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THE LAKELANDER



SPRING 2021 ISSUE 1

NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

As noted in recent issues, this publication accepts poetry, fiction, nonfiction, visual art, news and commentary pieces, and graphic art. Your submission could be featured in our publication run.

Please submit your work for consideration, and look forward to seeing it displayed alongside the best work that Lakeland's creative minds have to offer!

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Please submit your work to lakelander@lakelandcc.edu or through our website https://lakelanderonline.com/

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How The Cleveland Browns Can Reach The Super Bowl by Mason Cole



The 2020 National Football League season was a good one for the Cleveland Browns. Under the guidance of first-year head coach Kevin Stefanski, the Browns finished with a record of 11-5, they beat the Pittsburgh Steelers in the Wild-Card round of the NFL playoffs, and they nearly beat the Kansas City Chiefs in the Divisional Round of the playoffs. The Browns had their best record since 1994, their first playoff appearance since the 2002 season, and their first playoff victory since 1994. It was a wildly successful year for the Browns and yet, they still have room to improve as a team.

The 2021 offseason is going to be critical for the Cleveland Browns. If general manager Andrew Berry is average in terms of free agency and the draft, then the Browns will likely remain competitors for the postseason next season. But, if Berry and the Browns can capitalize and make all the right moves in the coming months, the Browns could very likely launch themselves on an unstoppable trajectory towards the Super Bowl.

But what moves do the Browns need to make to reach that goal? It starts with improving their defense. Cleveland's defensive unit is not terrible. They have players such as Myles Garrett, Denzel Ward, Sheldon Richardson, and Ronnie Harrison, who are talented individuals. But overall, the Browns defense is in desperate need of a reboot. Cleveland's defense gave up 412 points in the 2020 season which was the 12th most in the league. The Browns also had 31 touchdown passes scored against them which was the 8th most in the league.

The Browns defense needs help pretty much all across the board. But three position groups should be prioritized: cornerback, linebacker, and defensive end. When considering the Browns cornerback outlook for next season, they have Denzel Ward who is an all-pro level talent, but other than that the position is rather murky. Greedy Williams who was drafted to play the position in 2019 missed the entirety of last season due to injury. Terrance Mitchell and Kevin Johnson were both solid players but they both will become unrestricted free agents once the league free agency period arrives. The Browns must improve their cornerback position during this offseason if they want to stop opposing teams from passing all over them in 2021.

Regarding linebacker, that position is just as perplexing as a cornerback. B.J. Goodson was the Browns best linebacker, but he is set to become a free agent. Mack Wilson and Sione Takitaki are good young prospects, but they are both far from being consistent contributors. The Browns quite frankly do not have many players at the linebacker position who they can count on. And if they want to be better at stopping the run in 2021, they better find a solution to that problem.

When looking at the Browns defensive end position, Myles Garrett is the best player at that position. If Garrett remains healthy in 2021, he will compete for the NFL defensive player of the year award. But the Browns need a second defensive end who can help Garrett rush opposing quarterbacks. The Browns second starting defensive end Olivier Vernon was injured frequently during the 2020 season. And since the Browns did not have anyone else who could rush the quarterback at a high level, opposing teams could simply double-team Garrett by sending multiple players to block him in pass coverage. If the Browns could find a second competent pass rusher this offseason, it would Benefit Garrett in a major way.

Improving those three positions would help the Browns defense dramatically. And, with an improved defense, the Browns would have a much better shot at reaching the Super Bowl. But defense is not the only area in which the Browns must improve. There are aspects of their offense that need to be addressed as well. One of those positions is wide receiver. The Browns receivers were not terrible in 2020. Jarvis Landry put together a good season and Rashard Higgins was consistent as well. But the Browns are still missing a truly elite threat at the wide receiver position. Odell Beckham Jr. is the Browns' most talented receiver, but his constant injuries make him unreliable. If the Browns were able to find an elite receiving threat, it would benefit quarterback Baker Mayfield and the offense tremendously.

There are not many holes on the Browns roster. Some defensive issues need to be considered and the offense needs to be polished. But no matter how you look at this Browns roster, it cannot be denied that Cleveland has put together a very talented group. And with that talent, the Browns should be able to contend for Super Bowl titles in the coming years.

COVID-19's Effect on High School Sports: How Covid is Changing the Game for Many Athletes by Saydee Hodgson



COVID-19 has impacted the world more than anyone ever thought it would; it has ruined seasons of sports worldwide, but how has it affected those who are still playing? High school sports are still happening amidst COVID's worst; however, it comes with a high price for players to pay.

The 2019 Coronavirus outbreak convinced many student-athletes that their sports seasons would be canceled entirely in the 2020-2021 school year. However, after much research conducted by health departments worldwide, it started not to look so gloomy. Many high school teams in the United States were given the green light to complete sports just as the school year started but only under particular circumstances.

As many know, masks are required in most public places, and people are directed to stay at least 6 feet apart from those not in their household or family. These regulations remain the same for students playing sports. Depending on the sport, students must stay masked and distanced unless in the immediate form of gameplay. This distancing limits the amount of contact with other teammates and the number of fans in the stands. Most stadiums are at less than half capacity keeping the stands pretty bare, "we used to have fans that were very loud, and we knew people were there to support us," Sydney Moon, a senior on the girl's basketball team, says, "and now we only have a limited number of people, and it gets very quiet... they just don't interact as they did before" she explains. Many student-athletes struggle due to the lack of fans and tend not to perform the way they did before.

COVID protocols also limit gathering numbers to 10 people at a maximum, forcing sports boosters to no longer fund team events outside of the actual games. For example, team dinners, gatherings, functions, and fundraisers have been heavily limited or completely cut from the 2020-2021 school year. Mateo Aguirre, a senior on the local high school boys swim team says, "we don't have as much team chemistry because we never had the opportunity to build up our friendships during the season, making it difficult to work as a team and trust each other." The lack of team bonding has been a noted problem in both individual and team sports as athletes cannot build relationships the way they were before. Students are heavily disappointed by the lack of fun activities they are used to having by being involved in sports, leading to many students becoming uninvolved in sports this year entirely.

High schoolers' involvement in sports has gone down due to COVID-19 and left coaches concerned that some students may not return to their sport after COVID is under control.

Coaches have also been experiencing tremendous changes this season compared to past seasons. Many coaches have had to change their coaching style completely and make their schedules more available as almost everything is up in the air. In many high school sport settings, practices have to be split up freshman, junior varsity, and varsity to keep student-athletes from having so much contact with each other, requiring the coaching staff to cut out more time for their teams. The time commitment added this year has led to some coaches resigning for this season- or even indefinitely. In addition, coaches must adapt to a new coaching style with students split up for practices. This year, coaches have to have much more dedication than they ever did before, as, during the pandemic, much more attention must go to the safety of players and the people around them.

A local high school swim coach, Bryan Scheider, who coaches three different high school teams, says that COVID has affected their swim season "in every capacity that [he] can think of" by changing their meet schedule, practice times, and "energy" of the team.

COVID has caused changes for many things in everyone's lives and will continue to change things for people into the future. High school sports are deeply affected by this outbreak and change the game for many athletes and coaches. We can only hope that things will get back to normal in future seasons and that students in the future will be able to experience a more normal season.

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Schedule a One-on-One research appointment with a reference librarian.





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Request forms are also available on myLakeland, library homepage. myLakelandcc.edu



How Major League Baseball Can Save Itself by Mason Cole

Baseball was once known as an American pastime. But it is no secret that in recent years, Major League Baseball has been struggling. Fewer people have been watching, ratings have been on a downward trajectory, and the 2020 World Series had the fewest average viewers in MLB history. Baseball's most recent championship series had an average of 9.785 viewers per game. When that number is compared to the 1978 World Series which had an average viewership of 44.279 million per game it shows just how far the once great sport has fallen.

While the National Football League thrives and the National Basketball Association continues to be steady, the MLB just cannot seem to garner any excitement. MLB commissioner Rob Manfred must make some gutsy decisions to save his sport before it is too late.

So, what can the MLB do to reinvigorate their fans and save their sport? I believe it begins with making the regular season more interesting. When a regular fan turns on the television to watch a game, a key factor for keeping that individual's attention is a sense of importance. When the outcome of a game truly matters, every single play counts. Because of that, it feels impossible for the fan to leave their seat or even change the channel. This is one of the main selling points of the NFL: There are only 16 games in a season and every win or loss could be the difference between making or missing the postseason.

The Major League Baseball season is composed of 162 games. With the sheer density of their schedule, the MLB simply cannot trick fans into believing that every game counts. The 2005 San Diego Padres had a record of 82-80 and still secured a postseason berth. When a team in your league can lose 80 games and still be rewarded with a trip to the playoffs, something has to change.

The solution to this is clear, the MLB needs to have a shorter schedule. Baseball needs to cut their season in half at the very least. If the MLB season consisted of 81 games, it would still be enough to allow players to get comfortable and get into their grooves, but it would also add a significant amount of value to every game. An 81-game season would be a strong improvement for Major League Baseball, but I believe the fewer games the better. The 2020 MLB season was cut to 60 games due to complications with COVID-19. In only 60 games, the MLB would be able to have a pretty fair season in terms of how their player's performances varied, and every game would be far more meaningful than those in a 162-game season.

But, if regular season altercations aren't enough to boost fan engagement, the MLB postseason should be fair game for experimentation as well. In 2020, the MLB had a 16-team postseason with eight teams in both the American League and the National League. Usually, the MLB postseason would feature 10 teams, five per league. If the MLB wanted to add excitement to their league, cutting the postseason to eight teams would be an interesting twist. With each league only taking four teams to the postseason, an added level of intensity would be felt in regular-season games towards the end of the season. If the MLB only took eight teams to the postseason, the playoffs would truly consist of only the cream of the crop, naturally making the games more enticing.

But if schedule changes are not enough to bring fans back to baseball, then the league must find a way to make their players more interesting. Now, this is a complicated issue because for whatever reason it is incredibly difficult for baseball players to enter into mainstream popularity. In football, players such as Tom Brady and Aaron Rodgers are not only great athletes but they are also incredibly popular. In basketball, players such LeBron James and Stephen Curry have garnered so much fame that their influence is greater than many teams.

Baseball does not have any celebrity players. Bryce Harper of the Philadelphia Phillies is pretty well known, but nowhere near the level of James or Brady. Even Mike Trout who plays for the Los Angeles Angels and is one of the greatest players

in baseball history is not as famous as most NBA role-players.

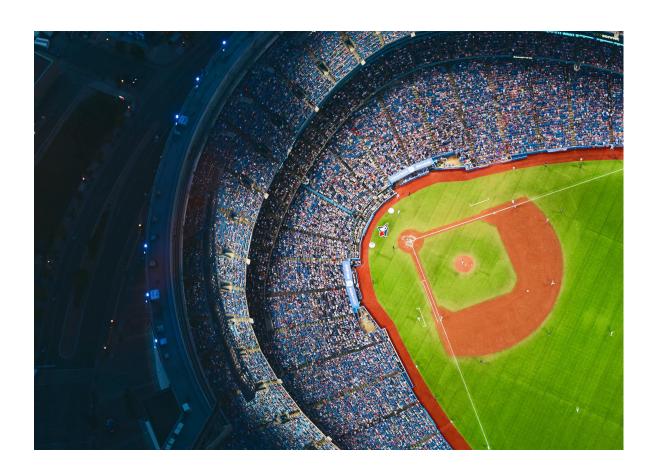
This is a huge problem for the sport. If baseball cannot market their players, they will begin to lose their younger audience. A theme that has gained prominence in the era of social media is player-following as opposed to team-following.

This can be seen clearly in NBA fan circles. Many fans are die-hard supporters of LeBron James no matter what team he is on. If James is on the Miami Heat, those fans will follow him and root for the Heat. If James is on the Cleveland Cavaliers, those fans will follow him and cheer for Cleveland. Sometimes fans who follow one certain player as opposed to one specific team have been labeled as bandwagon fans, but to their credit, LeBron super-fans bring a lot of added viewers to the NBA.

Bandwagon fans do not exist prominently in Major League Baseball. There are casual fans who just watch the sport every once in a while, for fun, and there are hardcore fans that follow their favorite team's every move. But there are no bandwagon fans who follow certain players throughout their careers. That is because no player carries enough clout to be worth following, and that is a big problem for the MLB.

Baseball has a problem but there are ways that they can fix it. Sadly though, I am not optimistic that the executives in Major League Baseball will be smart enough to do so. If the MLB removed regular season or playoff games, they would lose ad revenue. If the MLB put more power into their player's hands, it might take power out of the franchise owners' hands. And the last thing that the MLB wants to do is make its owners upset.

The MLB is not going to fix its product. And I believe that inevitably, it will lead to the demise of the sport.



Pictured below: Staff member, Joanne Jackson wears her mask as she works in the snack shop.

Pictured right:
Student Charlie
Bod wears his
mask as he
heads to class.

HOLL! TER

USFTL/NF

usftlyouthflag.com

Pictured left: Lakeland student, Haley Coso takes a selfie with her mask in front of the Lakeland building.

Pictured below: Staff member Owen Schoniger and student Adrienne Jurich smile with their masks on in The Hive.

Pictured right:
Lakeland
student,
Jessica Judd
wears her
mask as she
studies in the
Lakeland
Cafeteria.

Pictur Lak studer Letso on sch while his

Pictured left:
Lakeland
student, Adam
Letson works
on schoolwork
while wearing
his mask!

Pictured right: Alliyah Qamnawi wears her mask as she helps students in the Lakeland Bookstore.





A mask is required around the Lakeland campus to ensure the safety of all staff and students and to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Lakeland's Staff and Students Mask Up

Top 10 Movies At The Domestic Box Office: Dec.-Jan.

Vincent Foster • February 10, 2021

Movies are still playing in theaters during the pandemic and upcoming blockbuster films are hoping to make a splash on the charts to end 2020 and ride that high into 2021.

From high octane superhero flicks, to independent films and the fun loving family friendly animated features these are some of the films competing to become king of the box office. By reviewing the domestic gross for films at www.boxofficemojo.com we can compare and contrast which films are topping the charts in the U.S. for the months of December 2020 and January 2021.

Here are the Top 10 films of December 2020:

#1. *The Croods: A New Age* \$17,619,500 Universal Pictures #2. Wonder Woman 1984 \$16,700,000 Warner Bros.

#3. Monster Hunter \$5,018,403 Screen Gems #4. *News of the World* \$3,717,170 Universal Pictures

#5. *Fatale* \$2,388,133 Lionsgate #6. *Half Brothers* \$2,016,150 Focus Features

#7. *Freaky* \$1,603,150 Universal Pictures #8. The War with Grandpa \$1,473,697 101 Studios

#9. Promising Young Woman \$1,208,180 Focus Features #10. *Elf '2020 re-released* \$1,195,000 New Line Cinema

Above we notice the superhero blockbuster film *Wonder Woman 1984* reached the number 2 slot and the independent film *Promising Young Woman* landed softly at number 9 on the list. But it was a family friendly animated feature *The Croods: A New Age* that took the number 1 spot for the month of December. With 2020 in our rear view mirror we can now look towards the new year in order to compare what films ended up gaining momentum and which ones fell from their previous spot. Who will stay and who will go?

Here are the Top 10 movies in January 2021:

#1. Wonder Woman 1984 ↑ \$13,257,142
Warner Bros.

#2. The Croods: A New Age ↓ \$11,590,555
Universal Pictures

#3. *The Marksman* \$7,830,057 Open Road Films #4. *News of the World* \$6,642,035 Universal Pictures #5. Monster Hunter ↓ \$6,119,632 Screen Gems #6. *The Little Things* \$4,700,000 Warner Bros.

#7. *Fatale* ↓ \$3,203,190 Lionsgate

#8. Promising Young Woman ↑
\$3,158,325
Focus Features

#9. *Pinocchio* \$1,148,121 Roadside Attractions #10. The War with Grandpa ↓ \$934,272 101 Studios

To sum up, December and January had promising months as the pandemic extends into the new year. *Wonder Woman 1984* finished 2020 in second place, however, it would capture the top spot in 2021, which caused *The Croods: A New Age* to move down the chart.

We notice independent film *Promising Young Woman* was able to gain momentum while the film *Monster Hunter* dropped significantly between the months of December and January. Some new released films like *The Marksman, The Little Things, and Pinocchio* were able to land a spot into the chart during the month of January as films like *Freaky, Half Brothers,* and 2020's re-released *Elf* moved out entirely from the chart.

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Domestic box office For December 2020. (n.d.). Retrieved February 08, 2021, from https://www.boxofficemojo.com/month/december/2020/?grossesOption=calendar Grosses

Domestic box office For January 2021. (n.d.). Retrieved February 08, 2021, from https://www.boxofficemojo.com/month/january/2021/?grossesOption=calendarG rosses

Local Library Keeps People Connected Through Literature by Karyssa Rose

In a world full of people struggling to connect, the Fairport Harbor Public Library has shown hope and compassion for all. Giana Conti, of the Fairport Harbor Public Library Youth Services, drew the community together through socially distant activities, and the new "H.E.R.O" book club, during the pandemic. The Library recently opened its doors to the public again on January 19, but many activities are still available to those who wish to stay at home.

Newly available activities for local youth include take-home crafts, Facebook live storytelling, a Virtual Anime Club, and in-person craft sessions. Access to the virtual storytelling can be found on Facebook and YouTube under the Fairport Harbor Public Library page, while anyone wishing to join the Virtual Anime Club can sign up on the Library's website; Zoom sessions of the club are available on Fridays at 3:15 pm. Craft kits are a great way to keep at-home learners entertained, which is especially needed during these trying times as many children struggle with the huge changes that they are faced with due to the pandemic.

Giana says, "The craft kits are available for pickup at the Fairport Harbor Public Library by the Youth Services desk and we do offer curbside delivery upon request."

Additionally, the Library now offers a "H.E.R.O" book club. H.E.R.O is an acronym for "Helping to Educate Regarding Orientation." The book club is available online through Zoom on the first Thursday of every month at 3:15 pm. The Club covers video games, shows, and books with an LGBTQ+ theme; anyone is welcome to join regardless of orientation! Inviting local youth to learn about inclusivity is a wonderful way to spread hope, and when it comes to community support the Library does not fall short.

Giana describes the club as, "A club for teens and tweens interested in LGBTQ+ material," and she says, "The club is widely accepted; members of the Fairport [Facebook] group are giving it a lot of positive attention."

These new clubs offer the best of both worlds to club members. Library patrons can come to the library to attend in person, which is a great way for people to reconnect. Alternatively, those who would rather stay home can still participate in the many activities and clubs at the library. All these clubs are free to join, for library patrons, which is very encouraging because many people are struggling financially due to the pandemic.

Meanwhile, Cathy Norman, the Adult Services Librarian, began implementing fun activities for adults in the community to do while staying socially distant. Window boggle, where people can play boggle from their cars using letters in the window, allows library patrons to participate in a community-wide game while remaining socially distant. Cathy says, "I am amazed that no one knows how to play Boggle anymore." She posted the instructions to the Fairport Harbor Public Library's Facebook page for anyone interested in the game, so if you do not know how to play Boggle now is the time to learn!

The Library recently announced its participation in the "Libraries Transforming Communities" contest, which is just one event the library is participating in. Winning this contest will mean a lot for the library and it will show just how important it is to the people in the community. Whether you are searching for a new book, or an interesting club to find some connectivity, this Library is the place to look. Circumstances surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic are very unpredictable, but one thing is certain, the Fairport Harbor Public Library is very involved in the community and the community is involved with the Library.



Starving for Truth: Parallels Between Russian and United States Media by Robert Kreischer

What do you think of when you hear the words *Tyranny, Plunder, Enemy*? Did you think of the United States? Because that is what the Russian media is declaring to its citizens in 2021.

Denis is a 32-year-old college graduate living in Moscow, Russia. Son of a military arms dealer, computer game lover, and political activist. I met Denis while playing an online game back in October. We began talking about normal things you would expect friends from different countries to talk about. For example, how to spell my name in Cyrillic (Russian Alphabet) or, how to swear in each other's language. You know, the usual. That is, until January 6th. That day Denis asked, "How is Trump's coup going? Was there really Russian Mobsters in charge there?"

This sparked an entirely different line of questioning between us. What else had Russian media been telling its citizens? By that same token, what was our media telling us about Russians that wasn't true or, at the very least an exaggeration? We were determined to find out.

Q: Where were you born and what were your parents like growing up?

A: I was born in Khabarovsk, in the far east of Russia almost bordering China. My mother worked in the only restaurant in the whole city and my father was a military man. My first acquaintance of my father was on the country's first federal channel. He was detained by the FSB for arms trafficking. I was 10 years old.

Q: What was it like seeing your father on national TV surrounded by FSB officials?

A: Strange sensations arise at 10 years old when you see your father surrounded by special forces.

Q: Have you seen or talked to your father since?

A: We started talking shortly before his death from COVID-19.

Q: Growing up how did you receive world news or information?

A: Television and newspapers were all my peers and I had until University. Information on the internet could be found but as a rule, it belonged to all the same federal and state channels. Looking back, I see how the Kremlin's powerful propaganda machine shaped our perception of the world and our attitudes towards current events.

Q: What were your first thoughts about the United States?

A: I remember in the mid 90's the Americanization of the Russian population. Hollywood movies and TV shows were shown on TV. American cartoons came on in the early morning while Russian cartoons only came on before bed as to not distract from schoolwork.

Q: Did Russians accept any American culture?

A: Many teenagers quickly absorbed the US-style like jeans, make-up, Britney Spears, and The Backstreet Boys

Q: What was your media telling you back then?

A: Journalists began openly covering scandals, gossip about the life of famous people. A vision of the United States slowly began to appear. Our country's friendly and strong partner always ready to "help" the new Russia.

Q: What changed in Russian media? What stopped the progression?

A: In the early 2000s a television channel went on strike. They argued the change of power in media was taking place and now the govt. would be in charge. Many journalists quit others were fired. Channels that had once shown Hollywood movies or true events happening in our world, now showed films about the war, about the Russian police, and parodies of American Comedies.

Q: How did Russian views towards Americans change from then until now?

A: The motto of many programs became "Here they are." People began to laugh but were at the same time afraid of Americans. For many Russians, the fat burger-chewing American became real. The real-life 21st century Homer Simpson. We began to think all of America was drug addicts and prostitutes.

Q: How was Russia portrayed to you by this same media?

A: We were drugged by the victories told to us on television. To the greater extent, the truth was half but, we believed because we had nothing else.

Q: How has the internet changed how you get information in the present day?

A: Around 2010, the internet became more available. People were able to sign up for YouTube, Facebook, and some independent Russian sites that appeared to openly cover current events.

Q: How are Russian views on the world today?

A: Russia is divided into two camps. The first supports Putin and is convinced that the decaying west is the enemy. The second is educated people who can read, write, and just think for themselves. Most of my peers have given up on television. I have one to watch YouTube, Fox, Discovery, and Netflix.

Q: How do Russians feel about our new president Joe Biden?

A: He is an old fellow, who still thinks we are still the USSR.

Q: Was Russia involved in the 2016 election?

A: Absolutely, this is well known. Trump is a businessman, of course, Putin could buy him out.

Q: How do you think Russian and American relations will be in the future?

A: 40% of Russians have a TV and they pretty much all think you are the enemy. I do not think war is likely, however.

These last few questions had very matter-of-fact answers that were both interesting and a bit scary. Almost like Russia's involvement in our internal affairs is just common knowledge to all Russian citizens. At least it seemed like Denis was aware misinformation in Russian media existed. This, however, begged the question. Was our media doing the same thing? Next, I'll speak to Denis about the things we as Americans are told about Russia, and just how accurate our media is.



The Thoughts Behind Our Dreams by Debbie Brown

If you've been finding yourself having crazier dreams this past year, Here's why.

When you sleep, a different area of your brain is active and working to sort and file your day's activities and thoughts. Knowing where to keep the important things and storing the other trivial things out of the way. Our dreams are helping our brain to work through problems and stress, trying to take care of them before we wake up. That way we can have a clean slate to start all over again. In the process of this activi-ty, we dream. Maybe you passed random people on the street on your way to work. You may have paid no attention to them but your brain did. That person may show up in your dream. You may not remember seeing them but your dreaming brain remembers and is filing that face away. Probably in a backfile that may never open again but that face has been processed. We sometimes remember our dreams as entertain-ing movies, wondering where these people that we don't know have come from. But we do know them, sort of. Someone the brain filed away years ago may pop up because of a situation that happened at work that stirs that memory. You are unaware but your brain remembers. During these times of all the extra stress of the Corona Virus and the fallout from that. Our brains are working overtime, with a lot of prob-lems and stresses that we have never encountered before. This brings stranger dreams and even stranger nightmares as the sleeping mind works through it all.

Dreams have been the beginning of many great works of art, writings, and even inventions. Did you know that the movie "The Terminator" was written because of a dream James Cameron had? He awoke from the dream and immediately sketched the Terminator robot on a pad of paper. Whereas, a nightmare is what sparked Robert Louis Stevenson to write Dr. Jeckyll and Mr. Hyde. Also, many inventions and works of art were inspired by dreams.

A lot of people keep a daily journal. But, by keeping a dream journal, it is possible to get insight and an-swers to some of those problems that weigh on our minds. If we keep a pad of paper and a pen beside the bed we can train our minds to write down a dream without fully awakening. If you wait until morning that dream or most of the details will be lost. Replaced by the fully awakened brain that is already work-ing to start the new day. It could also be therapeutic to keep a dream journal and learn to look at your dreams as a key to helping with the answer to a question you have. Maybe even take control of your dreams as an aware and active participant. Who knows, maybe you will be the next inventor or artist from something you saw in your dreams.

If interested, Lakeland offers a class on dream history and meanings with Professor Anthony Palermo. He has studied dreams for years and has a refreshing way of walking us through all things dreams. When asked about the importance of dreams Professor Palermo says "Dreams speak to us in symbols. They help us to understand what is going on 'beneath the surface' of our existence. Many times they inform us about illnesses that we are either ignoring or are completely unaware of in our waking lives. Dreams provide valuable information about our current mental and emotional states. In some instances, they help us see into the future. They provide a snapshot of who and what we truly are. To ignore them is to cast off an integral part of our make-up as human beings. In my course 'Dream Quest' we look to our dreams from every perspective possible. We learn what the ancients claimed about them, and what modern-day science tells us as well. We explore dreams in relation to mythology, sociology, and psychology. All one needs to do is to be willing to listen to what they have to say to us.

Whether you start a dream journal or not just know that you are not the only one having crazier dreams. Our bodies are communicating to us. In these times of never-before-seen problems and stresses, we are all trying to work through this new normal and our dreaming mind is no exception.

Close your eyes and enjoy the show.

New Face of Currency by Emily Eade

Soon enough there will be a new look at our currency. Believe it or not, the Biden Administration is pushing to replace Andrew Jackson on the \$20 bill with the powerful Harriet Tubman. This change has been talked about since 2016 when Obama was president.

It seems like the administration is doing this to show diversity and support for black lives. During a press conference on Monday, Jan 25, White House press secretary Jen Psaki told reporters, "The Treasury Department is taking steps to resume efforts to put Harriet Tubman on the front of the new \$20 notes… It's important that our notes … reflect the history and diversity of our country, and Harriet Tubman's image gracing the new \$20 note would certainly reflect that. So we're exploring ways to speed up that effort."

Tubman will become the first black person on the face of American paper currency. Tubman won't be the first woman though. Tubman will join other great American women like former first lady Martha Washington, who was featured on the \$1 silver certificate, and Native American Pocahontas, who was part of a group image that was featured on the \$20 bill.

Do we want this change? This topic could be taken in a few different ways. When asked students and Black Lives Matter activists "Are you for or against the change of the \$20 bill to Harriet Tubman? Why?" to see what they thought about this change; they responded in two ways.

Some took it as a great change, for it is a major milestone in Black history and for Tubman herself. As stated by BLM activist Jordan Berry, "She [Tubman] deserves representation for all the things she did for the black community. As she was a huge lift in history and I commend her on all her success and the risk she took. It's time a black woman shows power and honor in something, not just a white man." Also stated by Baldwin Wallace student, Sophia Madge, "Because Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act which led to the Trail of Tears, which led to thousands to their death, although he did expand voting rights to more than just white men. Tubman, however, used the Underground Railroad to help free enslaved people to become free of slavery. She also served as a scout and nurse throughout the Civil War. So I just feel like Tubaman's accomplishments outweigh Jackson's, more so talking about minorities and such, especially when it came to Jackson's cons."

Others took the change as a bad change, thinking Tubman is once again used as currency. As stated by BLM activist, Jaylen Love, "She's [Tubman] once again being used as currency. But it's also very performative and doesn't make or reflect any real change. Capitalism may be seen as the center of society but it is based on very eurocentric ideas and really fails to understand how deep and complex the injustices and wounds are. It feels deaf and more like it is done to make non-BIPOC feel better than it is to help BIPOC. We need more representation in places of power, not on material and superficial things." Also stated by BLM activist, Muna Obiefule, "Tubman was a slave who was traded and bought with the US currency. The same currency that the Biden Administration is trying to put her face on. Anyway, why should they take the time and money to change the face of the currency to her; when they could use it to do so much more good in the black community?"

The new style of the \$20 bill never was addressed by the Biden Administration. Only was the fact that Tubman will be the face of the \$20 bill was addressed. Whether or not Jackson will be joining Tubman on the face of the \$20 bill or if it will be like Obama's redesign from 2016, where his image would remain on the \$20 bill just on the back.

Editorial Review on Harmony Yoga Studios by Kaylin Loncar



Harmony Yoga Studios has been a loving home for yoga fanatics in downtown Willoughby for the past fourteen years. The second you walk through the door you are met with the calming smell of incense and greeted by a happy desk yogi. The local business is known for being a warm and welcoming space that focuses on improving yourself and taking care of your needs. Yoga has been proven to improve flexibility, muscle strength, respiration, more energy, faster metabolism, balance, cardio, protection from injury and reduce stress. During this difficult year, everyone could benefit from yoga. Especially college students who have had to adapt to a completely different way of learning. Jen Ezell, a yoga instructor at Harmony says "when you take the opportunity to get on your mat and connect to yourself, it allows you to work through things both mentally and physically."

According to the American Psychological Association, 41.6% of college students suffer from anxiety and 36.4% suffer from depression. It is no secret that mental illness is a very serious problem in students today, and the sake of our futures needs to give students the tools to handle mental illness. Courtney Ackerman, the author of four books and an expert of Science in Positive Organizational Psychology says: "It turns out that practicing yoga actually facilitates a greater release of gamma-Aminobutyric acid (GABA) from the thalamus; GABA acts as a sort of "grand inhibitor" of the brain, suppressing neural activity. This can mimic the effects of anti-anxiety drugs... Yoga makes an excellent alternative or complementary treatment for issues that require medication and/or therapy, as it is natural, accessible for all, and relatively easy to engage in. Also, it is a good choice because it is one of the few treatment activities that connect the mind to the body."

Harmony Yoga Studios offers a wide variety of classes ranging from beginner to advanced. The studio has two yoga rooms; The Zen Room and the Radiant Room. The Zen Room is set at room temperature while the Radiant Room is set to 93 degrees. Two amazing classes for new students are an "All Levels Beginners Vinyasa" or a "Vinyasa Yoga" class. Both classes are offered in the Zen Room and go through more specific movements and alignments of the body. These classes are normally slower so students can focus on each individual pose. If you are brand new to yoga, I recommend starting in the beginners' vinyasa then moving up to a regular vinyasa. Another great class for beginners but also offers

heat for those sick of the winter cold is the "Gentle Radiant" class. This class is in the Radiant Room and is designed to stretch the body and calm the mind. But for those who enjoy a fast-paced workout, then a heated "Power Vinyasa" class is perfect for you! This class is upbeat, advanced, and more focused on toning and strengthening. Every student that walks through Harmony's door leaves a little happier and a lot calmer!

Unfortunately, businesses everywhere have been affected by Covid-19 and have had to adapt to new safety guidelines. While it has been a struggle for Harmony to adapt to such drastic changes, they have done an excellent job of making their studio as safe as possible. All students must wear a mask and get their temperature taken as they enter the studio. Because yoga is considered physical activity, students are allowed to remove their face coverings during class but must immediately put them back on after.

Each yoga room has tape on the floor indicating where to lay your mat and each mat spot was measured by an engineer to make sure they are all six feet apart. The Zen Room can hold 18 students and the Radiant Room can fit 22. There is also an air purifier in each yoga room making it even safer to breathe freely during your practice. During classes, desk yogis are hard at work sanitizing every door handle, switch and commonly touched surface before the new group of students show up. The studio is incredibly clean and instructors even mop the yoga room floors before the next class. Also, in this new age of virtual learning, the studio is now offering live stream yoga classes as well as in-person classes. Harmony is passionate about keeping their yoga family safe so they can practice stress-free.

Will you step out of your comfort zone and better yourself? Harmony offers an amazing new student deal called \$30 for 30. For just \$30, you get 30 days of unlimited yoga so you get the chance to explore all of the amazing classes and teachers Harmony has to offer! If you are interested in learning more, go to www.harmonyyogastudios.com. Now is the time to take control of your mind and body.

Namaste!

References:

Jen Ezell

 $https://www.apa.org/monitor/2013/06/college-students\#: \sim: text = Anxiety\%20 is\%2\ 0 the\%20 top\%20 presenting, relationship\%20 problems\%20 (35.8\%20 percent).$

https://www.harmonyyogastudios.com/ https://positivepsychology.com/team/courtney-ackerman/







tattoos_jesus

by Ollie Waggoner

I am 24 years old. a white Jew living in Ohio and I want tattoos. I want tats.

I want, more than that

a nose ring. septum.

right in the center

of my face

so people can see my bullheadedness right up close. I want tattoos.

is that wrong?

I'm 24

plenty of time for mistakes.

never went to parties

rarely drink
(and only alone)
and I want
a tattoo.

a red rectangle on my left wrist; chrysanthemums

up my arm; flowers and flowers and flowers and beauty I cannot put to paper.

I want chrysanthemums

on my body

permanently etched,

reminding me of who I am.
I want flowers

on me.

I want chrysanthemums at

my grave and

my funeral.

I want them bright yellow curling in gorgeous obscene at someone's wake within the 24 hours

you need to put the body

into

the ground.

I want chrysanthemums.

I want them as some sort of signal that I was ever here. chrysanthemums. why am I so afraid that when I die,

I will not go to heaven? Christianity is a wicked thing. raised somewhere between

Judaism

and Christianity and the worst shit you've ever seen, I've been told face to face

by those in the system "you lived in a cult." I'm inclined to agree. was it not enough

to take me to a corner and remind me

that nothing is my own?

humiliating.
Judaism preaches
that bodies are sacred

and tattoos violate all of that.

It's for the 'heathens'.

not for good

god fearing Jews like me.

but I've always wanted

tattoos.

I want two symbols of my favorite anime

one on each collarbone as a sign that I was young, once. I want that more than anything. it's childish I'm sure but

I want tattoos. a black cat

running up my spine

playing with a yellow string

when my beauty leaves

this world.

may it never come

to pass.
I want flowers.
I want to know that when I die

my life

won't be reduced

to tattoos.

that when I die my life won't be for nothing. that when I die

my life won't be the sum

of how many times ink went into my body.

I want a lawyer, god.
I want someone on my

side because clearly you are not.

or why would I be so god damn scared of dying with tattoos? I'll make my demands at the podium for flowers. for chrysanthemums. I want them wherever I can put them. I want nothing more than flowers that bloom so beautifully on every inch of me. i want flowers. am I going to die and go to Christian hell because I have tattoos? or is this because **Jesus** didn't love me enough? or is it vice versa? he died a martyr, not a god. he died because society was cruel and didn't know a good thing when they had it. did he get flowers? who brought offerings to his grave? did he get flowers? will I get them? I'm a broken record. a sad Jew with no tattoos in Ohio. god fucking dammit.





Carrion

by Ollie Waggoner

a creature stirred inside me vivid, bright, open thirsting for a challenge dragging nails down the chalkboard of my mind.

vivid. bright. open. words I never thought to use for such a thing, living blood and sinew in my belly.

it grasps me in my bed as I take myself to sleep, hearing all and seeing less, seeing more to more to more

it takes.

I wake up in a cold sweat with my lungs burning as I struggle to rise and my eyes don't open, when I take in water, nothing cools my fever

it takes and takes and takes

writhing in my chest, it forces its way out in sputters worming its way into my mind I find my words failing

where once was a symphony encyclopedic knowledge a dictionary fit to burst of things to say and words to rhyme there now is a quiet fog with something behind me.

I drag myself to find my phone to tell someone "I'm alive! come and find me!" the nearest lover is 4133 miles away give or take a few.

I crack myself open like a mussel. something in there soft, pliant can be ripped from its shell with the fainest of pressure.

revolting.

video games are
a solace.
I swing from metal pole
to metal pole
with no cares
but to feast,
red lines tracing between
man and mouths.

the creature feasts.

my lungs take
faux breaths
nothing in them
nothing out them
weaving between
losing time and
losing words
and
losing time
but I said that already.

time stands still.

the creature stirs once, twice wriggling out through my nostrils as the scent of garam masala chokes me.
I never thought I would be happy to smell that the dog has been fucking farting.

what a world we live in.

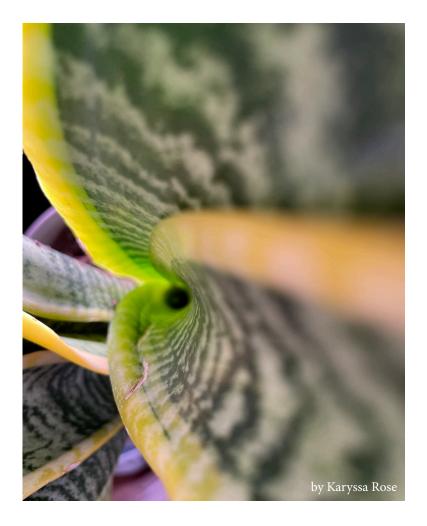
Skyfall by Abby Malinowski

What was once rain,
Liquid water,
Crystalizes as it takes a journey.
It becomes alive.
Growing branches,
Upon branches
Of pure, freezing water
Creating a magnificent masterpiece
Rarely seen up close

Only created to be destroyed. Suppose that is our only purpose, As is the fall of snowflakes.

It grows on its way down,
Making intricate details that sometimes
Aren't even visible.
It creates its own story. Its
Own path. Just to fall to the ground,
And melt.

We grow and we learn,
We create intricate details sometimes,
Only we can see.
We create our own story, pave
Our own road. Just to fall to the ground,
And melt.



Winter Blues

by Jessica Stanke

The winter blues seem extra blue.
A gray cloud hangs high above my head, this is never going to end.
The lonely streets cry out in despair, is everyone hibernating like a bear?
The rosy cheeks of children who play, frown as they cannot play no more.
Hopelessly trapped inside,
The branches whisper with a cry.
Fearful of what's next, she often wonders, is this ever going to end?

I Hear You In My Mind

by Ollie Waggoner

I hear you in my mind, A quiet contemplation; In my evenings, The workings of a phrase Build to a boil.

The brush of your finger Crosses my palm; An open sigh, The splash of sugar Falling into tea.

'Safely here',
A moment of stillness;
Your eyes cross mine,
And I wonder
If you will touch me, again.

Benevolence, In a long-lived name; The shedding of lives, A careful stroke Of a narrow brush.

I thrive, still
My heart warmed;
I await the day,
My soul a furnace
For a Summer in Djibouti.



Deprivation

by Ollie Waggoner

In my slumbers Ere I rest I hear a voice Not man, divine Or other creature; In its' stead That voice doth speak In words unsaid As here I lay my Hollowed head. In riddles, rhymes Or storied songs The voice not speak, As t'would be wrong. In deprivation Here I lay; My thoughts above In night or day. The voice doth speak In simple speech; It heeds no manner Of God or beast. "Hold on, my sunshine," Is what it says As hazel curls Sit 'round my head. The voice unbidden By storm nor sea Comes now to claim And silence me.

All By Myself by Diem Mai

The silence showers my mind
Rings as if it has a pulse
My eyes are eating up my surrounding
Engraving my mind
My breath is becoming shallow
My fingers are suddenly numb
My toes tapping the floor to get a sense of grounding
My nose fills with a strong aroma
Not familiar but not unfamiliar
My teeth begin working on my inner cheeks and lips
My hands are drenched
My body present
But my mind engulfed in my own thoughts
All by myself.



Untitled by Hope Brennan

Unbury me then,

If you still see light in my eyes
If blue still shines
Take me out of the night,
And put me under the sky.
If I am not decaying,
Pick me up, and stand me on my feet
If I crumble and fall, will you let me be?
Will you leave me in my grave
Even if you don't bury me?

My Mourning Routine

by Jenny Clark

My day begins just like everyone else's, I wake up and have to pee. Put my slippers on, and walk downstairs to the kitchen, Deciding if I'll eat breakfast or just have my coffee.

I have my morning smoke, turn on Netflix of Hulu as I prepare for my day, But as I get ready, some negative thoughts start to consume me. I'm anxious, I'm nervous, and it's hard for me to move.

Why does every day begin with me full of fear and worry?

I try to remain calm, control my breathing, create positive momentum, Once I do, I know I can break free from my own negativity.

I step outside, let the air hit my face, listening to the traffic.

The sound of the world moving motivates and inspires me.

I start moving, even small steps will lead me to my destination.

And thus, ends the daily battle of me versus productivity.

Oceans and You by Jillian Fekete

I am standing at the shore of the Atlantic

And having the water take me away.

The sounds of the waves crashing, making me sway.

The seagulls are pleading for crumbs,

As I pretend to be the curly headed girl I once knew.

The one who built sandcastles with wet sand as glue.

I see my grandmother sitting in her beach chair

Soon to be collecting seashells and beach glass.

All these wonders make me want to float away and melt into the salty unknown waters.

Because at the end of the day, I am my mother's daughter.

My toes and fingers pruned and soaked in bliss.

My skin tan, burned, sun kissed.

I am overwhelmed by the smell of sunscreen being ambushed on kids,

Followed by a salty kiss.

I feel young. I feel free. I feel alive.

It is as if I'm seeing heaven with my own two eyes.

All these treasures, the sky so blue,

All these things and I wish you knew,

That I would trade it all just to be here with you.

Oil on Water

by Ollie Waggoner

I remain in spite of myself.

grieving in its purest form, a drop of oil atop interior of the water glass that sits on my bedside table accumulating dust. it refuses to mix, dare not disrupt the dust stir it, clean it, pour it it refuses to mix. I drink in spite of myself in a bleary midnight haze and I see my reflection in the mirror in the hall. oil on water. I'm thrust into the waves feel the brush of water against my head my hair too slick with this film that it dares not become wet in spite of itself. I see my hands. I see the graphite pieces still stuck in my palms. I see where a ring indentation once was. I feel the water rip itself across my surface, dragging me further and further down to the bottom of the glass. I cry in spite of myself. I thought water would cleanse me of this oil to wipe it away clean me off let me breathe open my pores stop the pain keep me from being eaten away on the inside. the water keeps me down, sunk like a stone, the current settling as I sit in a monk's depth of contemplation.

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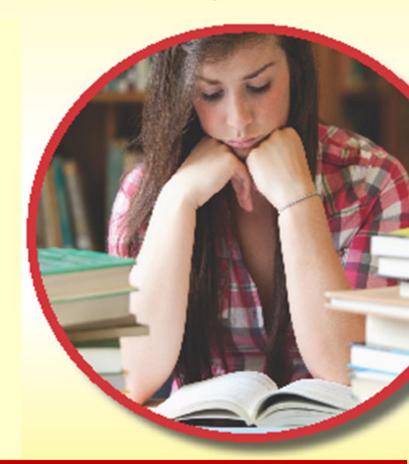


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Musings on Hannibal Lecter and Some Greek Shit

by Ollie Waggoner

I think about him often. Is that A problem? I think it is. I sit here in my Open air casket, thinking of All the ways I did him Wrong and yet, consistently, Know he does not think the same Way.

He never would.

He is beautiful, and I am horrible; a machine of pain that Drags my aching body to the surface of Whatever ravine I've hurled myself into now. There is no solace from these thoughts. Only the Indescribable emptiness, that of an Ice cream scooper emptying my stomach and Dropping the contents with a dull, disgusting, Wet thump onto a countertop, ready for the delicate Touch of Hannibal Lecter.

I watch Hannibal, now, with someone who Loves me, in spite of all the ways I Tend to overreact.
I see myself in each Slab of meat the man Prepares with his delicate, Elegant hands.

I see his cat smile.

I wonder how long he has
Had those lines in his face.
How many smiles did it take for
Those to start appearing?
How many are genuine?
Another liver from another victim.

Two vultures hunched on either side of him, digging into his liver.

I am not the creature I once
Had been. I am no victim of
Some overromanticized cannibal,
Though there are days I certainly
Feel like one.
Less like a person, and
More like a pig.
A poor choice in analogy for all my
Jewishness to coincide with.

Yet, here I am.
Vultures peck at my liver,
My resentment growing stronger,
My hands still wavering over the clattering keys
Of a keyboard that bears years of
My anxious ramblings.
Watching Hannibal with someone who
Loves me.

Fiction

by Kensie Maher

Mountains rise

Stars blink to life

A child laughs

A lover cries

Magic is real

An Arrow is knocked

A King rules from a throne

A Pirate Ship is docked

Fiction draws my heart. This much is true. Poetry doesn't feed my soul As it does for you.





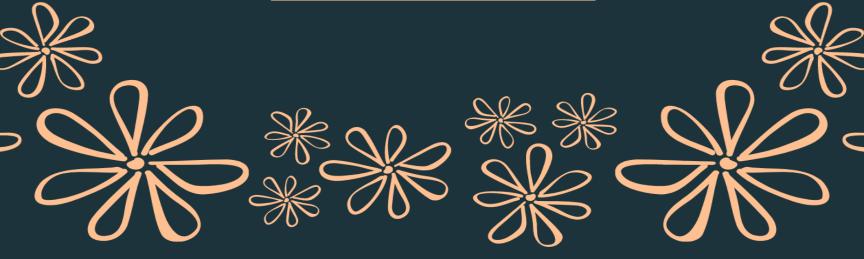
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Ice

by Ollie Waggoner

Ice; In winter, thine glow doth claim me.
Sit here with me, in Summer
Whilst dawn draineth mine spirit,
And slumber heals no wounds.
Thine eyes draw me in,
But our knives break
Skin to skin,
Cracks in thine armor.
In err', we stay fastened
Two buttons in some coat
Of a worn, bedraggled man
Whose body, time forgot.

No Empathy for the Egregious by Karyssa Rose

Look at you go Alive and sober It must feel so good To finally do something right

You've forgiven yourself Turned to faith instead of fear It must be so easy To play pretend

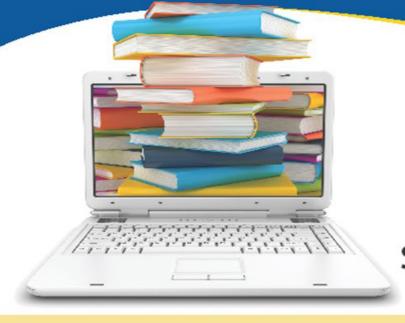
Taking twelve steps away From the wreck that you made It must make you happy To stand on your lifes rubble

Scapegoat needles Run across your plain of life It must be very frightening To stand on shaking lies

Others may forgive Move past your drugged transgressions It must burn you to the core To know the truth of your destruction

Damaged by your hand I will not stand to praise you It must be so depressing To forever be a failure





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