

N

NEWSPRINT

WITH HER HANDS:

Newsprint gives a preview
to the 2025 Black History
Month assembly.

Pages 6-7



Index

3 NEWS

Mercy celebrating 80 years
By Olivia Lorelli
Speaking of Forensics...
By Peyton Caldwell

4 FEATURE

A Mercy mystery: Uncovering the tunnel system
By Megan Sullivan

5 FEATURE

Are we overloaded by overconsumption
By Reese Kizy

6 /7 SPREAD

With Her hands
By Tess O'Donnell and Isa Portillo

8 PRO/CON

College roommates: Who to choose?
By Zaara Ahmed and Olivia Lorelli

9 REVIEW

Are the new Starbucks cup changes sustainable or wasteful?
Review: Starbucks cups take a turn
By Stella Coe

10 ENTERTAINMENT

Lights, Camera, Oscars
By Aneesa Syed

11 SPORTS

Fishbowl makes a splash
By Anna McGavin

12 LAST LOOK

By Megan Sullivan

STAFF:

Tess O'Donnell: Editor-in-Chief

Reese Kizy: Web Editor

Megan Sullivan: Design Editor

Zaara Ahmed: Copy Editor

Isa Portillo: Senior Reporter

Aneesa Syed: Senior Reporter

Olivia Lorelli: Senior Reporter

Stella Coe: Junior Reporter

Anna McGavin: Sophomore Reporter

Peyton Caldwell: Sophomore Reporter

Dr Kline-Kator: Advisor



Mercy Newsprint Editorial Policy:

As Mercy Newsprint staff we promise to keep you entertained and informed with accurate and unbiased information. Our goal is to provide timely news while promoting diversity and representing the entirety of the Mercy community. We encourage letters to the editors and any other feedback you may have. You may reach out to us through our email (newsprint@mhsmi.org), our Instagram ([@mercy.newsprint](https://www.instagram.com/mercy.newsprint)), or through any of our staff members.



Mercy Celebrating 80 Years

STORY: **OLIVIA LORELLI, SENIOR REPORTER**

Since opening school doors in 1945, Mercy High School has strived to educate, empower, and inspire young women. For the past 80 years, Mercy has built a legacy of academic excellence along with personal growth and leadership. Many women have left Mercy to make a difference in the world.

2025, the 80th anniversary of Mercy, is a celebration of the past, present and future of Mercy High School.

“I think the Mercy legacy is that we focus on strong women lifting up other strong women,” Principal Patricia Sattler said. “When you look at 80 years worth of that networking, you are able to see the strength of our school. That prayer and mentoring for one another continues to improve Mercy as a whole.”



Throughout this school year, everyone will see the special 80th anniversary logo featured throughout the school. There will also be initiatives and events to mark the milestone – including sweatshirts ordered for all students to wear as a uniform piece and a grand celebration reunion in the fall.

“I think the crew necks are super cute,” senior Raina Dearing said. “They’re comfortable and I think it goes with everything.”

Since receiving the crew necks, the Mercy students enjoy wearing them with their uniform as an alternative to the normal school blouse and quarter zip. More details will be given throughout the school year concerning the multiple ways for students to be involved.

Speaking of Forensics...

STORY: **PEYTON CALDWELL, SOPHOMORE REPORTER**

The forensics team has hopes of making it to nationals on March 23-25 taking place in Chicago with their different speeches such as Informative, Dramatic Duo, Declamation, Extemporaneous Speaking, Prose and Poetry, Original Oratory, and Oral Interpretation.

Specifically, Junior Sydnei Brooks partakes in Original Oratory. To do an OO speech, you must formulate your own speech, making it slightly more difficult. She must present her speech to other people in the same category. Her speech was highlighting mental health within the black community, but also speaking on healthcare providers in relation to that. As a result, Brooks won 5th place at the February 1st Tournament.

“Winning was pretty rewarding, especially since it being my first competition was pretty nerve-racking so being able to win something for all the nervousness I felt, was pretty great,” Brooks said.

The path to nationals is harder than it may seem. To qualify you must compete in two tournaments and place in one. You also need to place top four at nationals in your category in order to make it to nationals.

The forensics team agrees that it should be recognized as more than just talking and speaking. Forensics is an art that should be recognized and appreciated. It is a way of getting your point across to others in a loud and meaningful way. It is passionate and inspiring. Forensic captain Junior Camilla Mendoza talks about her pleasure on being the captain and her experience with being on the forensics team.

“Forensics has been a truly amazing and one of a kind experience, Mendoza said. The team has become more like a community and being named captain has been a true honor.”



The Mercy Forensics team poses after their tournament. This event took place on January 25th, 2025. Photo courtesy of Harshitha Arvapalli.



Mercy students hold phone flashlights as they explore the dark tunnels.



Mercy students walk towards the tunnel to begin their tour.



The tunnel expands straight across from beneath Mercy High School to the Costick center.

A Mercy Mystery:

Uncovering the tunnel system

STORY, PHOTOS, AND GRAPHICS: **MEGAN SULLIVAN, DESIGN EDITOR**

With cell phone flashlights in hand, the troop of Newsprint staffers, led by Mr. Gary Bank, ventured deeper into the darkness of the unknown. Beneath our very classrooms sits a relic of Mercy High School history, reciting stories of Mercy's past and haunting school legend to this day: the tunnel system.

The Mercy high school tunnel system is a modern mystery that lurks beneath the feet of many unknowing students. Created in 1965, the reality of these tunnels is less sinister than their daunting appearance.

Years ago, when Mercy High School was operated largely by the Sisters who lived in the buildings across from school campus, the near mile long expanse of grey cement and electrical wiring served a different purpose: to allow the sisters to travel to and from Mercy and their home.

"A lot of the sisters used to commute from there

[Sisters of Mercy Building] to the chapel here or to classes here at Mercy. So the tunnel was used as a walkway especially when the weather was bad, really cold or really rainy" said Facilities Director, Mr. Gary Bank.

Although, aside from transport the tunnels held various purposes as they housed the connectivity to provide essential utilities to the Sisters of Mercy building.

"Mercy High School, itself, supplied gas, electricity, hot water and other services to the Sisters of Mercy Building on the other side of the pond," said Bank.

Furthermore, an issue within the electrical wiring which lays throughout the tunnel's expanse was the cause of the school wide power outage in late October of 2024, closing school for three days.

As times passed and the Sisters of Mercy stopped working as teachers, there was no longer a need

for the connection between buildings, leading to the boarding up of the tunnels within its entrance from the Costick Center.

However, through E-Hall's Mechanical Room 1, Mercy's entry to this secret passageway remains present, as do the many accompanying murmurs of the tunnels debated existence by Mercy students throughout generations.

"I first heard about them last year, at the end of the year. I thought they were not real," Junior Alexa Dueweke said. "I thought they were fake, but people keep saying they are real. I don't even know!"

Although these tunnels may seem ominous and creepy or seen as a wild student created rumor, they represent the lasting legacy of the Sisters of Mercy and their impact on building our school and school-community.

"I found out about them my freshman year from one of the seniors that year who had just gotten to go it her senior year, but I thought they were filled up after that," Senior Katie Schwab said.

"I think it's important because a lot of people might not realize that nuns used to teach here. I think now we don't have any direct connection to nuns but I think it's important to acknowledge that piece of history."

Are we overloaded by overconsumption?

STORY AND GRAPHIC: REESE KIZY, WEB EDITOR

“I bought something yesterday, but I really need this now.” “I have to buy this, it’s just so cute.” Thoughts like these creep in each time we are out shopping, or when we are bargaining whether or not to keep purchasing. What makes us so drawn to buying clothes? Do we over consume?

As students and teenage girls, we often hear the phrase ‘retail therapy.’ This means shopping and splurging on purchases for a purpose of boosting the buyer’s mood. When we go to the mall to buy clothes, are we choosing to buy things that really just satisfy emotional needs? Purchasing clothes can begin to become not just what we feel we need in the moment, but something that will go towards changing ourselves, molding into a trend from social media, or a goal of what we want ourselves to really be like.

“I think a lot of teen girls buy clothes in order to match what celebrities and influencers are doing,” freshman Sydney Wilker said. “When we buy what’s trending it validates our own style and gives us a sense of community because it is what is popular among others like us.”

In this way, consider how retail therapy doesn’t just mean splurging after you’ve done well on an exam or want to reward yourself. It can mean satisfying a desire to fit in and be trendy.

“Many people feel like they have to keep buying more clothes in order to keep up with fashion trends because it is a big thing for us to want to stay in style, and trends are always changing so we have to kind of keep buying more in order to not fall behind,” freshman Molly Prescott said.

Overconsumption is when consumers utilize too much of their available goods and services to the point where they don’t use the purchased things enough, and they don’t reuse.

“I think teen girls buy a lot of unnecessary things,” senior Caroline Bartlett said. “As a worker, it is easy to influence people into buying more too, especially when they have a lot of items in their hands already.”

Bartlett works in retail, for Garage in Twelve Oaks Mall. A store that is geared towards young women shoppers, it sees lots of seasonal trends, which Bartlett says are always popular among teen girls, especially if they are shopping at the start of summer, or before a big vacation.

In preparing for an event or new season, shopping is where many begin. But as seasons keep changing, the clothes from before grow tired, and

shoppers look for the new styles. Stacks in closets of worn-once last season pieces accumulate.

“I like buying new things for when I go on vacation because it is fun to see what’s in store and what new things I can buy,” senior Olivia Corriveau said. “The clothes you get for spring break are usually what you wear all summer, so I don’t think it’s too much to get lots of new clothes each spring.”

According to an article by Forbes magazine, a survey conducted in 23 countries for over 114,000 young adults found that nearly 80% said they made at least one splurge purchase in the last month and only 42% saying they could afford that purchase.

Buying clothes is so important to many girls that it can become obsessive. It is important to not just buy what others are buying, slow down from trying to keep up with ever-changing clothing trends, stop passing time mindlessly online shopping, and put your finances first.

“Retail therapy is definitely how I deal with stress a lot of the time.”

- Keira
McNutt

‘25



With Her Hands:

A look into the 2025 Black History Month Assembly

STORY AND GRAPHICS: TESS O'DONNELL, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, AND ISA PORTILO, SENIOR REPORTER

Every February the Mercy community celebrates the end of Black History Month with the annual Black History Month Assembly put on by members of the Human Relations Council and Black Awareness Society for Education. The assembly gives everyone an opportunity to come together to celebrate Black history and learn more about different cultures.

The Black History Month Assembly is a collaborative effort between the members of HRC and BASE. HRC script writers and BASE board members work to write the script for the assembly while BASE members choreograph and perform the dances, and both HRC and BASE members perform spoken word pieces.

"Being on HRC, we would not be able to put on the Black History Month Assembly without BASE," junior HRC member Peyton Robinson said. "It's a really big collaboration."

The importance of the assembly is seen through its impact on the community and the importance of the stories it shares with its attendees.

"I think this assembly is important to the Mercy community because it really raises awareness to Black culture within Mercy, promotes diversity, and brings the student body together," Robinson said.

The theme for the assembly this year is "With Her Hands", a celebration of the impact Black women have made throughout history and modern day. The theme offers the school community the opportunity to recognize and learn more about the power of women and their impacts.

"I think the message we're hoping people take away from the assembly is that the labor of black women has shaped this country a lot more than a lot of us recognize," senior HRC member Maggie Geraghty said. "I feel like today we don't realize how many things black women have invented and the path they have paved for us, not just for black women, but for all women, and how big of an impact they've had on our country."

The theme of "With Her Hands" also connects to the environment Mercy builds around its students and the values and lessons taught within the Mercy walls.

"I think it's really important with Mercy, because our catchphrase is 'women who make a difference,'" Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

and HRC moderator Mrs. Traci Smith said. "There have been Black women who have made a difference for generations. This is a great time to honor and celebrate them during Black History Month."

The theme also provides the opportunity to acknowledge the contributions given to society throughout history.

"Black history is American history."
-Mrs. Traci Smith

"Black people have been in this country since the 1600s," Smith said. "It's so important to celebrate and acknowledge African Americans' contributions to our culture, technology, innovations... It's just limitless, the ways Black people have contributed to our society."

The step dance and ensemble dance performed by BASE members this year also illustrates the theme of

Black women and the joy within the community and culture.

"We wanted something more joyful and upbeat and we feel like the song we chose, "Black Parade" by Beyoncé, it just celebrates the joy of being Black," Maya Ramjattan, HRC representative for BASE and BASE dance choreographer, said.

"Black Parade" by Beyoncé contains many references that help to further connect the assembly's theme to the dance performed by BASE members.

"I just think it has references to influential people in history, as well as black history," Ramjattan said. "I think those little references connect to the overall theme of women because she mentions a lot of women who people don't really know about. It's just those little references that show that women have built what our country has become and all the little things that people don't even know about."

The ensemble dance is connected to the tone of the assembly, as well as parts of the script, making it an overview of the important themes covered.

"We have our ensemble dance, this dance has contemporary, hip hop, and step, especially step connects into the assembly because earlier in the assembly we explain steps origins and significance and we incorporate it into the dance again," Nyaela Hakim, BASE President and BASE dance choreographer, said.

The assembly is a tradition that is special to the Mercy community because it offers the unique experience of learning about other cultures and experiences from an educational environment, giving students the opportunity to learn more about their fellow Mercy sisters.

"I think it's just important to expand your perspectives and get out of your own realm, your own little bubble and learn about other people's experiences," Geraghty said.

HRC and BASE members want people to learn another piece of the American story through the Black History Month Assembly.

"The whole assembly doesn't have a somber tone, it's all about what Black people, Black women specifically, have done and it's a celebration," Hakim said.



Shirley Chisholm

Originally intending to be a school teacher, Shirley Chisholm joined the NAACP and later the Democratic Party club in her neighborhood of Brooklyn. In 1964, she became the second African American woman in the New York State Legislature, and later, in 1968, she became the first Black woman in the US Congress. There, she introduced more than 50 pieces of legislation, fighting for racial and gender equality, help for the poor, and ending the Vietnam War. Shirley fought for the Democratic Party presidential nomination in 1972 amidst heavy discrimination. Although she was not nominated, she continued to fight for change, later co-founding the National Political Congress of Black Women. Information and photo courtesy of womenshistory.org.



Coretta Scott King

Though most prominently known as the wife of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, Coretta Scott King was an activist in her own right. She appeared alongside her husband in fighting for civil rights and criticized the movement's exclusion of women, all while supporting the family when her husband was away. Even after her husband's death, Coretta continued her activism, openly opposing the Vietnam War and supporting many women's rights causes. She traveled all around the world, lecturing on racism and economic issues. Coretta established the King Center to protect and advance her husband's legacy, leading to MLK Day becoming a federal holiday. Information courtesy of womenshistory.org. Photo courtesy of blackpast.org.



Ida B. Wells

the oppression African Americans faced in their daily lives. Wells also was a prominent feminist activist, founding and supporting women's suffrage organizations such as the League of Colored Women. Information and illustration courtesy of womenshistory.org.

Ida B. Wells was a prominent journalist in the late 1800s who used her platform on many newspapers to speak up for public awareness on lynching and true equality in law for African Americans. She gained prominence by writing investigations on lynchings in the Memphis Free Speech, and continued using her writing to highlight racism and discrimination, including the pamphlet "The Reason Why the Colored American is Not in the World's

Columbia Exposition", detailing



Katherine Johnson

Katherine Johnson was a NASA mathematician responsible for calculating the paths of landmark space flights. Katherine started out as a computer in a segregated program, later becoming a member of the Space Task Group. In 1960, she became the first woman in her division to receive greetings for a research report, hers on calculations for orbit. During her career she calculated the path for two of John Glenn's historic flights, and was part of the team that calculated for the Apollo 11 mission. Katherine retired from NASA in 1986, and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015. Information and photo courtesy of britannica.org.



Kyra Harris Bolden

Born and raised in Southfield, Michigan, Justice Kyra Harris Bolden made history as the not only the first Black woman to serve on the Michigan Supreme Court, but the youngest justice in its history. She graduated from Southfield High School, then Grand Valley State University in 2010, and earned her law degree from the University of Detroit Mercy in 2013. She has served as a criminal defense attorney, a judge, and has also served on the Michigan House of Representatives. In her work, Kyra has focused on improving equity in the state's justice system, and has been a part of several key rulings, including raising the minimum wage. Information courtesy of detroitpbs.org. Photo courtesy of courts.michigan.gov.

College Roommates: Who to choose?

Should Mercy seniors stick with familiar faces or branch out when choosing roommates?

STORY, PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS: **ZAARA AHMED, COPY EDITOR AND OLIVIA LORELLI, SENIOR REPORTER**

Pro: Familiarity creates clarity

By: Olivia Lorelli

Rooming with someone you know in college can have a number of positive aspects that benefits your academic and social experience in college. While many people find living with a stranger appealing, some students feel having a familiar face as a roommate leads to a smoother transition into college.

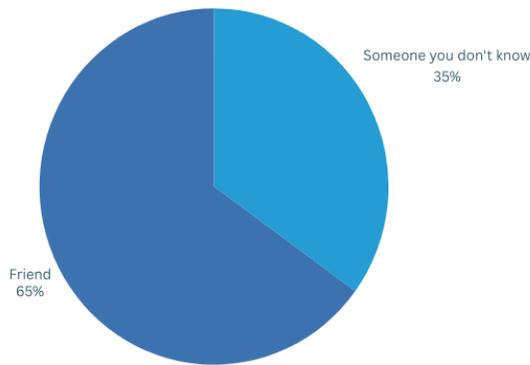
To begin, sharing a room with someone you already know can provide a sense of stability and safety. Living with a friend or someone you already know limits the stress of adjusting to a completely new environment. You do not have to worry about awkward introductions or feeling lonely during the first few weeks. College is a time of intense change and having a roommate who understands your personality, habits, routines and preferences can make this change easier. The familiarity can help ease feelings of homesickness which many first year college students experience.

Secondly, rooming with someone you already know makes communication much easier because you already know each other's personalities, habits, way of living, and boundaries. This understanding allows you to have conversations about shared responsibilities, and personal space, more easily, reducing the chance of misunderstandings. Unlike living with a stranger, where addressing problems might feel uncomfortable, having a familiar roommate makes it easier to bring up issues early and resolve them before they become bigger problems. Additionally, a shared sense of humor and unspoken understanding can make daily life more enjoyable, creating a supportive and comfortable living environment. Overall, leading to a stress-free and enjoyable college experience.

In conclusion, rooming with someone you know in college provides both practical and emotional advantages. The comfort of a familiar face can significantly improve the college experience, making it easier to thrive academically and socially.

"I'm choosing to room with someone random because I want to get the full college experience and don't want to limit myself"

- Eleanor Brook '25



Should you room with a friend or a someone you don't already know?

*Based on a survey of 20 Mercy seniors

"I'm choosing to room with my friend because I just want a familiar environment."

I think rooming with someone I already know will be super fun" - Jenna Matigian '25



Con: New room, new you

By: Zaara Ahmed

When choosing a roommate for your freshman year of college, it might seem like a good idea to room with a friend. However, that's most likely not the best choice. First off, one of the biggest downsides of rooming with a friend is that it can limit both your personal and social growth in a new environment. Going to a new college means opportunities to meet new people, which is why rooming with someone you already know can create a buffer zone that will keep you from branching out and forming new friendships. By having someone you don't know as a roommate, you're going to be able to navigate a new relationship with someone while also building communication skills that will help you connect with more people in the future.

Another complication with rooming with someone you already know is that roommate compatibility is never guaranteed, even between the closest of friends. Living with someone is something that involves constant interaction and responsibilities. This leaves room for there to be potential strain on the relationship. Small annoyances that you could once brush off can now snowball into bigger conflicts, leaving tension that can ultimately destroy the friendship. What once started as something exciting can turn into two people who can hardly stand each other.

Additionally, when rooming with someone random, you are able to set boundaries. When living with a friend, things like addressing conflicts become a lot more challenging. When there are conflicts between friends, there is a bigger fear of damaging the relationship than actually fixing the problem, which inevitably leads to unresolved tension. This hesitancy will cause small complaints to build up, making your overall living situation more stressful for the both of you.

Even though the idea of rooming with your friend may seem fun, it most likely will come with consequences that will negatively impact both the friendship and your overall college experience. When you make the choice to room with someone you don't know, you are actively encouraging future personal growth and the opportunity to build new relationships without feeling weighed down. College is about embracing change, so start the change by choosing someone new to room with.

Are the new Starbucks cup changes sustainable or wasteful?

STORY, PHOTO AND GRAPHICS: **STELLA COE, JUNIOR REPORTER**

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. These are the principles to create a sustainable society and make a positive impact on the future of the environment.

For Starbucks, their new glass cup policy and changes to cup design in recent years have made consumers proud. However is this just a facade to make their million dollar industry grow? Or is it truly beneficial to the planet?

“They switched the lids out and started having the biodegradable straws a couple years ago, but the glass cup is the new thing they are pushing for being environmentally stable,” junior London Smith said.

Students who invest in Starbucks daily seem to support their new policy changes.

“I think it’s great and it doesn’t add to waste,” junior Grace Cretu said when asked her opinions on the glass cup policy.

However there are some downsides to this change in policy.

“I don’t like that you can’t refill your own drink,” Smith said. “You have to get coffee or tea and they’re still giving the plastic straws so what’s the point.”

There are other regulations as well.

“They only give you a glass cup if you are dining in

at Starbucks,” junior Mallory Cooney said. “I think it’s cool, but I don’t think it does much if it’s just for dining in.”

Sustainability is an important part of big industry and students are expecting better results and solutions to the problem of global warming we are facing today.

“If they wanted to be more environmentally friendly they could change their cups, like the straws, I feel like they could do better things than this,” Cooney said.

Other solutions have the same idea:

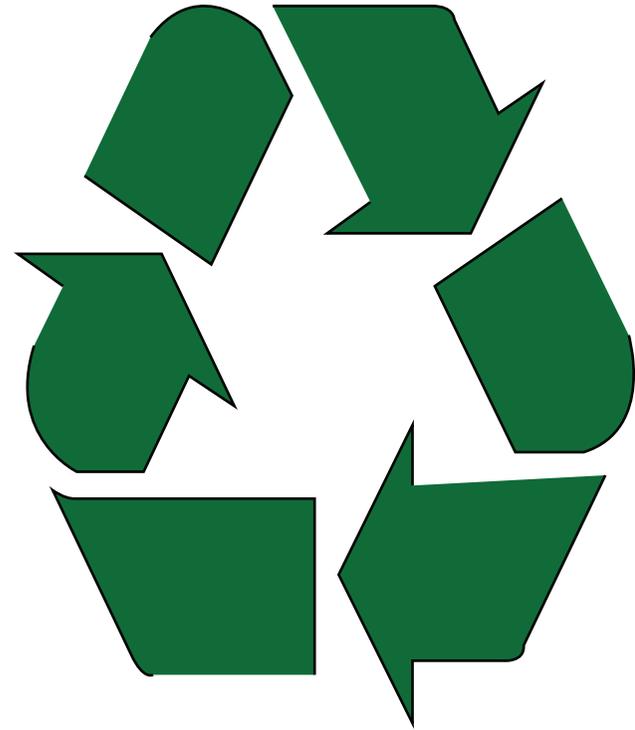
“I know they changed out the lids, but maybe using better plastic cups or something that’s better for the environment,” Smith said.

There are some steps to this problem that we can take as well.

“Consumers can reach out to businesses and petition for less packaging or cardboard cups and straws,” Cretu said. “Maybe instead support small coffee shops like Apothecary.”

However the glass policy could be the start to a better environment policy.

“In general, I like that we are taking this initiative,” Smith said. “I like that we are taking more of a push to be better towards the environment because we have seen the effects global warming can have on us.”



Review: Starbucks cups take a turn

Coffee shops are often filled because of the productive environment they create—whether it’s meeting up with a friend or studying for an upcoming test.

The Starbucks chain industry has given a fast food fell to coffee talks, contrary to this idea. However this January, Starbucks renovated their mission to create a welcoming environment for all consumers.

The first step in this process was implementing their new glass “for here” cups. Participating stores have started using reusable cups for people who drink their beverage in store. This new policy gained popularity because drinks “for here” receive free refills.

After staying in a Starbucks for a full day of studying I was disappointed with the new policy. The cups come in all sizes—tall, grande, and venti. Although the cups may seem aesthetically pleasing at first glance, they aren’t specially designed. With an open face, consumers still need to use a straw to enjoy their drink.

After receiving my order, I sat down and attempted

to enjoy the environment of the coffee shop. However the small store and constant rushes of customers picking up mobile orders gave constant distractions. As for the refill, although it was a free coffee, it was contradicting. After spending over six dollars on a latte, I expected a refill on the same drink. However when I ordered my next drink, I was informed regular iced/ hot coffee and tea were the only available options for refills. I ordered my second drink, but instead of receiving it in a glass cup, it was switched to a standard plastic to-go cup. I expected to have a refill in the initial glass I received, instead of a new plastic cup. This added to waste and I didn’t even receive a true refill on a drink I ordered.

Overall, this new policy is filled with loopholes to encourage Starbucks consumers to spend more money on the business and create a more popular coffee scene within the store. To me, the process of ordering, staying in store, and receiving an underwhelming refill was not worth the publicity this change is receiving. I would rate this a 3/5.

Lights, Camera, Oscars

STORY: **ANEESA SYED, SENIOR REPORTER** GRAPHICS: **MEGAN SULLIVAN, DESIGN EDITOR**

The Oscars: Hollywood's most prestigious award night of all time, where A-list movie stars, comedians, and directors come together to celebrate the art of film. This tradition began in 1929, where the first Academy Award ceremony took place at the Blossom Room of the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. Unlike today, guest tickets cost a whopping six dollars, while 270 people were in attendance. Today, The 96th Oscars ticket prices range from 200 to 850 dollars while the event is invite-only.

On another note, you may have heard about the controversy surrounding *Emilia Pérez*. Not only do viewers believe that the film's thirteen academy award nominations along with several others are "absolutely ridiculous", but its cast hasn't been exactly cooperative either.

Emilia Pérez revolves around a lawyer who is enlisted to help a notorious Mexican Cartel boss retire and transition into a woman. The film includes a list of musical numbers with well known actresses such as Zoe Saldaña- who you may know from *Avatar* (2002), and Selena Gomez. However, years-old tweets from Actress Karla Sofía Gascón have been resurfacing in the past few weeks along with the recent promo for the film. Gascon, who portrays the main character, Juan, has not been held accountable for her past tweets on her costar Selena Gomez, calling her a "rich rat" among other offensive and tone deaf comments. Additionally, many of her other tweets include controversial comments revolving around politics and even targeting the Oscars. She has since both denied and apologized for her hateful speech, and her twitter account is now deactivated, yet Gascón is still

nominated for "Best Actress". These major issues leave audiences and other organizations in both shock and disappointment.

The film itself was another issue- many *Wicked* fans are calling out the Academy for even recognizing Emilia Pérez's musical aspect over *Wicked*. "I just feel like with all of the success from *Wicked* and with big names like Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande, it deserves more hype," senior Kimora Porter said.

Nonetheless, Emilia Pérez is still up for thirteen Academy Awards, including Best Picture, competing with nine other films such as *A Complete Unknown* starring Timothee Chalamet, *The Substance* starring Margaret Qualley, *Wicked*, and more. Many young and old actors, after years in the industry, will be attending the Academy Awards as first time nominees. Some of these actors include Zoe Saldaña, Ariana Grande, Keiran Culkin, and more. Some of these actors and actresses are up for Best Supporting Actor, giving an incredible and breakthrough performance.

"I'm really excited for Zoe Saldaña amidst all of the drama surrounding Emilia Pérez," senior Emma O'Donnell said. "Just because she's been in the industry for so long and her performance in *Avatar* was really good in my opinion."

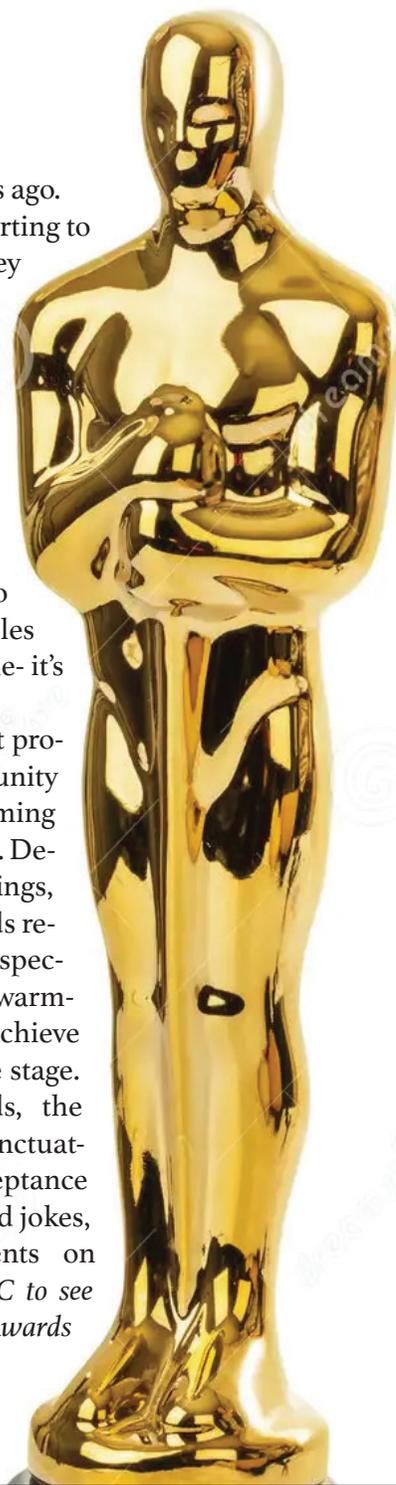
There still remains one question: Do people actually still watch the Oscars? Well, the percentage of viewers was at an all time low in 2021, with only 10.5 million people streaming due to the pandemic while in 2022, it quickly rose to 19.1 million. Since then, it has only grown, but that doesn't prevent people from feeling like the Academy Awards don't live up to the prestige it held as

recently as ten years ago.

"I feel like it's starting to fall off because they use the exact same actors for each movie," senior Kimora Ford said.

"I see a lack of diversity between people who haven't even booked roles versus people who have recurring roles in every single movie- it's tiring."

It's true; it doesn't provide much opportunity for new and upcoming actors and actresses. Despite its shortcomings, the Academy Awards remain a captivating spectacle, and it's heartwarming to see people achieve their dreams on the stage. Beyond the awards, the evening itself is punctuated by heartfelt acceptance speeches, unscripted jokes, and funny moments on stage. Tune into ABC to see the 96th Academy Awards on March 2nd.



"Emilia Pérez"

A notorious Mexican Cartel boss enlists a lawyer to help him retire and transition.



"Wicked"

The story of Glinda and Elphaba; polar opposites who form an unlikely bond.



"The Substance"

After an actress gets fired, she takes a mysterious substance goes horribly wrong.



"A Complete Unknown"

The biopic of the beloved and late singer Bob Dylan.

Fishbowl makes a splash

STORY AND GRAPHIC: ANNA MCGAVIN, SOPHOMORE REPORTER

One of the things that Mercy takes lots of pride in is the school spirit. To make sure that school spirit is thriving throughout all aspects of the school, especially the sporting events, a club was created to do just that. This club is called Fishbowl.

Fishbowl does look a little different this year. Last year the club moderator was Ms. Kate Scalzi. This year taking her place is Mrs. Jill Herold.

There are so many reasons to join Fishbowl, such as meeting new people and spreading cheer.

“I joined Fishbowl, because I heard it was a spirit club and freshman year I thought this would be the best club to be involved and meet new people through the love of the mercy marlins,” senior Maggie Neumann said.

Another reason for joining Fishbowl is to be in a club with the people you love.

“I joined Fishbowl because my sister was a Fishbowl leader when I was a freshman and I wanted to fol-

low in her footsteps,” senior Alison Smiley said.

Fishbowl combines fun for the people within the club and the players they support when attending games and events.

“It brings school spirit and pride,” Neumann said, “To have that kind of support system at games really brings joy to the players and others in attendance.”

The goal of Fishbowl is to come together and show school spirit, but it’s hard for many high school students



Mercy students cheer on the senior competitors against St. Catherine of Siena Academy at the 2024 Powderpuff game.

to make it to games due to their own busy schedules.

“Most members attend at least two sporting games a year,” Neumann said, “Most members are members of a sports team already and are eager to participate in spirit events. Students outside of Fishbowl are also in attendance but as a club we do wish for

more attendance in sports games.”

Throughout the year, many different types of sporting events are available to attend.

“Usually it’s the big basketball games, volleyball games,” Assistant Athletic Director Ms. Scalzi said, “I think people are more willing to go to things in the spring, because you know it gets nice out.”

Nonetheless, any competitor can see the Mercy spirit and they fear the fish.



Celebrating Black History Month

Learn about important black women in history

1. Dorothy Vaughan - She was a mathematician and computer programmer who made significant contributions to the U.S. space program.



2. Katherine Goble Johnson - She was a mathematician and NASA employee who made critical contributions to the success of spaceflights through her calculations of orbital mechanics.



3. Fannie Lou Hamer - She was an activist for voting and women's rights, as well as a prominent leader in the Civil Rights Movement.



Upcoming Events

**March
2**

Spring Open House

Ash Wednesday
Mass

**March
5**

**March
6**

Parent Teacher Conferences

Spring Musical
Begins

**March
14**

Caption This Pic!



Can you think of a funny caption for this picture of Newsprint staffers exploring the tunnels? Submit your caption under the "Caption This Pic" story on newsprintnow.net for a chance to be featured in the next issue.