

The Purple Press

FOR STUDENTS, BY STUDENTS.

VOL. 21, NO. 2 JUNE '19

District Start Times: Why We Changed?



By Grant Vialardi

For the past three years a debate has been raging inside of the Katonah-Lewisboro School District, a debate about how much sleep is enough – and how much we are willing to pay for it.

In a decision made this year, the Board of Education voted to change the start times of both the middle and high schools. For the high schoolers, it was a matter of mere minutes. But for middle schoolers, the change was drastic, giving them a start time that is around forty minutes later.

But why did they make the change? For which reasons? And how will this affect the students of JJMS?

Back in the “olden days” of 2010, the district decided to change school start times to the early time we have come to know and despise. It moved from a two-tiered system, where the middle and high schools were bussed together, separately from the elementary school, to a three-tiered system, where each of the schools were

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AMAZON: Internet Powerhouse



By Peter McDermott

Have you ever heard of Amazon.com? What about a voice-activated assistant named Alexa? Well, if you haven't, then you must have been living under a rock for the past twenty years. Although Amazon is most known for its website where one can buy anything and everything, over the years, it has expanded into many other businesses, and now it is one of the most important companies in the world.

Amazon was started in 1994 by its current CEO, Jeff Bezos, in Seattle, Washington, operating out of his garage as a website where one could buy any book one desired. But as time progressed, he has expanded his operating space to hundreds of warehouses around the world and his website to selling almost any product imaginable. This growth has been so profitable for him, that he generally considered to be the richest man in the world.

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Style Trends That Raise Eyebrows

By Izzy Ferrajina

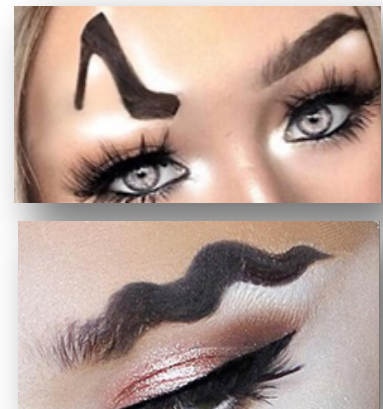
The years 2017 and 2018 were an interesting time in beauty trends. Decorated beards, extravagant braids, and questionable clothing designs. But one of the most popular trends that took over Instagram was the intriguing eyebrow, which sported new wild shapes, extreme colors, and fancy adornments. The inspiration took over and caused a surge of beautician inspiration.

Now some readers who have little experience cultivating their eyebrows may be

wondering how people were able to get their eyebrows to grow into any particular shape. Other readers who are makeup gurus, are trying to figure out how these eyebrows can appear so filled-in while our own attempt at filling in their eyebrows ends up just looking like they've painted their brows with mud. But the real secret is... microblading.

Microblading is a technique created

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Baseball: Why It's American Sports' Greatest Home Run

By Oliver Berke

The American populace today is constantly wowed by the thrill of sports. Quarterbacks running down the endzone, hockey players slinging the puck into a goal, basketball players jumping up for dazzling slam dunks.

These entertainment outlets have been paying dividends for many decades now. But the question that has always been asked by sports fanatics and casuals alike is: Which sport is the greatest American sport?

Surely basketball – such a finely-

tuned game of dunking, throwing, and scoring. What about hockey? The speed is unmatched! No! Football's intricacies and complexities fundamentally go unchallenged!

However, in the opinion of many, mine included, baseball is, without a doubt, the king of American athletic entertainment and rightfully deserves its title as the “national pastime.”

Baseball is a unique sport. At the core, it's swinging a finely molded plank

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Five Things About Wolves You're Getting Wrong

By Nina Vigil

Remember reading stories about the Big, Bad Wolf when you were younger? Wolves have long been known as ruthless killers who hunt down wildlife, livestock, and people for fun. Negative images of wolves permeate our society – in books, fairy tales, movies, songs, and comics. Unfortunately, these ideas have led

to the deaths of countless wolves as people try to rid the world of the “big, bad” monsters.

Yet, wolves are greatly misunderstood and are, in fact, an important part of many of the world's ecosystems. Therefore, in order to correct the fallacies that have been spread about them, the Purple Press is highlighting the five biggest misconceptions about these fascinating creatures.

1) Wolves kill humans frequently.

Research by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service states that in the past century, there have been only two records of humans in North America

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Global Warming And Its Disastrous Effects on the Earth



By Brandon Quackenbush

Many of you have heard of global warming. Some of you may think it is no problem and just some facts that have been twisted and distorted completely out of proportion. But some of you may realize that it is, in fact, a major issue that needs to be understood and stopped.

Since 1937, the total global temperature has risen by almost one degree Celsius, which is about one and half degrees Fahrenheit. This may not seem like a lot, but on a global scale, it is a huge change.

Global warming is happening because the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere is rising, and CO₂ acts like a green house, trapping heat and causing the Earth's temperatures to rise.

The increase of CO₂ is occurring chiefly from the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas, which emit CO₂ into the atmosphere. These fossil fuels are burned in factories, automobiles, locomotives, air travel, and energy production.

But the effects of global warming are not just about hotter temperatures. Global warming causes many negative effects around the world, including extreme weather, loss of land, and a decrease in agricultural output.

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A Fatal Delay

The Worst Accident in Amtrak's History



By Abel Hansonbrook

It's the middle of the night on September 22, 1993, and the worst rail disaster in Amtrak's history is about to happen.

Speeding through the night at seventy miles per hour, the passengers on Amtrak's Sunset Limited have no idea what is about to happen.

The train consists of three locomotives - a GE Genesis locomotive (#819) and two EMD F40PHs locomotives (#262 and #312.) Behind the locomotives are the mail car, the dorm car for the crew, and six Superliner passenger cars.

At New Orleans the train is delayed due to a broken air-conditioning unit and put a half hour behind schedule.

At 2:45 A.M, far down the track, a barge, lost in the fog, collides with a bridge, causing the track above to shift three feet out of alignment. Not realizing that the bridge is damaged the barge pulls away.

Eight

minutes

later, the unsuspecting train hits the kink in the track and chaos follows.

The first locomotive, #819, tips over to one side, hits the ground, and impaling itself and killing the drivers instantly.

The second, #262, swings around and lands next to #819.

The third, #312 slides off to the other side pulling the mail car and the dorm car along with it.

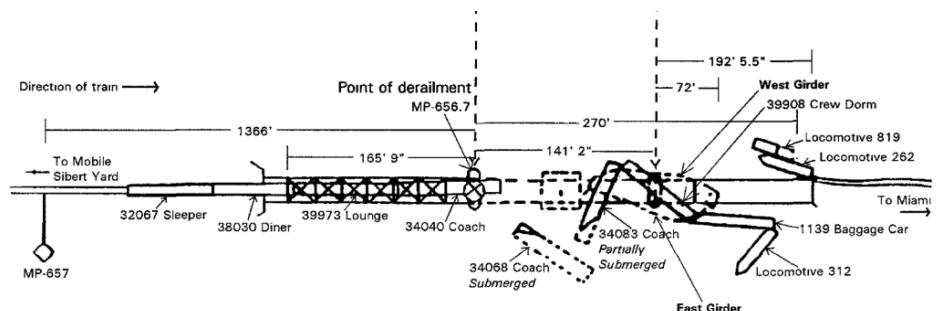
The first Superliner falls in to the canal, half submerging itself, and the second Superliner ends up completely submerged in the snake and crocodile infested waters of the canal.

The third Superliner dangles precariously off the edge of the ruined bridge.

And then, when the chain of awful events seems to have stopped, the three locomotives, each of which carrying several thousand gallons of fuel, burst into flames and explode.

The devastation is terrible. Forty-seven people are killed. A hundred and three are wounded.

Sadly, it was the worst disaster in Amtrak's history, and even more sadly, the tragedy was completely avoidable.



The Pros and Cons of the New Start Times



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bussed separately, taking more time, but requiring fewer buses.

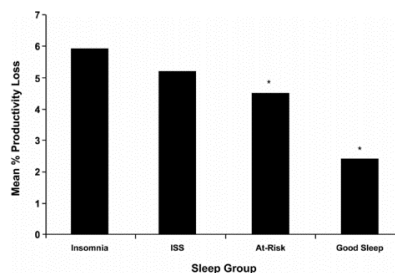
The district made this change because the economy was in a recession and the number of students in the school system was in decline. With fewer dollars and students, the district wanted fewer busses, and so the cheaper, three-tiered system made sense.

Thus, past changes in bussing seem to be related to changes in the economy and student population levels.

What makes this latest decision different is that this time, the district seems to be making a change based, not on numbers, but rather on the health and well-being of the students. And considering the latest research, it's no wonder why.

The most obvious benefit is the ability for students to get additional sleep. The school based their decision mostly on the concern that middle schoolers were not getting enough sleep.

The benefit of getting even another forty-minutes of sleep is potentially great, potentially improving student focus, class performance, and even standardized testing scores. As the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) explains, "Children and adolescents who do not get enough sleep have a higher risk for many health problems, including obesity, diabetes, poor mental health, and injuries. They are also more likely to have attention and behavior problems, which can contribute to poor academic performance in school."



Adequate sleep can also increase a student's efficiency and productivity. According to tuck.com the potential mean percent productivity loss can be as high as around five percent for a middle school student getting only the limited amount of sleep possible under the current three-tiered system.

This should make sense. We all know the feeling of being tired and finding it hard to remember something or work on something because we want to go to sleep. When every other thought in students' brains is about sleep, academics become even more challenging than they may already be. But with more sleep, that feeling should be less and less of a problem.

Furthermore, the benefits may be compounded because, if they become more efficient with additional sleep time, that efficiency might open up additional free time, allowing them to get even more sleep.

Yet, for every benefit yielded by a policy change, there could also be a potential loss, and in this case that loss could be a negative effect on extra-curricular activities. Under the current

two-tiered system, a 3:00 and 4:00 bus is available to bring home middle schoolers staying after for after-school activities.

However, once the new schedule is in effect, the middle school will end at 2:48, and the late busses will not leave until 4:15 and 5:30, extending the time that students might have to wait after their club is finished by forty-four minutes. This could potentially lead to a significant decrease in attendance of clubs at the middle school if students feel like the extra wait time is not worth it. In fact, this could see the end of the very club that produces this paper.

Essentially, students should know that the system that we are about to put into effect is nothing new, but rather a revisit to a past system, and they should take comfort in the fact that the decision to make this change was made in their interest. And even though the move may create problems for them with after school activities, these should be outweighed by academic benefits.



Who's Afraid of the Big, Bad Wolf?

(Continued from page 2)

being killed by wolves. Comparatively, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention noted that twenty people in the United States alone die from cow injuries every year. Worse, the beloved family dog kills thirty people per year, and the tiny mosquito 725,000! Therefore, when measured up to that, deaths from wolves are almost nothing.

2) Wolves are not endangered and do not need protection.

Gray wolves used to live everywhere in North America, including Mexico, Canada, and the United States. Before they were placed on the American Endangered Species List in 1975, though, there were only a thousand wolves in the lower forty-eight states. But due the protection they've received, the population there has increased significantly, climbing to an estimated five thousand.

Farther north, wolves are doing even better. In Alaska, there are somewhere between six and seven thousand, and in Canada, there are between fifty-two and sixty thousand.

However big that sounds, it is quite a small percentage of the original gray wolf population. And other wolves, like Mexican gray wolves and red wolves are faring even worse. In fact, there are only forty red wolves left in the entire world.

In total, the number of wolves in the world are only a fraction of what they should be, hardly reaching a million when they should be reaching the billions. Therefore, continued protection is justified.

3) Wolves are a danger to the environment and should be removed.

Allow me to regale you with the dramatic tale of Yellowstone National Park's wolves. In the early 1900s, the wolves in Yellowstone had all been

killed off. In their absence, the entire ecosystem of the park went haywire. With no predators anymore, the deer population exploded, and they devoured most of the tree saplings and much of the vegetation in the park, leading to a decline in other species who also depend on that food.

But when a handful of wolves were brought back to Yellowstone in the 1990s, a domino effect began. The wolves started managing the deer population, and the tree saplings could grow again into big trees. The new trees brought back the beavers, who built dams, giving homes to homes to other animals like otters, ducks, frogs, fish, and more. The wolves also killed some coyotes, which allowed the rabbit and mouse population to grow, leading to an increase in the hawks, badgers, foxes, and weasels that feed on them. Birds of prey showed up, too, attracted by the wolves' leftovers.

In the end, a handful of wolves changed the entirety of Yellowstone for the better, proving that wolves can be a crucial part of our planet's environmental health.

4) Wolves are responsible for the loss of a lot of livestock.

It is true that wolves do sometimes eat farm animals. Surprising as it may be, however, they are not responsible for as many livestock deaths as many believe. Montana, Idaho and Wyoming collectively house most of the wolves in the lower forty-eight states, and a report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service noted that in 2014, only 136 of the six million cattle of those states were killed by wolves -- about one cow out of every 44,853. Likewise, only 114 sheep in those states were killed by wolves, which comes out to only about one in every 7,193. In Wyoming, the record number of livestock animals killed by

wolves in a year in total was just 243. But again, that is out of a livestock population of several million. With these statistics, it would be hard to classify wolves as a serious threat to livestock.

5) It is best to confine wolves to parks.

Keeping wolves confined to parks is not only nearly impossible, but also is a very bad idea environmentally.

First, wolves cannot be expected to know where the park ends and the rest of the world begins, so borders would be useless anyway.

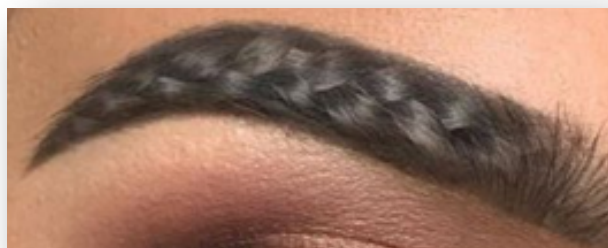
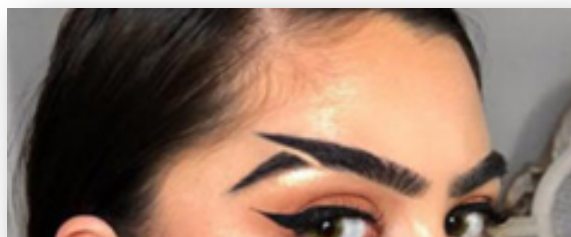
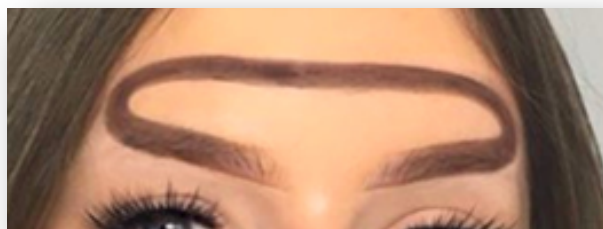
Furthermore, even if wolves could be kept from leaving the park -- either by fencing or by allowing hunting outside of the park -- it would lead to a severe imbalance of predators and prey in and outside of the park. Inside the park, there would be little diversity as prey species would be decimated by the wolves, and outside of the park the prey species would face overpopulation with no wolves to control it, leading to another Yellowstone-like ecological imbalance.

Therefore, confining wolves to parks would simply not be a workable plan.

All in all, wolves are not particularly dangerous to anyone and are an essential part of the environment. But for them to do their ecological job, they need the proper protection so that they can once again reach a healthy population and help create the balance in the environment that we need. Therefore, none of us should be "afraid of the big, bad wolf."



The High-Brow Styles of The Past Years



(Continued from page 1)

by Piret Aava, commonly known as the Eyebrow Doctor. This process costs on average a whopping \$575, but most customers usually find the results well worth it. Microblading is a form of tattooing where the ink is implanted under your skin in hair-like strokes. There is also micro-feathering, which is basically microblading with lighter strokes. Underneath the strokes are ombre tattoos, or micro-shading, which fill in the back beneath the actual strokes, giving the effect of a full and real eyebrow.

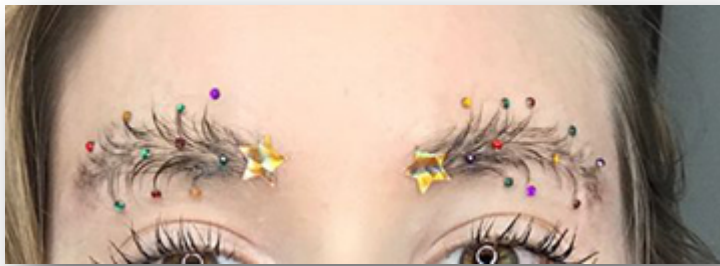
However, even though this seems like a great solution to pale eyebrows, or

simply designing eyebrows, there are downsides to it. The heavy price tag to address just your eyebrows is hard to justify when eyebrows are not usually considered the primary feature of one's face.

Additionally, the tattoo pigments degenerate over time, eventually leaving you with a coloring different than what you originally intended. For people with dark brown eyebrows who got an eyebrow color to match, their eyebrows may become multiple shades lighter after a while and look more like a peanut color. People can get touchups every few months, but the effort seems like a bit of a hassle for just eyebrows.

But if people are really into your eyebrows, microblading could be a good option. It's extremely useful for decorating and designing new shapes for their eyebrows, and there are many new designs out there.

People can also design with eyebrow glue, which spreads the hairs out in various directions, allowing people create shapes like feathers, barbed-wire, Nike signs, halos, squiggles, high heels, rainbows, mirror eyebrows, and even Christmas trees. These shapes can then be enhanced with bleaching and gems. One popular design was pulling the hairs up in triangles, sticking gems on the tops to make a crown effect.



If people have long enough eyebrows, they can also try braiding their eyebrows.

But it's not just instagrammers that are interested in eyebrows. Many celebs have been seen on red carpets with designer eyebrows. Lady Gaga has been spotted with bleached eyebrows adorned with rhinestones. Other celebs, like Kim Kardashian, Katy Perry, Miley

Cyrus, and Cara Delevingne, have also been creative their own eyebrows.

You wouldn't think something as different or as strange as designed eyebrows would become such a trend, but it has really taken society by storm.

But if this trend was so amazing, where did it go in 2019? We definitely don't see as much of it on our social media screens

anymore. Rather, we see new trends that were inspired by it. Now we see men decorating their beards in flowers and glitter, crazy-designed eyelids painted with thick layers of eyeshadow, and extravagant eyelashes with feathers and colors that pop!

We may never even see eyebrow designs again, but they've definitely left their mark on beauty trends.



Amazon Clicks “Buy Now”



(Continued from page 1)

Amazon's success has grown out of its ability to provide one-stop shopping of a massive variety of products for the cheapest price. It can keep its prices lower than other retailers because it does not have expensive, fancy storefronts, but rather relatively-cheap warehouses and a website. Therefore, it can sell a greater variety of products than a traditional store can, which has limited storage space, and it can keep its costs low because it does not have to build, maintain, or staff traditional storefronts.

Furthermore, many consumers have become dependent on Amazon as they have grown accustomed to its variety, convenience, and value, and now many Americans turn first to Amazon whenever they want to buy something.

As this retail side of Amazon became so profitable, Bezos reinvested the profits into creating or buying up many other companies and services, including but not limited to:

- **Amazon Prime** - Two-day shipping on millions of products
- **Amazon Video** - Streaming of television and movies, some of which being original content
- **Amazon Cloud Drive & Player**- File storage and music streaming
- **Whole Foods** - A very popular grocery store
- **Amazon Fresh & Amazon Prime Pantry** - Food home-delivery service
- **Amazon Dash** - Household goods home-delivery service
- **Amazon Kindle** - E-books downloads
- **Audible** - Audiobook downloads
- **Zappos** - Shoe store

By expanding its reach into all these different sectors, Amazon has come closer to reaching its ultimate goal: a world where everyone buys everything from Amazon.

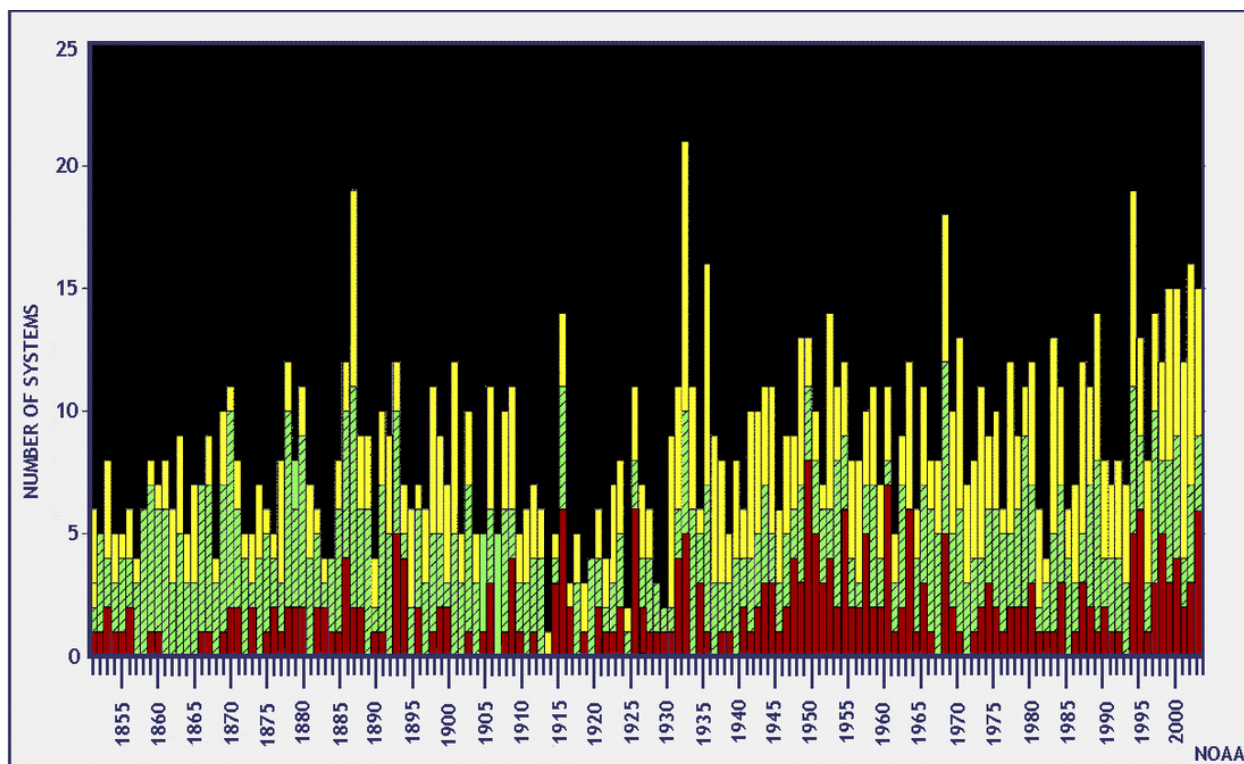
In order to integrate all these services together, Amazon created a central hub for our houses, called Amazon Echo. What first may have seemed like just a fancy wireless music streaming device, has become a way for consumers to easily order anything they want by the sound of their voice. Some people feared that the device would invade our privacy, but so far more than a hundred million have been sold.

The growth of Amazon is an important topic to understand because Amazon has changed our lives and will likely be in our future for a long time. So if, in fact, you have been living under a rock for the past twenty years, at least now you know that that rock was probably purchased by a click on Amazon.com.



Amazon's warehouses are lot cheaper to run than traditional storefronts, helping it keep prices low.

Things Are Getting Hotter!



According to the U.S. government's statistics, the number of storm systems has been rising over the past 150 years.

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Severe weather is the most noticeable change from global warming. Since even a small increase in the total heat accumulated in the oceans and atmosphere can cause severe impacts on global weather, it should be no wonder that the number of hurricanes per year has been increasing since 1850.

Global warming is also causing the sea levels to rise, which changes our coastlines and reduces the amount of available land on Earth for humans to live on. This is happening because the higher temperatures are causing the polar icecaps to melt and drain into the oceans. The increase in the amount of ocean water leads to a rise in ocean levels, flooding coastal land that humans have been living on for thousands of years.

Agriculture is also at

risk. The increase in temperatures has caused an increase in farm-damaging storms, resulting in less food available for people to eat.

Furthermore, with less food available, food prices will rise, and that will have damaging ripple effects throughout the larger economy.

In conclusion, if we do not find a way to lower our greenhouse gas emissions and slow down the pace at which the earth is heating up, our wonderful blue marble may someday end up looking like Venus – a hot, lifeless planet.

So, if we do not want that to happen, then we must lower our greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the amount of fossil fuels we burn. We can all help do that by making changes in our own lives, like carpooling, walking or riding a bike instead of driving a car, and turning off electrical appliances when we are not

using them. But remember, these are not the only possible solutions. So, get creative and try to find more ways to help solve this very serious problem!

The Purple Press **John Jay Middle School** **Cross River, NY**

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Take Me Out To The Ballgame!



(Continued from page 2)

of wood at a small, stitched white ball, a very simple affair at first glance. However, under the cover is an extremely strategic and intense sport that runs at its own pace. Walk-off homeruns and sacrifice bunts win games single-handedly. Singles, doubles, and triples against the best of pitches and pitchers. The tight motion of charged throws and volleys necessary to perform a double play. Baseball is quite extraordinary. And an extraordinary sport is a sight to behold, indeed.

America's Theater-Sport

One of baseball's core tentpoles is its highly-segmented and close system of play. Visualize it: The batter struts out to the plate, the catcher and home umpire ready themselves, and the pitcher prepares himself to do battle. The pitcher kicks and deals, firing balls into and around the batter's strike zone at sometimes lightning speeds, attempting to get a quick out or two (or three, if he's very lucky) and ice the offense for another inning. If the omens are with

him, the batter takes a strong swing right down the middle at one of these pitches and sends the ball straight into the outfield. Rushing and galloping toward second plate, he barely makes it in with a swift dive – hands-first – at the second baseman or shortstop's feet.

Baseball is a play. Every swing, miss, wild pitch, or homer that arrives is an instant burst of condensed action and choreography. This style of perfectly-positioned theatrical acts and scenes of catches and hits and throws creates an atmosphere of tension that no other sport can replicate because every act can cause the audience to jump up in either disappointment or excitement. But never indifference. There is no indifference in baseball because there is never a moment without hope.

A Sport of Emotion

Imagine yourself as a part of a bigger picture in the roaring crowd of a ballpark. You indulge in a small feast on your fine snacks, sunglasses at the helm to defend from the sun's attempt at preventing the spectating of the

ballgame. While gulping down liters and liters of beverage, you take a long glance at the field. Your batter has struck out. Not again! Boos and jeers come aplenty. The half-inning is over. Your pitcher better ensure that this mess doesn't get out of hand...

Bottom of the Eighth. No dice. That evil, malignant opposing pitcher just struck out your side. Now it's the bottom of the Ninth, the score is 3-1, and the odds are not in your favor....

Then, the first of the last three batters struts out to the plate. Number 7, the catcher, comes up to the mound. Bam! He reaches second base! Number 8 gets a single, and now there are runners at first and third – no outs. Number 9 gets to the plate. He hits a three-run, walk-off home run and sends your team to a 4-3 victory! He trots across the bases in glee and jumps straight into the arms of his joyous teammates. You jump out of your seat in a similar bout of happiness. Your team has won the game!

This is the rollercoaster of disconnected-in-time moments



that baseball offers on a regular basis. It is a battle of fierce emotions, a brawl of moods and personalities that can never be curtailed prematurely. There is no time limit. Regarding time, there is nothing forced onto the game's players aside from playing the game and playing the game well.

This balance of powers among the players, the fans, and the managers creates some of the most tightly-contested and competitive scenarios imaginable for athletic competition. Baseball is infinitely flexible, a sport when anything can change at any moment, in any situation, and in any place - something its brethren cannot truly offer. It is an absolute spectacle in every sense of the word. It is awe-inspiring.

A Sport of Unlikely Matchups

Baseball is a game about hope. Hope for your team, for your team's players, for your team's managers, mascots, and condiment salespeople. By far, baseball is also the sport with the most equally-distributed amount of success between its thirty teams. Only seven teams have never won a World Series. Only two have never made it to the World Series. More than half have won more than one. There is hope for every single team when their time comes. There are no real unmoving boundaries or constant faces in the sport, at least not in an overwhelming way. Ball clubs like the Oakland Athletics, historically one of the poorest franchises,

is tied for third in the number of World Series under its belt. Juggernauts like the Yankees can be routed by far smaller teams like the Tampa Bay Rays and Baltimore Orioles. Prominence for every team is beckoning, and possibly this ability to rise to the occasion is the most present in baseball out of every American sport. Destiny awaits every franchise sooner or later.

The American Pastime

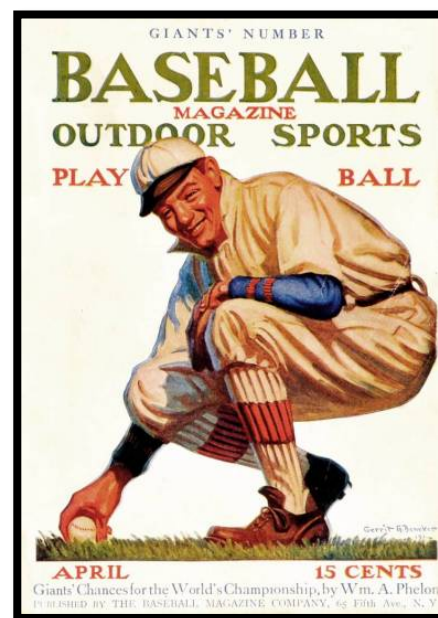
Finally, no other sport truly epitomizes and represents America like baseball. Its diversity in player ethnicity and background is unchallenged. There are no set physical requirements to play the game. You do not need to be strong, tall, large, small or anything in between to play the game of Baseball. Just like you do not need to be a set race, religion or political affiliation to be an American. Baseball truly is a microcosm of America itself.

This exemplification of the free ideals that make America what it is causes Baseball to ascend to something far more important than just a game of athletic competition: it becomes an ambassador to the World at large. It can be played in simple fields and stadiums and yards the world over, even being so popular that some nations also have adopted Baseball as their own national sport. And while they're loving Baseball, they can always thank America for its great contribution to their society and the ideals that make America great in of itself, those ideals that circulate

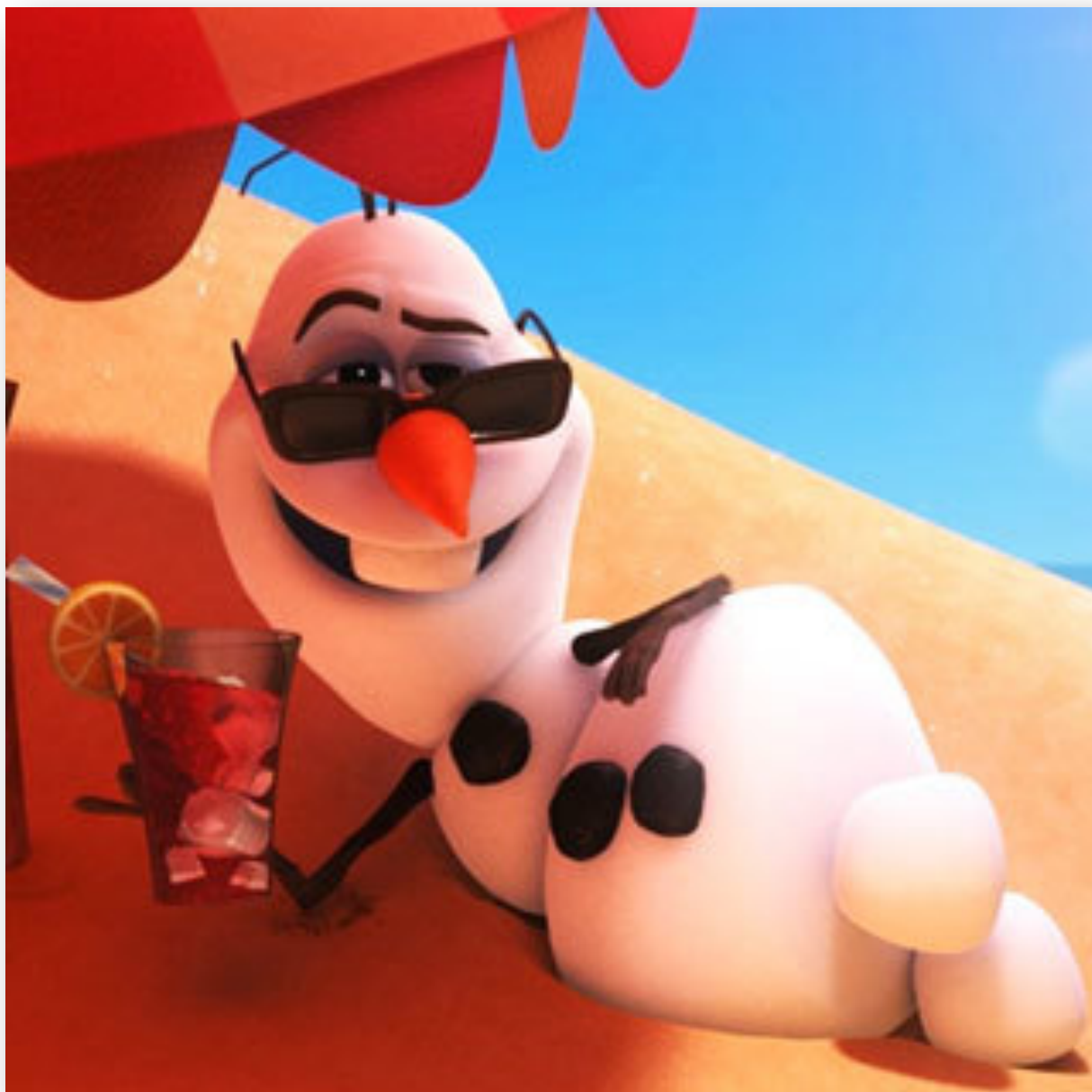
throughout Baseball's veins.

Bottom of the Ninth

In conclusion, Baseball is the greatest American sport because of its exclusive intricacies, storybook-like magnificent play, heartbreaking emotion, unique sense of hope and exhibition of ideals both at home and away that make America truly America. It is a sport of complete greatness, greatness that is unrivalled by any other.



THE PURPLE PRESS



Happy Summer
Vacation!