

THE WOODWARD POST

Fight Back! Buy... Boredom?



AP World History's French Revolution Reenactments: Photo Credit Experience Springs

I sat down at my computer ready to write an argumentative, discussion-inciting piece about how Springs has changed. Alumni always share stories that paint Past Springs as an adventure filled sandbox for the world's inquisitive minds. Hearing about what Springs was back in it's glory days has always made me a little jealous; I mean, when did that school stop existing, and how can we make it come back? Upon parsing this question out though, I realized that a critique of Springs is not in order, as Springs can not be held accountable for the broader societal changes which are killing Springs-yness.

This article is really about the death of boredom.

Imagine you're a boarder at Indian Springs in the 80s. It's a random Tuesday afternoon in September. School got out at 4:00, but final check-in happens at 11:00, and no one has seven hours of homework. Remember, technology as we know it doesn't exist and outside of the occasional gas station, the surrounding area is empty. So what are you going to do with your

By: Sophia Graham 24'

afternoon?

That question is, I believe, what we mean when we describe something as Springs-y; dropping a bunch of intelligent kids from around the world together in Pelham, Alabama, and giving them space to entertain themselves. Boredom may not always be comfortable, but its products are memorable and creative.

A person born today, however, can go their entire life without experiencing boredom. With the advent of technology, infinite entertainment sits serially at our fingertips. The decline of curiosity goes hand in hand with the decline of boredom, and it's not just at Indian Springs.

But really, can we blame ourselves? The standards for what it means to be a successful student are higher now than ever before. Not only do you have to make straight As, be cognizant of social issues, understand what you want to do with your life, and have a dozen extracurriculars,

but you have to do it all while being socially presentable, as any of your failures could be caught on camera and posted online where they will haunt you until the heat death of the universe. So when we get done with school at the end of the day, are we so wrong to turn towards technology for some simple, mindless entertainment?

Well, it depends on who you ask. In my opinion, mindless entertainment is a necessary pillar of today's life, but only in moderation. I'm afraid that as we lose the ability to occupy our own minds, we rapidly hurl ourselves towards a future that we don't want to live in. Springs-yness is under attack, and now, we must decide whether it is important enough to sacrifice instant gratification for.

My best memories at Springs have all started with some random afternoon and a little bit of boredom. That's why sometime this month, I would encourage you to grab some friends and try for just one afternoon to hang out without devices. You might be pleasantly surprised with what comes out of it :)

Cajun Kutchi Chicken Recipe

So I'm a spice addict. Whenever I have time for breakfast, I default to an everything bagel with cream cheese, cayenne pepper, and last dab hot sauce. Time and experimentation with spices led me to realize that base Cajun and Kutchi ingredients are incredibly similar, specifically the spice blend. So, armed with a spice rack you only get from being the son of immigrants, I went around tampering with jambalayas and palaus until I came up with this fun, relatively simple recipe. It's meant to be flexible with whatever you have in your kitchen so feel free to substitute different cuts of meat, cook the rice in broth, or add in bell peppers. The goal of this recipe is an outline for you to have a simple dish you can cook to taste. -Misbah

- 4 thin chicken breasts
- 3 cups Basmati Rice
- A variety of Spices: Garlic powder and Cayenne are standouts
- Others include Paprika, Onion Powder, adobo mix, garam masala
- ½ cup Red potatoes
- Low-fat butter
- Hot Sauce(s) of your choice

Precook
Set the rice to boil (2:1 water to rice ratio, boil with salt for about 16 minutes covered without stirring, then remove from heat and keep it covered for 10 additional minutes) and defrost the chicken

- Cook**
1. Dry-rub the chicken with the spices. Show no restraint.
 2. Dice the potatoes.
 3. Melt the butter in the pan, then add the chicken and potatoes. Cook for 5 minutes, then flip and cook until the chicken is browned and the internal temperature is 165 degrees Fahrenheit.
 4. Once cooked, put the chicken into a plate lined with paper towels to get off excess butter.
 5. Put the mostly cooked rice into the same pan and add the chicken and potatoes on low heat.
 6. Melt some more butter into the pan and stir. Toss in the hot sauce and more spices to taste, then stir the dish until the rice is done

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Is SAD making you sad?

Duncan Holditch 26'

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is an affliction many face during the darker months of winter (or, in rare cases, the early months of summer), characterized by a lack of energy, a loss of interest in hobbies or activities you once enjoyed, and feelings of depression. It is often misinterpreted as feelings of sadness from the end of the holiday season, or simply January being the worst month, but its true causes appear on a much smaller scale.

The shorter days and reduced sunlight in winter can lead to drop in serotonin, a mood regulating neurotransmitter, as sunlight affects the number of molecules that regulate serotonin levels. In addition to a drop in serotonin regulators, we gain vitamin D when our skin is exposed to sunlight, and since vitamin D is believed to promote serotonin production, a drop in vitamin D can also lead to decreased Serotonin.

Another Brain chemical which may have links to SAD is melatonin, which regulates the amount of sleep one gets.

Those facing SAD may have unregulated melatonin levels leading to hypersomnia, or over-sleeping, which can

contribute to the already prevalent symptoms of depressive feelings and a loss of interest in once enjoyed activities. It is unclear what leads to these unregulated melatonin levels, but it is theorized that the disruption of sleep schedule from daylight savings time could be a possible culprit.

There are several ways to fight this affliction, but the most straightforward and simple is to try and increase your vitamin D intake. This could range from picking up vitamin D gummies from your local pharmacy, or simply trying to brave the cold weather on the sunnier days, which are plentiful for those living in Alabama "winter." A more drastic treatment is light therapy, which consists of a person being exposed to a large LED light box in order to supplement the lack of sunlight, and of course if it is entirely necessary, antidepressants can be taken to alleviate the depressive thoughts that come with SAD.

Seasonal Affective Disorder is an illness many face during the winter (and very rarely summer), but is not one that is untreatable. While the symptoms of depressive thoughts, hypersomnia, lack of energy, and general apathy may seem daunting, there are many effective treatments to help those afflicted through the dark winter months, and thankfully Alabamian winter won't last too much longer.

Culver Creek, San Francisco, and I (Part 1)

Eason Shi 24'

After William left his high school for a year, Culver Creek Journal's new paper edition was published, and the students were dying to read it.

Similar to stock market crashes, summers are as remote as Australian kangaroos patrolling religiously on Tasmania Island. There are too many of them. Too young and too many, like children. You won't notice them until you fly there. You are so excited to visit the Oceania island until the summer hits you on a gut level-

Shoot. It's summer. It's time to say goodbye.

"Parting is such sweet sorrow," said no one but Willy, a sweaty senior who graduated under the scorching sun.

"Reunion is such bitter happiness," said me when I met Willy again in Australia.

I mostly think of sentimental things on Friday nights because I have nothing to do on Friday nights. I would think of the people who were gone without a trace. No signature under the bridge, per se. They were nevertheless Culver Creek students; they were once trapped on this island of nowhere; they were as great as the Himalayas and as brave and passionate as someone may be in their every nightdream-things were too sentimental and too romantic to be true.

They were.

So I would put down personal feelings that were too personal to be appreciated by teachers in the English department; I would write sentimental poems about sentimental things that were too sentimental to be understood by teachers in the history department; I would hold her hands under the starry sky; I would cry under the bridge-I will, and probably I have, skip classes to do so.

In the end, we would deconstruct American dating culture and psychoanalyze each other:

"Here is when your mom comes in," said my roommate, who read a few pages by Sigmund Freud and had gone since last summer.

"Yeah." I defended myself in a tone that he imagined flushing me down in the toilet.

"That tells me a lot about your insecurities."

The words traveled too slowly to reach him.

He knows I miss him very much, so he constantly popped up in my mind when I was studying metaphysics and hanging out with my new friends. Or I don't miss him that much; it's the memories that rendered those dull and somber in gold and sentimental.

Once in a while, I read, and because I read, I remember Kurt Vonnegut had said something about not using semicolons, but because he's dead and I am a Culver Creek student, I used a lot of semicolons; see, I used it again. The thing about Kurt Vonnegut is he is a much better writer than I am, and his prose reminds me of my old friends who graduated summers ago.

He might write, "Seasons were gone, so were the people."
He might also write, "People aren't supposed to look back. I am certainly not going to do it anymore."

And he did write that in Slaughterhouse-Five. And I did look back constantly to be sad and sentimental. But the thing about being friends at Springs-hopefully everywhere-is that you don't want them to be sad and nostalgic and stuck in their last high school summer. You want them to be better, to be happy, and to unbecome who they used to be. In the end, I may just cry as William did when he was too ready to leave this place.

"It's a nonsensical article!" yelled a premature eighth grader who stopped reading because he was too sensible to understand what I put down.

"Sue me."

And I walk out of my room full of memories and photographs.

Socialism vs. Capitalism- Written by Experts

Sophia Graham 24'

Four hundred words is not enough space to defend Socialism ideologically, economically, and politically. Though I certainly tried in my first drafts, I've realized that the better approach is to start the conversation by outlining a more practical argument for Socialism.

Fact 1: Capitalism is, in short, really concerned with maximizing profits. This rule- literally called profit maximization- often leads to the exploitation of workers, as the employer is encouraged to pay workers as little as possible to work as long as possible so that the profit margins are as large as possible. You will almost always be paid a fraction of what you contribute to your workplace for the sake of the profit.

Fact 2: Capitalism creates huge wealth inequality. Your employer, who controls the tools which are needed to run the business, sets the terms of your employment. Initially, Capitalism created the middle class by allowing anyone to be an employer if they were hard working enough to get there. Now however, so much money is concentrated at the top that the barriers to entry into the market are unreasonably high. Unable to advance, the middle class is slowly being cannibalized.

With these two facts in mind, let's look at an example. The first fully automated McDonalds already exists. That's a restaurant run by employees who don't sleep, don't call in sick, don't file lawsuits, don't form unions, and don't pay into systems like social security and medicare because they don't pay taxes. Capitalism approves of this. Per Thesis 1, an automated employee would drastically increase profits. Per Fact 2, the business owners who are making these decisions will be positively impacted by the automation of the workforce. It makes sense, it would seem, for the government to impose an AI usage tax to ensure that millions of people don't lose their jobs. But here's the thing: that is a Socialist policy. The government is interfering in private industry on behalf of the people.

When people think of Socialism, they generally think of "Pure Socialism," but the fact of the matter is that Pure Socialism will never come to term. In the way that we don't live in a completely Capitalist economy now (our government controls the utilities), so too would we not live in a society where the government controls all private property. We are not ready for this kind of pure Socialism; the switch from Feudalism to Capitalism didn't happen overnight, and neither would a switch from Capitalism to Socialism. But there is a point where the government has to step in and regulate private industries for the good of the people. As technology continues to advance, that point approaches rapidly. We should take steps towards Socialist reforms- like the AI tax or more robust social welfare programs- to ensure that people's most basic needs are taken care of before our situation turns dire.

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Matěj Kincl 24'

To second Sophia, I too started with a draft longer than this issue altogether and will therefore mainly focus on the pros of capitalism rather than writing a socialism hit piece.

The reason capitalism is superior is its emphasis on a competitive free market. Now, socialism isn't directly synonymous with a top-down controlled market, but in order to run a true socialist system, capitalist exchanges have to be abolished and controlled by the state, so that wealth inequality is stopped in its tracks. Supply and therefore demand is dictated by an outside authority from the government. In contrast, a free market dictates supply and demand through the value of the products, which drives the consumer's demand. This pushes companies to progress further and make better products for better prices. Furthermore, that practice no longer exploits the worker with laws such as minimum wage in place.

Capitalism also incentivises people to work much better than socialism. A factor socialists commonly neglect is responsibility. The reason the entrepreneur, CEO or employer makes more is because if the company goes south, they will be held accountable. In fact, they already have, when they put their own money on the table to start the company. It's that accountability that I like about capitalism. If you fail it's mostly your own fault, but if you succeed it's a testament to your diligence and hard work.

What I advocate for is an expansion of social reform. In order to make capitalism as great as I wish it was, we have to offer equal opportunity to everyone. I think especially an improvement of the educational system has to be undergone in order to make opportunity as equal as possible. So I guess in the end, I stand at a vision of a socially reformed capitalism. And unless AI takes over, I don't think sacrificing progress and freedom to evolve further into Socialism is in any way a defensible position.



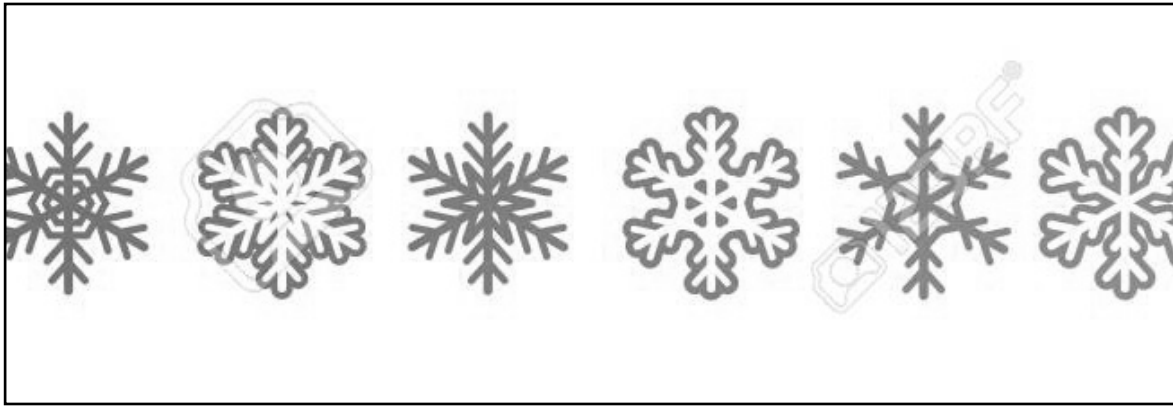


Recycling Plastic & Restoring Lives

Community on the Rise is a nonprofit & social enterprise dedicated to empowering people experiencing homelessness in Birmingham, Alabama.

We do this by providing safe housing, meaningful employment, & trauma-informed healing so people can restore their lives.

Community on the Rise is the only nonprofit in Alabama recycling #5 PP plastics, and it is the hands of survivors who are providing this beneficial service for our earth & economy.



The Beginner's Guide to Classical Music

Matěj Kincl 24'

As a hardcore classical music fan, one sentence I often hear from normal people (i.e. the muggles of the classical world) is that they tried listening to classical music, but the experience ended up rather boring and underwhelming. Contrary to what you may think, I deem that conclusion totally logical and reasonable. The subtle textures and long developments of classical music really are boring in comparison to the fast paced music of pop, hip hop, and rap. I don't think that one really needs classical music in their life, but for those who want to take the journey, here are some guidelines.

Step 1: Give Soundtracks a Try

When you think about it, the genres really aren't that far from each other. Why else do you think that so many of the great classical composers also wrote for film? However, as those soundtracks are still made for a mainstream audience, they appeal to cinematic themes and are thus easier to digest than full bodied classical music. While *Pirates of The Caribbean* and *Lord of the Rings* are certainly classics, two I would recommend is Nicholas Brittel's Emmy-winning *Succession* soundtrack and Nathan Johnson's *Knives Out*.

Step 2: The Romantic Period

While Beethoven, Mozart and Bach constantly occupy the top three spots for most performed composers worldwide, I think listening to them as your first dip in classical music isn't the best way forward. Save your time and instead give the romantics a try.

Romantics sought to create music that was dramatic, emotional, and programmatic, which makes them more approachable than, say, Brahms. Three composers that always hit a home run with me are Rachmaninov (try Symphony No. 2), Tchaikovsky (try *Romeo and Juliet*) and Chopin (for the melancholic crowd; try the Nocturnes).

Step 3: Find Your Composer

Now that you've tried some composers, think about whose music you liked the most and give some of his other pieces a try. It may be a shocker, but most composers haven't really changed their style that much. Say your favourite beginner piece was Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet*, well, now you can perhaps try his Symphony No. 4. I would encourage sticking to your favourite composers, but choosing a different genre than your first piece.

Step 4: Find Your Texture

As a non-classical music listener, I assume I've lost you at the title of this section, but please bear with me. As you listen to more pieces, you start to get a sense of what kind of texture you like. Is it the bright piano of Chopin's *Études*, the crisp strings and warm brass of Beethoven's *Eroica* Symphony, or do you like a little bit of both in a piece like Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*? When I was starting out, my favourite texture was piano solo and from the works of Chopin, I got to Mendelssohn, Liszt, and eventually my favourite - Rachmaninov. And the more composers and styles you know, the sharper your idea of your taste in classical music is.

Step 5: Enjoy!

If you follow the four previous steps, you're in the club. You notice differences in between recordings of the same piece, air conduct while you listen to classical bangers and can't help but smile when your favourite composer cites another one's work.

Welcome to the club!



Trope Review: The Redemption Arc

Misbah Meghani 24'

Redemption arcs are weird. We humans are obsessed with making our world black and white, and this reflects in the characters we write. Most of the time, it's obvious which characters are the good guys, and which ones are the immoral, evil, probably queer-coded bad guys. So how can we tackle this binary to write more complex characters? By making the bad guys good and the good guys bad. But, of course, making good guys bad makes us feel bad, so redemption arcs are far more common. How do we make a compelling one, though, one that makes the audience feel something? Well here's my 3 step recipe for making a piping hot redemption arc that'll give the watcher of any disney channel original tv show the warm and fuzzies.

1. Preheat the morals. People won't believe that Badguy McSlaughterface is just going to wake up one day, realize the error of his ways, and immediately start repenting. You need to sprinkle in the idea that there's a sympathetic reason why they committed to villainy. Toss in some pet the dog moments, where the villain explicitly shows compassion to something innocent or helpless like a baby or a puppy.

2. Mix the perfect combination of circumstances. Now you've built the idea that maybe Badguy McSlaughterface isn't all that bad, but how does he become good? Through circumstance of course. In those circumstances, the bad guy may form a temporary alliance with the heroes, and fractures in their evilness may form. Now that Badguy McSlaughterface is unset, their wickedness mixed in with ideas of redemption and reasons to change their ways.

3. Bake the redemption arc

Identity. This is when Badguy McSlaughterface finally explicitly turns his back on villainy (generally there will be some kind of act of defiance). This marks the actual beginning of the redemption arc but they aren't heroic yet. In this form, the villain is the closest we actually get to breaking the binary of good and bad

Actions. We still need them to become Goodguy McSaviorface, and that requires more than simply denouncing who they were- it requires them to grow toward who we need them to be. And that requires penance. You know the vibe.

Congratulations, you've now challenged the status quo while not changing anything. Or you know- you could write redemption arcs like how people are actually redeemed. Which is to say, not really. Simply turning characters into shades of gray still means we end up quantifying how good or bad they are with no introspection. Instead, we need to experience the full range of colors. Trying to make it seem like a character is slowly getting blasted with a purification ray to make them heroic removes their color and by extension, their humanity. And if we're not here to learn more about what it means to be human, why keep writing stories at all?



The Grinch is NOT Your Bae

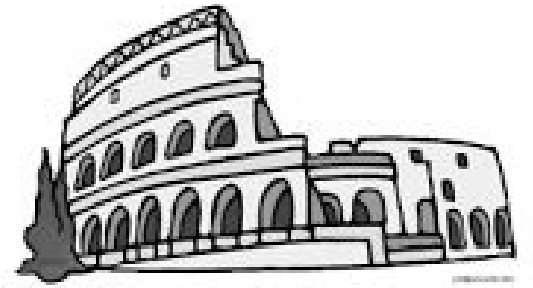
Syla Steinman 25'

Dr. Seuss' classic story, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, follows the titular Grinch as he, motivated by a loathing of the holiday's consumerist hedonism, strips Whoville of all its Christmas decorations, hoping to put an end to their infernal racket of joy. Instead of whining like children when faced with this Christmas-less wasteland, the Whos gather around the town square where their Christmas tree used to stand, and they sing. The Grinch is so moved by the Christmas spirit that his heart grows three sizes, and he decides to return the decorations to the Whos. All in all, the story is a moving tale of how spirit triumphs against all odds. The 2018 adaptation preserves this core message, although its poignancy is stifled by the Grinch's characterization.

In the original, the Grinch is a "vile" "monster" rotten to the core with a "soul...full of gunk." The Grinch is the flies that feast on roadkill rotted by the sun. The Grinch is a grotesque, rancid entity beyond redemption and understanding. Yet, in the 2018 adaptation, the Grinch is...human. He is not a seething, scuttling spider whose presence looms over the town like a bad omen but a reserved homebody with baggage. His hatred of Christmas, which in the original is attributed to his heart being three

sizes too small, is justified by a newly introduced traumatic childhood in which he was left out of Christmas festivities. In the 2018 adaptation, the Grinch's love for Christmas is something lost, not something that never was. His hatred is not his entire heart but the armor he dons to protect himself from heartbreak. In the original version, the Christmas spirit is a force whose presence alone has the power to transform an irredeemable homunculus. In the adaptation, the spirit is a therapist who motivates their patient to overcome trauma. This feature makes the Christmas spirit more human, even though its transcendence of humanness was supposedly what moved the Grinch in the first place.

While this narrative of facing fears and overcoming trauma is powerful and has a place in pop culture, the Grinch was never meant to be that place. Despite him being the face of the story, the Grinch is not the focus of it. He is the prism through which the power of the true meaning of Christmas shines. He is a storytelling device that demonstrates the transformative nature of this force, and rewriting him to be more than that dulls the original message. In sum, the Grinch was Seuss's means to an end, while the 2018 adaptation made him the focal point.



STAMP of Approval

Mr. Buck Crowe

This month, a bunch of advanced Latin students received Global Seals of Biliteracy for demonstrating translations abilities on an online proficiency exam. While that's great, what does it mean exactly?

In short, it means we're in the midst of some proficient linguists who just received the same college credit that the American Council for Education recommends for high scores on an AP. And they demonstrated their abilities in under two hours, rather than through the slog of a year-long class followed up with an exam.

While this test is newish, I hadn't really heard about it in its current form until this summer, I've come to appreciate that it was developed to assess proficiency over performance.

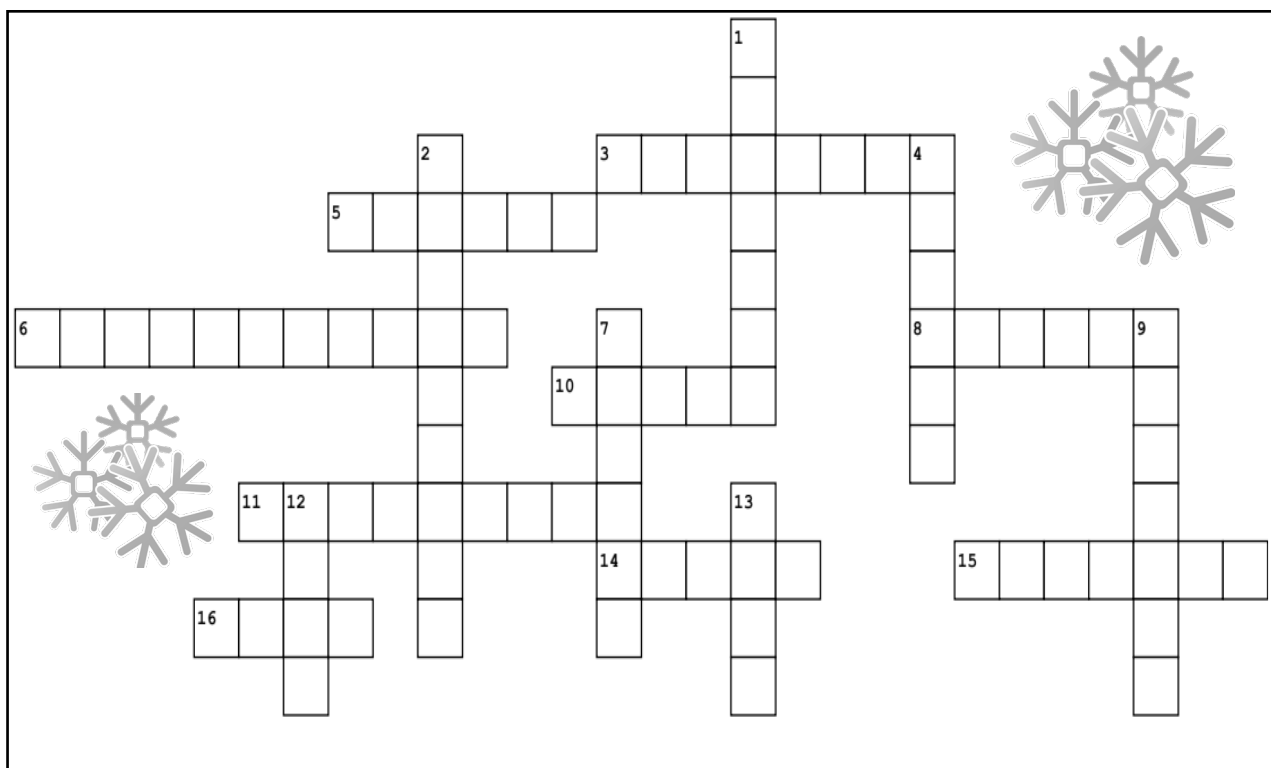
Although the AP test for Latin is an excellent indicator of a student's memorization abilities and overall compliance, it belies a student's ability to interact with Latin "in the wild." If I had a nickel for every time one of my star Latin students (at another school, to be fair) couldn't read an inscription or laugh at some graffiti, well, I'd invest it into developing the STAMP test for the Global Seal of Biliteracy. Questions on this test are based on vocabulary frequency, cultural context, and literary idiom. Students are expected to possess a simplex munditia – elegant knowledge of the Latin world – in order to comprehend passages of text and select the correct answer. Elite performance on the AP is the opposite as it requires students to memorize English translations in addition to proscribed themes.

From a transactional point of view, Latin students will not miss any value possibly attained by elite performance on the AP. A STAMP score of 6 results in a recommendation of 12 hours granted: the same as a 5 on the AP. Should a student score higher, there are corresponding recommendations. Of course, while individual colleges make their own decisions on credit, the recommendations are the same for both tests.

This is how we can transform the scope and sequence of courses for Latin. Assuming students were content to accrue college credit hours through something other than the AP – like getting paid in Euros instead of Dollars – the senior year class could become an all-out survey of the classical world. We would have time to delve into art, food, architecture, mythology, literature in translation, Latin composition, Greek...the list is endless and could be tailored to the interests of students each year.

Regardless of what the future holds, it is certain that your Latin language peers are more than worth their salt.

January Crossword



Across

- 3. The second January zodiac sign
- 5. In 1924, the first Winter Olympics debuted in this country
- 6. Many people make these for the New Year
- 8. Musical genius born January 27 in Salzburg, Austria with over 600 compositions from age 5 to 35
- 10. January was named for this Roman god
- 11. The first January zodiac sign
- 14. 'King of Rock and Roll', born on January 8, 1935
- 15. City that translates as 'River of January', Rio de _____
- 16. Name of the full moon that occurs in January

Down

- 1. Famous British rock band who performed for the last time on a rooftop in London, England, in January 1969
- 2. January birth flower
- 4. The season that January is in the southern hemisphere
- 7. January birthstone
- 9. 'Lord of the Rings' author born on January 3, 1892
- 12. Popular song associated with New Year's celebrations, _____ Lang Syne
- 13. His birthday is celebrated on this January 15 U.S. holiday

It's the spring semester! Soon Spring will bring blossoming flowers all over, the end of the year will give beautiful memories and goodbyes, and most importantly, students will be stressed out of their minds over grades and AP season. The end of the school year should be full of happy memories spent with friends and loved ones but to many students, it's instead filled with cramming for tests. The beauty of Spring is unfortunately spent indoors, staring at textbooks and exam review books. From my personal experience, I've heard dozens of upperclassmen regret spending all of their time overworking themselves studying for classes when they could've been spending their time with friends. So what should students do to avoid this inevitable outcome? Well, just go hang out with your friends.

Club Expo is a great opportunity for you to pick up an after school activity to cope with your inevita-



Don't Overwork Yourself, Get Involved!

Ryan Le 24'

ble academic doom (a calculus test maybe). Go to the fishing club and catch some fish with your friends, I hear it's a great time. Why not try out for JV soccer? Regardless of whether you're good or... not so good, just try it out and be social! I cannot stress enough how important it is that you as a student go out and participate in random activities across our campus. It will not only improve your social life and overall mood, but it will probably make for great memories. Take advantage of how many opportunities you are given on this campus, and stop stressing so much. I'm not saying you shouldn't study for your classes; it is imperative that you still be an academically rigorous student. Just remember that your grades are as important as your social life, and you should try your hardest not to sacrifice one for another. The future you will appreciate it very much, trust me.

For the Love in Studio Ghibli

Sarah Khamis 25'

Hayao Miyazaki, a famous director, writer, and animator of Studio Ghibli once said that he'd, "become skeptical of the unwritten rule that just because a boy and girl appear in the same feature, a romance must ensue." Miyazaki has created many films over the years, using both realism and fantasy to portray the human experience. Though he focuses on the human experience, one element he always perfectly includes is love. A central theme in Ghibli films is the individual maturity from the depths of doubt. The romantic, familial, and platonic relationships in the films always advance this narrative.

Whisper of The Heart truly captures the essence of romance. Throughout the movie, we see parallels between Shizuku and Seiji, who are both doubtful of their talents. From Seiji's violin making to Shizuku's writing, they both experience the pain of passion. They choose to uplift the other with kind words when they are doubting if their work is good enough. Their romance isn't built on the plot, but adds to it.

Another strong romantic relationship is seen in *Howl's Moving Castle*. Their unconditional love for each other does not require sacrifice, but self-acceptance. Turnip Head, a secondary character who is supposed to be Sophie's true love, accepts that Sophie has found another, showing the more melancholy theme that some love is just not meant to be.

Familial love is not always recognized in movies as the other types are, but Ghibli makes a point of showcasing strong familial love. In *Ponyo*, Ponyo and Sosuke have a brother and sister dynamic. They protect each other when they are in danger; Sosuke promising to watch over Ponyo is one of the reasons she becomes human. Her mother knows she'll be loved unconditionally by Sosuke and his mother.

The strongest love seen in Ghibli films is platonic. In *Spirited Away*, Chihiro and Haku have an implied connection from the start, but the only sign that there is romance comes from the idea that they are a boy and a girl acting fondly towards one another. The central theme is overcoming fear and Haku plays a key role in helping Chihiro realize this. They grow as friends, with each complementing the other in their areas of weakness and strength.

In *Kiki's Delivery Service*, the main conflict revolves around Kiki's self-discovery and acceptance of who she is. In the movie, she meets a boy named Tombo who inspires her with his own creative works. Their friendship shines when they both are able to understand themselves, their bond growing stronger from it.

Miyazaki and Studio Ghibli teach us that love isn't just superficial, but it's about spiritually maturing so one may see life as more beautiful and meaningful together: "I want to portray a slightly different relationship. One where the two mutually inspire themselves to live - if I'm able to, then perhaps I'll be closer to portraying a true expression of love."



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What the Woodward Post Staff is Reading:

State and Utopia by Robert Nozick

-Matěj

Conversations with Friends by Sally Rooney

-Ruby

The Majesty of Law: Reflections of a Supreme Court Justice by Sandra Day O'Connor

-Eason

Nothing

-Hopper

Dead Poet Society by Nancy Kleinbaum

-Rebecca

The Illiad by Homer

-Misbah

The Communist Manifesto by Karl Marx

-Rosie

Existentialism by Jean Paul Sartre

-Lai'ana

Harry Potter; Order of the Phoenix by J.K Rowling

-Alex

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

-Carlisle



Ninth Grade Leaders: Club Heads

Darwin Lu and Aaron Tarrance 27'

With the upcoming Club Expo, interests in new clubs are bound to arise. Within these extracurriculars we're seeing a rise of ninth graders taking on leadership positions: take Speech & Debate for example. Starting a club seems like a pretty major thing to handle, so how do these ninth grade leaders manage it all, what are the pros and cons for guiding these activities in their freshmen year, and just what's going on with the leaders? We asked the leaders of the Fertile Minds Gardening Club and the Speech and Debate club and this is what they had to say. The first club leader is Sav Moran of the Fertile Minds Gardening Club. Sav told us her motivation for starting the club back up sprouted from D-day; seeing the garden neglected by the student body and rundown wasn't a pleasant sight.

Despite it being a simple school gardening club, Sav has big plans for the future. She plans to host events open to the whole school, one of which is a fundraiser to "bring back the term 'community' without forcing kids together with the will of faculty and teachers." Sav says the benefit of running a club in the ninth grade is how you get a sense of accomplishment from benefiting your community.

The Fertile Minds Gardening Club isn't Sav's first club, as she actually started one in eighth grade, the D&D club. Sav describes the D&D club as a learning experience. From the D&D club she realized that accepting help from others was not only okay but often beneficial. Despite the trouble that came with her previous club it was still enjoyable and some members are still active in their campaigns today! So it's safe to say that those who joined fostered a new love for D&D, so maybe those who join the Fertile Minds Gardening Club will grow a new love for gardening.

The final leaders we interviewed were Michelle and Rosie who run the Speech and Debate Club. Rosie states everything she and Michelle have done for S&D boils down to one moment: "when Michelle sniffed out the inner debate kid in me in math one day." The two began to bond over similar interests and their shared experience in debating. When they learned that there was no club, it motivated them to revive Speech and Debate at Springs, become club heads, and run it themselves.

We asked about pros and cons about starting a club early in their high school career. Rosie states that being a club head in 9th grade gives you the opportunity of experiencing club management. Some cons she mentions is that it's hard to prepare for activities for the club. They didn't have any prior experience with club management at this school, so it took longer to decide meeting spaces, times, and methods of communication. Another issue that came to mind was the diversity in grade level; most members of Speech and Debate were in the ninth grade, but they fear that "our inexperience is what discourages others from actively participating in something they originally showed interest in."

Afterward, we asked Michelle about what we should expect from the future of S&D, as well as how they may move forward into competition. She states that they plan to qualify for nationals, and hopefully host their own tournament next year. Michelle claims that they aim for club members to be "informed, compassionate, and articulate advocates for their beliefs," no matter if it's within Springs' club or the wider Speech and Debate community. "We want to contribute to a more informed, inclusive, and interconnected society by facilitating constructive conversations on critical issues."

That concludes our interviews! After having read some of these responses, we hope you will find your passion in the infinite opportunities that lie within clubs and their managers. Sav, Rosie, and Michelle have all demonstrated their capabilities of running their own clubs and managing the events and activities that occur within. Benefits and difficulties exist, but they're still optimistic about the future of their work. With all that being said, join a club during this upcoming club expo! Or maybe even start your own! You never know what opportunities may come if you do so.

Haikus

Jack Rooney 24'

When I learned that most haikus are about nature, it inspired me. The haiku market should be way more varied, and to help us diversify, me and some friends have written anti-nature haikus to help expand your horizons. Enjoy.

I freaking hate trees.
They are too dry and girthy
Death rains from above

The Earth is warming
Which threatens to kill the fish.
Good. Fish are creepy.

Green dust on my car
Pollen makes my nose runny
Fight the plant semen

I see the skyline
The smoke from the factory
Beautifies the sky

Whales ruined my life.
Backed by the crabs and
seagulls
They control the banks

Oh, the poor horses
Nature's most attractive beast
How they will rise up.

You're welcome.

-Jack Rooney

Photo Gallery!



Alabama Youth Symphony Orchestra



Varsity Basketball Team 23-24



Students Reading the Woodward Post!



D-Day Campus Projects



Student Concert- Fall '23



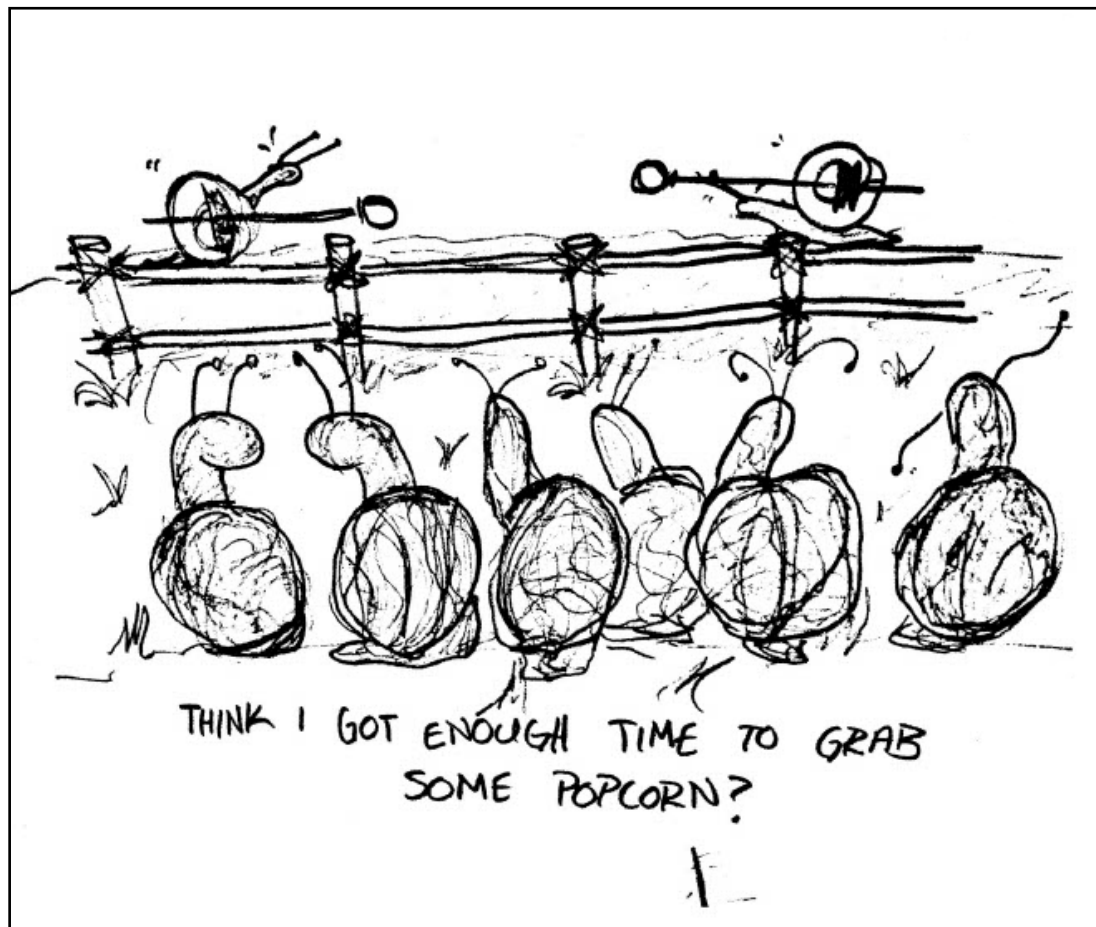
Varsity Basketball @ Area Tourney



Springs Olympics- Fall 2023

Comic: Popcorn

Mr. Neil Barrett



dine in - take out - catering

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My Dearest Indian Springs,

January is always a strange month. It's one of the only times not defined by a consumerist mega-holiday, and really, what's the point of a season where Reese's isn't manufacturing specialty candy? (That's not to discount MLK Day; it's just one of the few holidays that we actually shouldn't commercialize.)

Okay sure, January is supposed to be a time for introspection, but we corporitize self-improvement year round. So then, outside of the cold weather, the strange aimlessness, and faint dedication to resolutions, what is there to enjoy about January?

Tea. And reading, and scarves, and a lighter workload, and friends, and snow days. Those are my answers, at least. I find the good thing about January is that in the absence of definition, we each get to decide what is important, and thus, what we will spend our time doing. So this January, go forth and answer a question for yourself: does the way you spend your time reflect the things you find important?

As always, thanks for reading.

-Sophia Graham '24

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Questions? Comments? Concerns? Complaints? Letters for the Editor? Fun Facts about Tiny Spoons?

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Just walk up to any of us at school :)