China here with her through family and food, she is simultaneously taking in what America has to offer.

One of her favorite things about living here has been who she’s met.

“I like the people,” Zhang said. “They are very nice and helpful.”

Along with the people, Zhang has also enjoyed the change in environment. Having lived in one of the busiest cities in the world, she appreciates the greater presence of nature she now has.

“The scenery is beautiful,” Zhang said. “There’s so many beautiful sunrises on the way to school, and my aunt told me autumn will be very beautiful.” Zhang is excited to see the colors change on the trees and experience more of what the U.S. has to offer as she continues her education here and adapts to her new life in America.



What has been your biggest challenge in the U.S.?

**Stefanon:**  
The language

**Zhang:**  
The language

Where else in the world would you like to visit?

**Stefanon:**  
Spain

**Zhang:**  
Britain

# Freaky Flicks

STORY AND GRAPHICS: FATIMA SIDDIQUE, DESIGN EDITOR

It's officially spooky month, and with October comes the season of costumes, trick-or-treating, haunted houses and most importantly, Halloween movies. There's truly nothing like creepy clowns, jump scares and hair-raising flicks to really get you into the festive spirit. While some Halloween movies are made to fill you with terror, some are just full of pure October goodness that really bring the season of fall alive. So whether you're looking for a real fright or just a wholesome festive film, *Newsprint* has got you covered.



## Halloweentown (1998) unrated

*Halloweentown* (1998), a Disney Channel Original Movie, is definitely a Halloween classic in households across the country. Directed by Duwayne Dunham and written by Paul Bernbaum, the film follows 13-year-old Marnie Piper as she discovers she comes from a family of witches during a Halloween visit from her grandmother. Marnie is then thrown into the world of magic her mother desperately tried to protect her from as she and her younger siblings embark on an adventure in Halloweentown, where witches and ghosts live peaceful, suburban-esque lives together.

*Halloweentown* timelessly captures the spirit of Halloween in a charming and heartwarming way. The movie is filled with cheesy humor, whimsical magic and corny attempts at horror that leave you with a feeling of nostalgia for the 'Disney Channel era' that filled our childhoods. If you're looking for a comforting, light-hearted film that perfectly captures the spirit of Halloween, *Halloweentown* is definitely the movie for you.

## It (2017) rated R

*It* (2017), based on Stephen King's 1987 novel and directed by Andrés Muschietti, is a film surrounding one of the most notorious figures in horror: clowns. The film takes place in the 1980s and follows the story of seven unpopular teenagers in junior high. After several cases of disappearing kids in their small town in Maine, they band together to solve it, leading them to a shape-shifting demonic entity, Pennywise the clown.

*It* isn't the type of movie that will have you jumping out of your skin; it's the type of movie that keeps you on the edge of your seat with elements of mystery and unexpected humor. The film pulls off a tricky combination of horror and wholesomeness as the seven teenagers form a bond that you will definitely become attached to. While the film may seem to be overwhelmingly scary (with killer clowns and all), it's not as frightening as you may think. However, don't misunderstand — this film is definitely not for sensitive viewers or the faint of heart. For those of you who enjoy some thrilling horror and crass humor, *It* is about as good as it gets.



## The Conjuring (2013) rated R

*The Conjuring* (2013), directed by James Wan, is said to be one of the scariest movies of all time, and for good reason. Allegedly based on the 1970s case of paranormal activities, the story follows the files of Ed and Lorraine Warren, famed paranormal investigators. The movie opens when a family of seven moves into a 150-year-old Rhode Island farmhouse. Immediately upon settling in, the family starts to experience disturbing events that will send shivers down your spine and have you checking behind your shoulder. Not to mention, the notion of it being based on a true story looms above your head during the movie's entirety. When things get out of hand one night, in comes Ed and Lorraine Warren to ward off the forces of evil. Cue in the demonic manifestation, exorcisms and overall terror-inducing scenes.

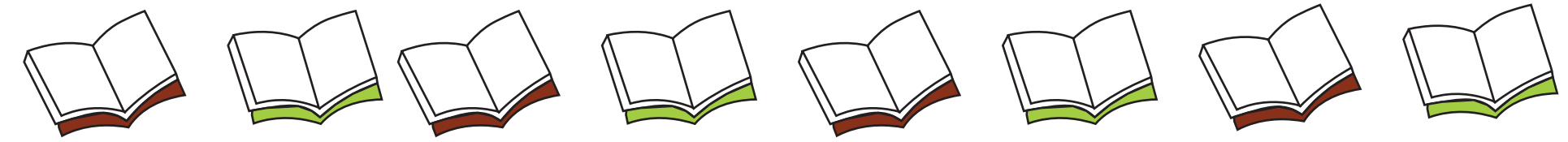
Despite the nail-biting elements, the movie is quite enjoyable. The film is filled with a sort of relentless horror that will have you jumping out of your seat and swallowing down your screams. While *The Conjuring* is an overall entertaining and engaging movie, it's also the type of movie that'll leave you slightly unsettled and more than a little petrified. This movie is for those of you who enjoy chilling stories of horror and unabating, genuine frights.





# From William Shakespeare to Angie Thomas: A reflection on diversity in English reading lists

STORY: JULIANNA TAGUE, SENIOR; GRAPHICS: CAITLYN BEGOSA, ASSOCIATE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Elizabeth Acevedo, author of *The Poet X* — a verse novel read by students enrolled in Mercy’s Studies in Short Fiction course — was an English teacher before she began writing books. As she began her career, she was quickly confronted with the harsh reality of underrepresentation in American English curriculums. As a Latina woman teaching predominantly minority students, she realized that none of the authors of the books in her curriculum looked like, spoke like or came from backgrounds similar to hers or those of her students. They were for the most part wealthy, Caucasian, heterosexual men who typically wielded power in society and saw the world through a lens shaped by their privilege.

Acevedo, shocked by and uncomfortable with this fact, began writing *The Poet X*, which was soon followed by her two other books, *With the Fire on High* and *Clap When You Land*. While her choice to actually write her own book might be a bit unique, it was done with the same sentiment possessed by the thousands of educators across the United States who have undertaken the task of diversifying the reading lists of language arts classes from kindergarten to graduate school. The English department at Mercy has followed suit, fortifying the curricula of its classes with additional works by women and people of color.

*The Poet X*, which details the life of a young Latina girl in New York City, is one of the many novels which have been introduced to Mercy students in the last several years. All freshmen now study Angie Thomas’ *The Hate U Give* — a searing story about police brutality and systemic racism that many current upperclassmen did not read in their

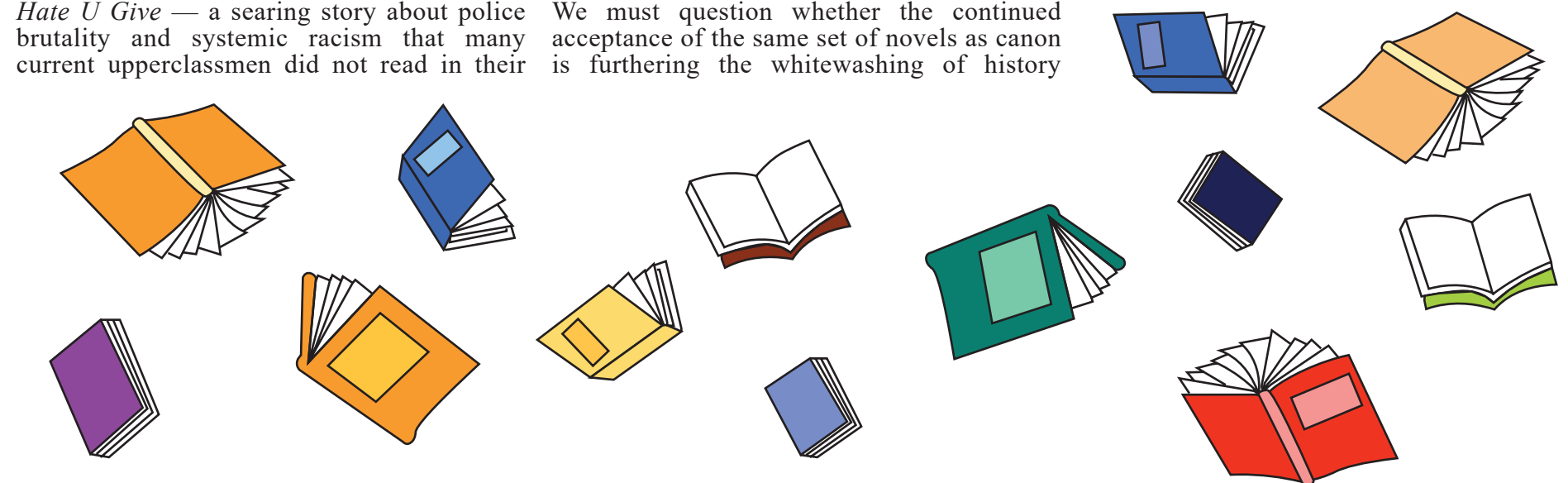
introductory English courses. Other English course offerings have expanded to include more widespread discussions on race relations expressed in literature.

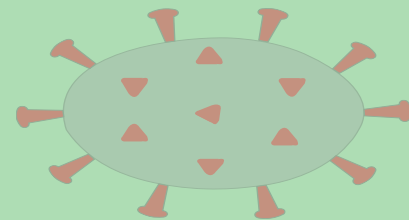
This expansion of Mercy’s English curricula to include more works by authors whose voices have until now been largely silenced is a tremendous step in the direction of systemic equity and inclusion in our community. The centuries-long tradition of offering literary platforms to white men and white men alone has come to a halt, and a new era of greater inclusion and diversity is now underway. As time moves forward and we continue to uncover the “whitewashing” that much of global and American history underwent, it is profoundly important to actively seek out literature written by the minorities that have so long been ignored. It is even more vital, however, that we actively incorporate these works into the accepted canon of literary classics as well.

This task is a profound undertaking that will only be accomplished over generations, but it begins with the simple act of actually reading the works of underrepresented authors. As students who have been given the resources to do so, it is our responsibility to begin the work of turning these novels into classics. It is our job to view the pieces we’ve read throughout our academic careers — those of majority authors like Shakespeare, Fitzgerald or Sophocles — with a strict scrutiny that may be uncomfortable for us. We must ask ourselves: are there works by other authors which tell another or more truthful side of history? We must question whether the continued acceptance of the same set of novels as canon is furthering the whitewashing of history

which we are now working to strip down. We must look more closely at the authors whose works we study and idolize — what themes were these people advancing in their writing? What harmful or problematic opinions did they hold? What groups might they have hurt in their lifetimes? It’s unreasonable, of course, to expect everyone to be perfect, but it is not so to hope that they treated others with the dignity and compassion that each person deserves. As Mercy students, we are tasked with upholding the core values of our institution. We must extend that endeavor to the books we read, viewing characters as symbols for real people and themes as representations of real ideologies. It’s our responsibility to actively seek to include people of all backgrounds in the web of classic literature that we all know so well.

The incorporation of underrepresented work into the Mercy English community is a great gift that we must not take for granted. When we read the writing of such diverse groups of people — men and women, wealthy and impoverished, immigrant and native-born, white and those of color — we are given the opportunity to witness every side of history. It’s our job and privilege, then, to take those sides and piece them together in a way that creates a responsible image of what has gone on before us. With that image, we can work together to foster a future that will tell a truthful story of the beauty of our world: diverse, ever-changing and wonderfully imperfect.





# COVID-19 on a global stage

STORY AND GRAPHICS: ALYSSA TISCH

COVID-19 has impacted everyone. No matter where one lives, COVID-19 has affected their life. At Mercy, there have not been any massive outbreaks, and life is falling into a routine.

“At this point, wearing masks and everything seems pretty normal,” junior Natalie Hand said. “Part of me is still worried, but honestly at this point I’m ready to get back to trying to live as normal as possible.”

Mrs. Eleasha Tarplin, dean of student affairs, is trying to help things get back to normal while still staying safe. Unlike last year, there are no longer different cohorts and unscheduled hours are once again offered.

“I won’t say it’s normal,” Tarplin said, “but we want to do as much as we can.”

While things may be getting back to normal here at Mercy and in other parts of the world, some places are far from normal.

## The United Kingdom

The United Kingdom (UK) has had a rough time with COVID-19, having some of the highest death numbers in the world. According to The Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University, there have been 8.45 million cases in the UK with 139,000 deaths.

The UK was first hit hard in 2020 with COVID-19 cases springing up across the region. Around that summer, the health of the country took a brief turn for the better, as on June 1, 2020, zero COVID-19 deaths were recorded. However, before people could get their hopes up, the Delta variant struck the UK hard, and cases began to rise again, leading to an increase in restrictions. Now, though, the situation in the region across the pond is beginning to look up, as many restrictions in the UK have been lifted.

Most countries in the UK have lifted the majority of their restrictions, and many non-essential businesses have opened back up. Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland still require masks in certain settings, but England no longer requires masks. In addition, in England, Wales and Scotland, as long as people are vaccinated, they do not have to quarantine themselves if exposed to the virus.

The UK has also changed its international travel policies. On October 4, 2021, the UK announced countries would now be sorted based on their COVID-19 situation into two categories: red and green.

People from the red countries are not allowed in the UK unless they were previously residents of the UK. Those who were residents must also go through a 10-day hotel quarantine before they are actually allowed into the country.

Those from green countries who are fully vaccinated do not need to test negative before coming. Those who are not fully vaccinated must get a negative COVID-19 test before leaving as well as a day-two and a day-eight PCR test (polymerase chain reaction). That is a test that picks up on genetic material, such as the COVID-19 virus. Finally, they must quarantine themselves for 10 days before traveling to the UK. Those traveling to England can get around the quarantine by filling out the Test to Release scheme. The Test to Release scheme allows one to pay for a private COVID-19 test on day five of quarantining. If one receives a negative result, they can end their quarantine early. This only applies to England, though.

On October 11, England removed 47 countries from its red list, leaving only Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Panama, Peru and Venezuela. This removal only applied to England, though, and not the rest of the UK.

With the easing up on both travel and domestic COVID-19 restrictions, the dark times in the UK are turning around.

## The Middle East

While things may be looking better in some parts of the world, COVID-19 is not looking up in the Middle East. Particularly for countries that had poor health care before COVID-19, new COVID-19 cases are only making an already bad situation worse.

The Delta variant has hit many Middle Eastern countries hard. In Lebanon, the head of the COVID-19 vaccination committee, Dr. Abdulrahman Bizri told The New Humanitarian the variant had been identified in 60% of new cases. According to Reuters, Turkey’s cases are rising as well, with October 6 logging 30,438 new cases, the highest since April 30, 2021.

Not only are the cases continuing, but the economy in many Middle Eastern countries is suffering. With people unable to work or depend on money from tourism in the pandemic, it is very hard for the countries to make money. Their loss

of income, in turn, makes it harder for the countries to manage COVID-19.

Most Middle Eastern countries are receiving very limited deliveries of the COVID-19 vaccine from the UN-backed COVAX facility, a program aiming to accelerate manufacturing and distribution of the vaccine. Because of their suffering economies, countries are also unable to afford more vaccines. This has caused a very low vaccination rate, causing a greater population to be susceptible to COVID-19, according to The New Humanitarian.

Some countries, such as Libya, do not even have money for any new medical equipment, let alone the vaccine. In Libya, many of the doctors aren’t regularly paid, and there is a shortage of medicine, gloves and masks in addition to the vaccine. In Tunisia, they were even running low on oxygen in the hospitals at one point, according to The New Humanitarian.

With economies suffering, low supply of vaccines and medical equipment, the fight against the Delta variant appears to be long from over in the Middle East.

## Southeast Asia

Southeast Asia has had some highs and lows throughout this pandemic. Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar had low cases. They closed borders, quarantined and wore masks. Southeastern countries have recently had a harder time containing COVID-19, though.

With low vaccination rates and the more contagious Delta variant present, cases are rising. For example, according to Reuters, Malaysia has one of the highest daily COVID-19 cases in the world. In addition, Thailand is also struggling with Reuters reporting there are approximately 11,000 new cases per day. These high case numbers affect many things in the countries, including supply chains and politics. With the high case numbers, it is hard to get as many people to work, which affects the global supply chains.

In Vietnam, high cases shut down much of the production in April 2021. Restrictions are easing now, but it has already made a difference in production and distribution. According to Reuters, Nike has cut the 2022 sale expectations, and both Nike and Apple are warning of longer delivery times, as many of the two companies’ products are made in Vietnam.

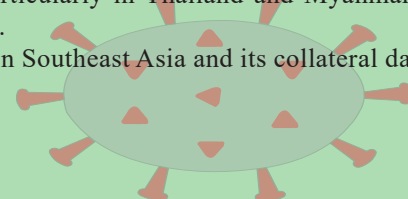
Car manufacturers and those who supply parts to the manufacturers are also experiencing long delays according to Reuters. Malaysia, where car semiconductors are made, has suspended operations due to COVID-19, and as a result, Ford and the German chipmaker, Infineon, are expecting to have less production.

Thailand, a large car assembly home for makers such as Toyota and Honda, had to temporarily close operations in recent months for deep cleaning after COVID-19 cases, hurting these companies.

Not only are supply chains affected, but politics are as well. With the economic crises in these countries, inequality is pointed out even further, causing anger to rise.

This anger has resulted in Malaysia’s government collapsing earlier this year as well as many protests, particularly in Thailand and Myanmar, according to the Council of Foreign Relations.

The pandemic’s presence in Southeast Asia and its collateral damage appear to be a long-lasting issue.





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



**MARY KATE  
REDWINE '25**



**HELENA  
NAJAR '24**



**NATALIE  
MURPHY '23**



**AUBREY  
ETUE '22**



**MRS. LISA  
WILSON**

## WHAT ARE YOU BINGEING THIS FALL?

"I'm watching *13 Reasons Why* right now."

"I'm going to finish watching *Pretty Little Liars*."

"*Squid Game*"

"*Private Practice*"

"The new season of *Outlander*"

## WHAT'S THE BEST HALLOWEEN COSTUME YOU EVER DID?

"In fifth grade, I was Misty Copeland. She's a dancer."

"Last year, I was Wednesday Adams."

"Freshman year, I did an inflatable cowboy with horse. and [the horse] was walking around."

"I dressed up as a Cheez-it box sophomore year."

"A zombie"

## WHAT DO YOU LISTEN TO ON YOUR WAY TO SCHOOL?

"I listen to Billie Eilish's new album."

"I listen to a lot of different music, but [my favorite album is] Harry Styles."

"I listen to a lot of 90s, early 2000s. I love Wu Tang Clan."

"I have a playlist for senior year, but otherwise, I listen to Taylor Swift and One Direction. I don't let my sister touch the aux."

"Sometimes, I listen to music. I mostly listen to podcasts. I'm really into Lewis Howes' 'School of Greatness' podcast."

## WOULD YOU RATHER GO TO A HAUNTED HOUSE OR CIDER MILL?

"Haunted house"

"Haunted house"

"Cider mill"

"Cider mill"

"Cider mill, but only if there's warm donuts"

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FALL SCENT?

"Pumpkin spice"

"Vanilla"

"Cinnamon apples"

"I like vanilla and pumpkin pecan waffle scent from Bath and Body Works."

"Cinnamon"



# Mercy Meet and Greet

STORY AND PHOTOS: MAURA SULLIVAN, GRAPHICS: FATIMA SIDDIQUE, DESIGN EDITOR

This month's Mercy Meet & Greet introduces you to the cast and crew of Mercy Theater Department's fall play: *Radium Girls*.



Senior Sawyer Evans (Grace Fryer).

## What is this show about?

"*Radium Girls* is about how the Radium company took advantage of young women in the 1920s and how these teenage girls become radioactive. Girls our age had to go to work to support their families and one by one started to become extremely sick. For example, their jawbones fell out of their mouths with a simple touch from the dentists. Most doctors persisted in lying to the girls about their true condition—waiting for them to die. The show tells [the girls'] story of seeking justice."

## What are you most excited for people to see in the show?

"I am most excited for people to learn about this story, and I hope it propels them to do their own research, as the story is both sad and fascinating. I am also excited because I have a creepy scene where I get to cough up blood! It's something I've never done before, and I am super excited to play it on stage!"



Senior Kendal Lavigne (Kathryn Schaub).



Senior Gracie Grady (Costume Crew Head).

## What are your responsibilities as costume crew head?

"For costume crew, I assign dressing rooms to the cast and have meetings with all the other crew heads. We have to pull costumes for everyone in the cast, keep all the costumes organized and do quick changes backstage during the show."

## What do you, as sound crew head, do to prepare for the show?

"To prepare we assign mics, program the board, write cues in the script and create voiceovers and sound effects. My responsibilities are teaching the crew girls basics and preparing them for the play. I have to communicate with the director a lot."



Junior Ava Radze (Sound Crew Head).

# Looking Back on this Month...



The JV-B field hockey team gets ice cream to celebrate the last game of their season. Photo used with permission by Megan Sullivan



Juniors pose with the Marlin Mascot on Mercy field day. Photo used with permission by Natalie Murphy



Junior Mia Juday and Sophomore Abby Slankster pose with their trophy after winning golf regionals. Photo used with permission by Mia Juday