

THRILLER



VOL. XX, ISSUE I

10.28

Dearest Reader,

The complexity that surrounds our lives—from the second we are born to where you are today—is difficult to predict. It is filled with lows that we fight valiantly to arise from, and at times, thrills that leave us feeling on top of the world. These thrills not only define how we perceive the world around us and all it has to offer, but influences how we engage with opportunities around us to seek out pleasure and enjoyment.

Throughout the pages of this issue, using Michael Jackson's critically acclaimed and award-winning 1982 album *Thriller* as our muse, we explore the thrills that guide the actions of your fellow students and community members, as well as the influence of music on their lives. The individual narratives behind the stories that we discuss not only showcase the diversity of passions within our community, but the power of music in building community as well. It is our hope that this issue inspires you to seek out thrills within your own life—no matter how big or small—while continuing to learn more about the passions that drive the lives of those around you.

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THRILLER

October 28, 2022

Life of a Thriller

Learn about Michael Jackson's life, achievements through timeline

GRAPHIC KENT FUJITA, ALAN HUANG

SOURCES BIOGRAPHY, GRAMMY, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH

OFF
THE
WALL

AUG. 10, 1979

Feb. 28, 1984

NOV. 30, 1982

AUG. 29, 1958

1983

Michael
Jackson
Thriller

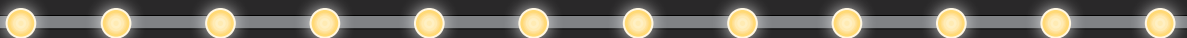
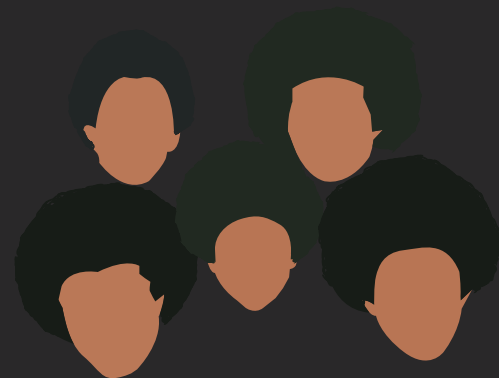
1986

Notes to "Beat It",
which was released
with the album *Thriller*

child to star

Learn more about Michael Jackson's
childhood, his rise to stardom

- Michael Jackson first performed when he was five years old, with his four older brothers in a band called the "Jackson 5"
- The "Jackson 5" was the first group to debut four consecutive songs on the Billboard Hot 100



Grammy Awards

Take a look at Michael Jackson's GRAMMY Awards

13
WINS

38
NOMINATIONS

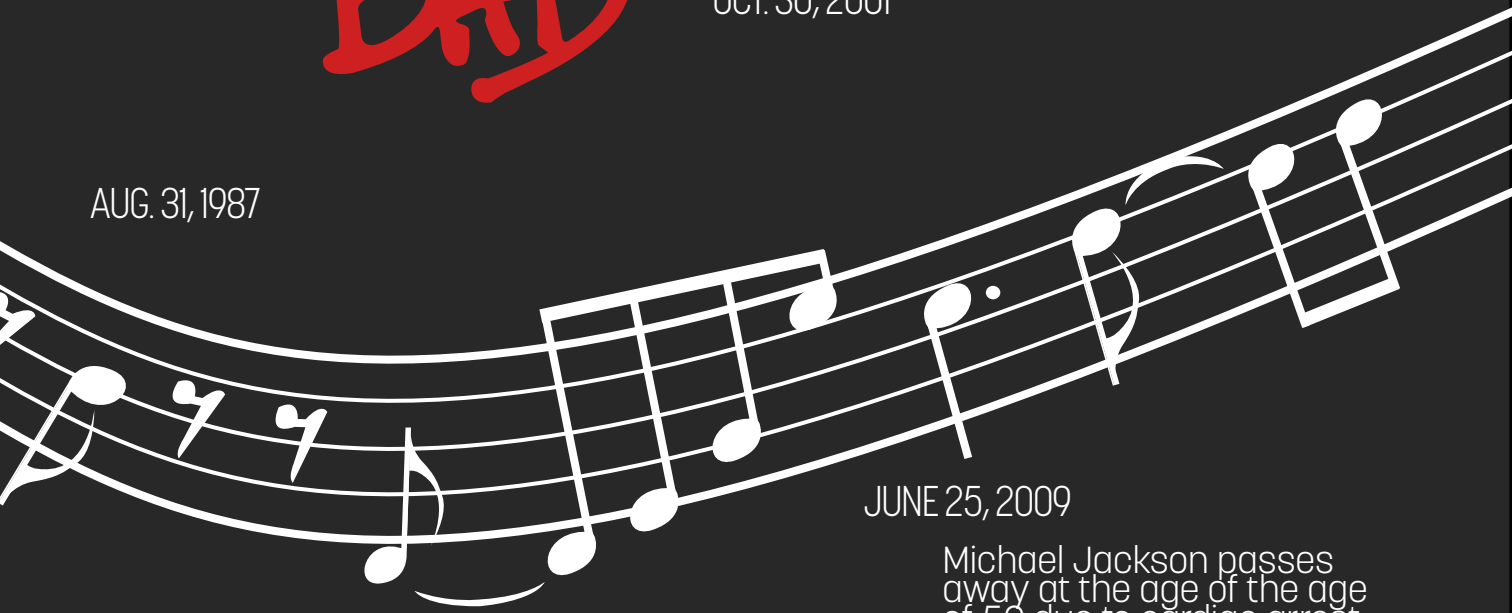


The Grammy Award is 8.5 inches tall and weighs 5 pounds

BAD

OCT. 30, 2001

AUG. 31, 1987



JUNE 25, 2009

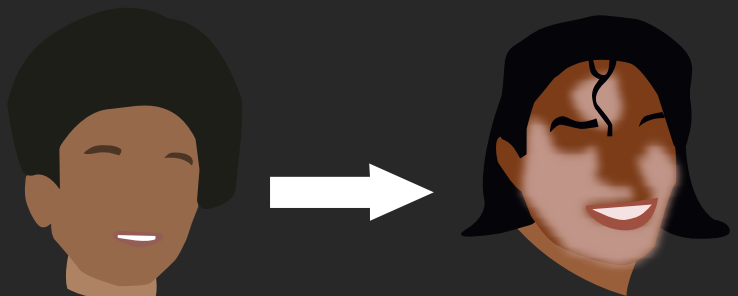
Michael Jackson passes away at the age of the age of 50 due to cardiac arrest

vitiligo

Learn more about Michael Jackson's rare skin condition, vitiligo.

🎵 Vitiligo is a chronic skin condition which results in white patches on the skin and sensitivity to sunlight.

🎵 Jackson was also known for wearing a white glove, which many attribute to his vitiligo.



THRILLER | 10.28 | 05



Men in Music

Through performing, show choir impacts students academically and socially

WORDS SAFIN KHATRI

PHOTOS ETHAN BLASTICK

New Edition member and sophomore Kenny English (middle) and a group of students sing at the fall choir concert on Sept. 28. New Edition, Greyhound Sound and other CHS choir groups all sang at the fall choir concert.

While there are hundreds of classes offered at CHS, the choir stood out to senior Tyler Wemhoff.

“I also was in choir in middle school and was in freshman choir, and that was the point where I realized that I really liked being around the people in choir and I liked what we were doing, so that was the point where I dedicated myself and decided I wanted to be in show choir,” Wemhoff said.

Greyhound Sound member, senior Noah Plake and others sing in the fall choir concert on Sept. 28. Greyhound Sound and other student choirs performed at the fall choir concert in the varsity gymnasium.

The Ambassadors are the most advanced mixed level show choir at CHS, and Wemhoff believes it is important to develop relationships in the show choir. “First semester is definitely more relaxed, and more chill in general, and it is helpful in a way because you get to meet the people in the group, and by the time you get to second semester when things get really crazy you really get to know the people in your group. In addition, it is definitely more time consuming and rigorous but you have



um stages



New Edition member and junior Will Swigart and the rest of New Edition sing "Invisible" at the fall choir concert on Sept. 28. New Edition and other student choir groups preformed at the fall choir concert.

a competition and it puts you in the mindset to relax, and good things are going to happen as long as you work for it," Plake said.

Barker said that the choir has numerous impacts for students, besides performing on stage.

"They learn a lot about time management, managing a calendar, and really valuable communication skills, whether it be with peers, teachers, and choreographers, they learn public speaking skills, and the whole act of performing like that, really opens them up to be a bit more vulnerable and a lot of my colleagues in other departments say that the choir kids are some of the better public speakers because they are so used to being in front of people and a lot of the discipline of it is working out minor details and really working to get something to be the best it can be is really a skill that you can use throughout your life," Barker said.

"We want our kids to grow in their skills, and to really make great art, but our biggest focus is the community of what we do"

KYLE BARKER

"The Accents and Ambassadors are going to have the most time commitment in terms of outside rehearsals, as they rehearse once a week in the fall and twice a week in their season, and they are also incentives, as it is a 5.0 weighted class, in addition to them getting a P.E. credit," Barker said.

"I am heavily considering (going into a career in music), as I am auditioning and applying for schools now, and I would say that if I had it my way, I will probably end up going into music," Wemhoff said. ☐

Greyhound Sound member and junior Julien Gourgue (middle) and others sing "Cantate Domino" during the fall choir concert on Sept. 28. Greyhound Sound and other student choirs sang multiple different songs in the concert.



resources available to you with the people you're in the group with, and it becomes more bearable, and balances out," Wemhoff said.

Ambassadors Director Kyle Barker said the CHS choir programs work to foster and build a community around music.

"We want our kids to grow in their skills and to really make great art, but our biggest focus is the community of what we do, and so we are trying to build that and really, really focus on just the experience of being with a bunch of people who have a similar interests, but all come from different places in the school building and getting together to make (art)," Barker said.

"I'm in three choirs now, so that's three class periods every two days and all of that has shown me how much I love music in general, and has me considering doing music in college and I would say that show choir has had a big impact on that and also all my closest friends, are friends who I have met through from the choir program," Wemhoff said.

Senior Noah Plake said that show choir has not only allowed him to grow as a performer, but to grow as a student as well.

"Choir has made me step up my attitude towards working hard, this year I have worked a lot harder in school, added on to the Ambassadors, because I feel like have more responsibility this year in a group, especially being a senior, and it shapes you into a good leader and follower at the same time and to be respectful and understand certain problems that arise and how to problem solve. For example, we had a lot of times last year where we had to randomly change a part of our set during



CHILD STARS

Entertainment or exploitation? WORDS MATTHEW DU

Through the recent publication of her memoir, “I’m Glad My Mom Died,” Jennette McCurdy, accounts her struggles as a child actor. She spoke out about the strict calorie restrictions imposed on her by her mother as well as the anxiety and shame experienced because of her mother’s need for her to become a child star. While being a child star may be a dream for some—Fame? Money? What’s not to like? However, in reality, the harsh, extremely competitive environment and mental fortitude needed for popularity is absolutely not meant for minors. Stardom may seem appealing, especially with the current rise of social media sites such as TikTok, Instagram and YouTube; however, the amount of revenue generated is extremely little compared to child acting, which is objectively worse for both physical and mental health.

Even though social media generally allows more freedom in terms of both scheduling and content, content creation at a young age should be kept as a side hobby, not a main source of revenue. The toll of content creation as a main job is extremely unstable and generally unviable unless the channel is already established and still growing or maintaining high levels of engagement.

Children should focus not on online popularity or an acting career, but on truly being a child. Whether it be studying for exams, learning basic life skills or simply playing with friends, the relative normality of growing up should be a standard among the population. There is a reason why so many child stars leave acting, get into legal trouble or even die. The mental stress of acting leaves a toll on their less developed brains and permanently changes their lifestyles, which can lead to erratic behavior. As they get used to the attention they grew up with, that fame eventually begins to fade, and actors often break down, as they no longer receive the same attention as they once had. Even though there are explicit child protection laws for young actors, the entertainment industry is not meant for children. According to the Library of Congress, ones such as the Jackie Coogan Law ensures financial earnings, mandating at least 15% of earnings must be put in a trust fund. However, because they grew up



Matthew Du
15 Minutes Editor

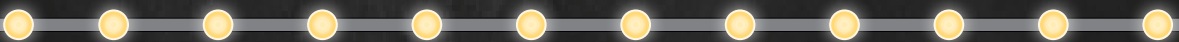
**CLICK
HERE**

*Click above
to learn
about
Jennette
McCurdy’s
new mem-
oir, “I’m
Glad My
Mom Died”*

with attention, they never realize how they could fade out of relevancy, and tend to realize their poor choices later on. John Taylor Thomas, an actor who played on “Home Improvement,” told People Magazine in 2013 that he disappeared from the industry, coming back after attending college as acting did not let him focus on his academics. Child actors tend to be on the spectrum of being essentially forced into acting from financial aid to their parents pushing on their careers. Even basic things like education on-set are questionable for many actors and are often confusing and some tutors may not even receive background checks. Adelina Anthony, a child actress even spoke out against her studio, saying that her “certified teacher” never even had proper teaching credentials.

Not only this, but the mental pressure put on by both parents and producers are far too harsh for any child. It has already been established that many child star parents could abuse their child’s position for monetary gain. For example, Macaulay Culkin even sued his parents so he could remove them as legal guardians and have control over his own money. Even large-budget movies like “Slumdog Millionaire” barely pay their workers. Actor Rubiana Ali was allegedly only paid little over \$550, and Azharuddin Ismai, was reportedly paid \$1,900 for a year’s worth of work. Even though the children were given education and basic living costs were covered, the actors themselves were woefully underpaid for the work they did. Even though the child stars are meant to keep their entire share of the money, this has been proven untrue in many situations and even if they do, many children are underpaid.

Even though many rules have been put into place to specifically protect children and give them more legal rights in terms of acting, the less-developed brains of young child stars being forced into long hours and exploitation whether by parents or producers has absolutely no place in the entertainment industry. The exposure to drugs and alcohol, as well as the fact that the children have their entire livelihoods on the line, and the pressures of acting are simply not meant for minors. A



IDOLIZATION

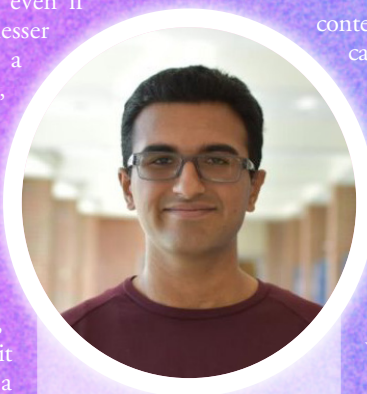
Fan or stan? WORDS ARCHIT KALRA

Some celebrities become famous because of art, singing or dancing. But others make art because they are celebrities. Celebrity art often gets more attention even if it has lower “quality” than pieces by lesser known artists. I’ve personally seen this a lot with Non-Fungible Tokens, or NFTs, which are digital art pieces that people can sell and trade for cryptocurrency.

When I ventured into the NFT business with a couple of friends, I noticed how NFTs by famous people like Melania Trump and Logan Paul captured the attention of millions of people and made millions of dollars. At the same time, art that seemed like it had just as much merit was valued at just 0.001 Ethereum (about a dollar).

I get that this field is hard to succeed in, especially because just one artistic choice like a poor song lyric or a painting technique can obliterate someone’s reputation. But it’s impossible to deny that celebrities have it easy for their future work. Most are much more well-equipped to make art because they’re already famous. Unfortunately, too many celebrities have taken advantage of this, intentionally or unintentionally. Think of the Moonwalk. While singer/dancer Jeffrey Daniel taught it to Michael Jackson in the ‘80s, nearly everyone now thinks of Jackson as the first one to do it.

While Jackson did end up renaming it “The Moonwalk,” some artists just take techniques, moves or content from lesser-known creators and take all the credit for them (one example is Paris Hilton in the 2000s, according to some lawsuits). One of the biggest examples I’ve seen in recent times is with influencers, especially TikTokers. For example, Kane Trujillo (@neumane on TikTok), a comedy content creator with almost 3 million followers, has been accused of copying comedians with fewer followers to the dot. And yes, in the world of split-second cancel culture, Trujillo might be quick to own up to his mistakes,



Archit Kalra
HiLite Editor-in-Chief

but it’s hard for history to forget misattributions. Just look at the Moonwalk.

Art depends on much more than just its content; the artist and observers matter too. We can be just as attached to an artist as their work. Can you think of “Shake it Off” without Taylor Swift’s voice jamming in your head? I definitely can’t. Even if we find a new artwork, one of the first questions we ask is who created it, often because we want to see more work by that artist. And the more a drawing, song or dance is seen or heard, the more powerful it becomes to our culture. In that way, people become one with their art, and we observers never really separate the connection. The Moonwalk becomes Michael Jackson, and Michael Jackson becomes the Moonwalk. It’s critical that we try not to do this. The more you can think separately about the artist as well as their work, the better you can consider and analyze the two in their own right. The art deserves its own story, just like the artist.

I’ll be the first to admit that this is not an easy task. It’s really hard to separate some people from their work, like da Vinci and the Mona Lisa, or Rick Astley and “Never Gonna Give You Up.” But if you succeed, you can appreciate art much better overall. And over time, maybe it’ll be more mainstream to not just look at famous artists, but also famous art forms and techniques.

More importantly, when you recognize the merits of someone’s art and their past work separately, you get to better assess new art, too. So many artists with less viewership or following produce incredible content but get passed over simply because they don’t have a reputation yet or don’t have enough experience.

Next time you see an artist do something interesting, think about what they’re doing, where it came from and why they’re doing it. That way, when you see someone famous selling scribbles for a million bucks, you’ll know better. □

Did You Know?

36%

of adults on the internet have used a search engine to learn about a celebrity

SOURCE
PEW
RESEARCH
CENTER

COSTUME COUTURE

Tech theatre, fashion creators discuss value of costume design

WRITING, PHOTO KATE LOPER, RILEY LAFERRIERE

Shuffling through an assortment of heels, skirts and wigs, tech theater students at this school organize outfits to bring the upcoming show to life. Olivia Sumner, tech theater student and senior, said these costumes can greatly affect performances and has first hand experience with their impact on audiences and students alike.

Good costuming can make or break a show, according to Sumner, and providing the right costumes at a good speed is an important part of performances here at CHS.

“The costume has to be on our side— prepared for

(the performers) and perfect for them so they don’t stress out about it.” Sumner said. “I think it also helps them get into character, as it is an extension of the character in a sense.”

Celia Hamilton, fashion student and senior, said costumes and clothing allow for a wider range of self expression as well. Although Hamilton solely focuses on personal clothing design, she agrees that clothing and costumes alike can heighten personal expression.

Hamilton said that costume designing can lead to altered perception of characters.

American costume designer Deborah Nadoolman

“(Fashion) is not just about how you look but also a way to express yourself.”

SENIOR CELIA HAMILTON

Making the Cut

CAITLIN FOLLMAN GRAPHIC
FORBES, VOGUE, HAUTE HISTORY SOURCES

Learn how fashion, design, culture inspire a designer to create unforgettable movie moments.

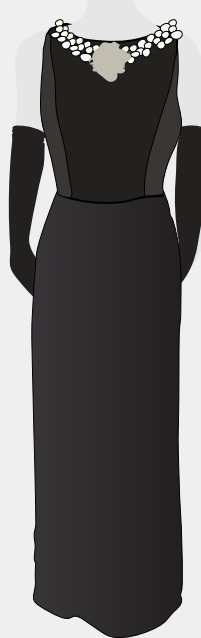


“First Day of School”
- *Clueless*

Designer: Mona May designed Cher’s Yellow First Day of School suit while also putting together the rest of the costumes for the movie “Clueless.”

Inspiration: May’s inspiration behind not just Cher’s First Day of School outfit, came from Beverly Hills and the high fashion culture you see there.

Behind the Design: The plaid used in the “First Day of School” suit was a nod to a traditional catholic school uniform. May said she wanted to make Cher’s costumes as feminine as possible because at the time high school fashion was all about “grunge” or “baggy” clothing.



“Little Black Dress”
- *Breakfast at Tiffany’s*

Designer: “Little Black Dress” was designed by Hubert De Givenchy, a Parisian Courtier who was originally known for creating fashion pieces for the Ballet or Opera.

Inspiration: The inspiration behind this dress was derived from Coco Chanel during the 1920s.

Behind the Design: Givenchy based his design on elegance and created a sheath dress with minimalist cuts on the back. The dress is an excellent example of 1960s style: chic at the front, delicate, sensual and Parisian at the back.



Landis explains in her book *Dressed: A Century of Hollywood Costume Design* that costume design goes beyond character superficiality.

“Ultimately, a costume must perfectly describe the individual for whom it was designed—not the superficial shell of a character but the outward expression of inner experience, the concrete manifestation of the character’s self-image,” Landis wrote.

When designing costumes, Darcie Stanisc, Fashion and Textiles teacher, said multiple factors can shape how characters are perceived. These factors include the color scheme of costumes to the personal traits of performers.

Because many of the costumes in CHS performances are created by students, these concepts are important for them to keep in mind.

Sumner said, “I think most of the time (costumes are) really good and people are really creative with how they can put together an outfit. One of my really good friends was the costume designer for all of last year and she did a really good job at putting together (clothes) and making sure the whole thing was organized so people got the right costumes.”

However, Sumner said, because the costumes are so vital to the perception of characters, directors always have the final say in the designs.

Adding to the idea of character perception, Stanisc commented on how fashion has affected the newer generations’ perception of costuming on a larger stage. She explained the perception of characters has become more rapid due to shorter attention spans, and costumes must fit the part to grab the viewer’s eye.

Stanisc also said costuming can lead to an unconscious judgment of character.

“Somebody might perceive (another person) in a certain way based on their style,” she said. “Mainly it depends on the generation...because (judgment occurs) faster now.”

In costume design and perception of artists, actors and performers, this is an important idea to take into consideration. From a tech theater perspective, Sumner said costume design helps with how viewers perceive actors.

Sumner said, “I think our competition show this year, which was “Edward Tulane,” showed how costumes can help the audience know who the character is. It was a very small cast and the costumes helped show the age of the characters they were trying to play and differentiate between characters.”

Perception is especially prominent in period plays, or plays that focus heavily on a different time period.

“Let’s say you look at Hamilton—(there is good) historic clothing. I think it really does have an impact whether it is historically accurate or if it’s an adaptation or something. I think it really plays a role in the style and the motion as well as just the tone of entertainment,” Hamilton said.

Sumner agreed. “We’ve been doing a lot of period shows right now so we have to make sure the



Celia Hamilton, fashion student and senior, makes progress on a new art project for design printing. Hamilton said she is constantly taking on new projects, those which work to combine both art and fashion.

costumes are period (based), because if they’re not it will take away a lot of the environment of the show.”

“Last year the Accents had really bright and neon dresses and I think it really helped their show a lot because it made it a lot brighter and just gave off a more positive vibe. With the Ambassadors they had more themes. So they had more of a 1920’s kind of outfit then that correlated with their songs. And then it changed into a New York kind of more street wear kind of thing. It illustrated the transition of time that happened.”

Although period pieces in particular require quality costume design, Sumner and Hamilton agree fashion is an important aspect of everyday life, performances, and personal appearance as a whole.

“(Fashion) is not just about how you look but also a way to express yourself,” Hamilton said. “It is about self expression so you get to know people through their personality and also through how they dress.” ^A

PSYCHOLOGICAL

Q&A with Emily LeFors, Genres of Literature

Q&A AVERY CARLISLE PHOTO CHENYAO LIU ILLUSTRATION TSION DA

What is the main focus of your class?

Well, obviously the focus is the overall genre of psychological thrillers, but we explore that genre through reading books and then also looking at mainstream media.

English teacher Emily LeFors is working on a project on "The Silence in the Woods" for a project on "The Silence in the Woods"

How does this class differ from other English classes?

It really is the genre because it's similar to other classes where we're still reading and writing and higher standards in regards to student participation and work, but we can be a little bit more liberal in what we include in the novels because they are psychological thrillers. So you will have some content—though, of course, it is all approved by the school board—that is a little bit more closer to the line because with psychological thrillers, you have once again, the human psyche in human actions and kind of that darker side.



Why are you personally interested in psychological thrillers?

When I started writing the curriculum—what year and a half, two years ago?—it wasn't necessarily a genre that I loved, but through writing the curriculum and through teaching it, I've realized that it has this draw to it that it's hard for another genre to have, or at least in terms of the interest here at the high school. And so I think as the students have fallen in love with it, I have as well.

AL THRILLERS

ecture: Psychological Thrillers teacher

ANIEL

LeFors helps a student
ilent Patient.”



What else would you like readers to know?

If you haven't checked out a psychological thriller, I would encourage you to do so. Even if you're not a fan of horror or violence, please don't think that that's necessarily in the book. It's implied frequently.

What do you hope students are able to gain from this class?

So psychological thriller is similar to what I would consider psychological suspense and is opposite of horror. So a psychological thriller is more in the mind or more about what the reader potentially knows, but maybe the main character doesn't or vice-versa. So, it's not about scenes that are graphic; it's more what is implied or what isn't said and they do tend to have surprise or twist endings that I, at least, typically don't see coming.

What are your students working on right now in class?

So we finished **The Silent Patient** and we're now working on a process paper where (students) are basically arguing who is responsible for Gabriel's death. We already know he's dead. We actually know who killed him. They say that at the very beginning, but I asked the question who was actually responsible, which turns, basically, the murder on its head.



HALLOW-TEEN

Students, teacher discuss Halloween, getting older

WORDS ISAAC HSU PHOTOS ADDIE JACOBSEN

With Halloween coming around once again, students and teachers discuss if they should be going trick-or-treating, or if being a teenager is already too old.

Junior Lani Samms said she likes to dress up and go trick-or-treating every Halloween. Though some may say that Halloween is a childish event, she said she has always enjoyed those activities. With Halloween around for over 2000 years, trends are falling in and out, yet Halloween can still remain an enjoyable event for all ages. Samms said it's about having fun with your friends and enjoying the night.

"Halloween is my favorite holiday because it's just so much fun being able to choose what to dress up as, which is my favorite part about it. When you have a theme going on, and this year my friends and I are going to be dressing up as Scooby-Doo characters, it just makes Halloween fun," Samms said. "I've gone trick-or-treating almost every year in my life so far, and though some people can say it's childish, Halloween itself is about dressing up, and one time I dressed up as dead Red Riding Hood—I think that's pretty adult."

According to TIME, most teenagers stop dressing

up and trick-or-treating somewhere between the ages of 12 and 16. Although high school is the time when most students quit trick-or-treating, it doesn't mean students are too old for it. All children, despite their age, should have the opportunity to celebrate Halloween.

Samms explained how even as a high schooler, one should get to enjoy their youth and celebrate the holidays.

"You only have a limited amount of time to enjoy these things, before in like 10 years, you will be pressured even more not to go. I feel like most people won't or shouldn't say, 'oh you're weird, you are an adult, why are you still trick-or-treating?'" Samms said. "Even in college, I'm pretty sure there's a lot of people who still go trick-or-treating and have fun doing it."

Chad Andrews, an English and Research teacher, agreed with Samms. Andrews said he likes dressing up for current holidays and events, such as dressing up for the themes during Homecoming week.

"Although I won't normally dress up myself, if I'm invited to a get together with friends, dressing up would be fun," he said.

While he now dresses up during school events, Andrews also said he should've enjoyed dressing up for Halloween when he had the chance.

Halloween enthusiast and junior Lani Samms (left) talks with fellow junior Aila McKeown (right) over their plans for Halloween, and what their possible costumes for the year could look like. With Halloween traditionally being known as a holiday for children, Samms noted that it was more difficult to find fellow peers dressing up.



Do you have any plans this year for Halloween?



"I'll be going over to some of my friends' houses for Halloween parties and overall having fun."

SENIOR NATHAN DIERCKMAN



"This year I'm going to a friend's house and we will be dressing up. For now, I'm going to be, like, a little black angel."

JUNIOR NINA GOURLEY



"I'll go out trick or treating with friends and host parties and invite friends and family. This year, I'll be dressing up as the band Arctic Monkeys with my friends."

SOPHOMORE LEANNA ROMERO



"I'm going to try to dress up in a fun costume and go out with my friends, and we might watch scary movies."

SENIOR LAUREN SCHAEFER

SPEAK UPS, PHOTO ZOE TU

"Maybe when I was younger, I was more interested in proving I was a grown-up by teenage years, so I really didn't do Halloween, since back then I would've thought 12 or 13 would be too old," Andrews said. "But now I'm at an age where I'm not trying to prove anything and I don't think it's childish anymore."

However, some students hold different views on Halloween. According to sophomore Kaden Rush, who has stopped trick-or-treating since he entered high school, not everyone needs to go trick-or-treating. Though he thinks that dressing up and

asking for candy is too childish for himself, he also said there were many drawbacks to trick-or-treating that caused him to turn to alternative ways of celebrating Halloween.

"It's a fun event, but sometimes it just gets boring, or it's too cold to be outside for that long. Like it's neat that I can get candy, but it gets tiring," he said. "You have to buy a costume or make your own in order to go trick-or-treating, but I feel like you don't have to go trick-or-treating to enjoy Halloween, and sometimes the candy you get isn't that good, or maybe I'm just too old to care that much."

Rush said while he no longer goes trick-or-treating, he still enjoys celebrating Halloween at home and with his friends online.

"Instead of going trick-or-treating which you have to walk around too long for, I like watching horror movies because you can participate in Halloween activities in the comfort of your home," he said. "I personally don't want to go trick-or-treating anymore, but if other people go trick-or-treating, it's fine because they probably would have fun and their costumes usually look nice. I just couldn't put in that much effort to get candy."

Andrews said he agreed with Rush that others who still go trick-or-treating can find joy in the activity. He recalled the joy trick-or-treating brought him when he was a child.

"If there are still high schoolers going trick-or-treating, good for them," Andrews said. "I think I really enjoyed the sense of connection, where you are just bouncing to your neighbors house, and having fun with your friends. This is one of those rare opportunities in our culture to dress up as whatever and hang out, and if anyone has fun doing it, who am I to judge them." A

By the Numbers

65%

of consumers celebrated Halloween in 2021

\$3.4

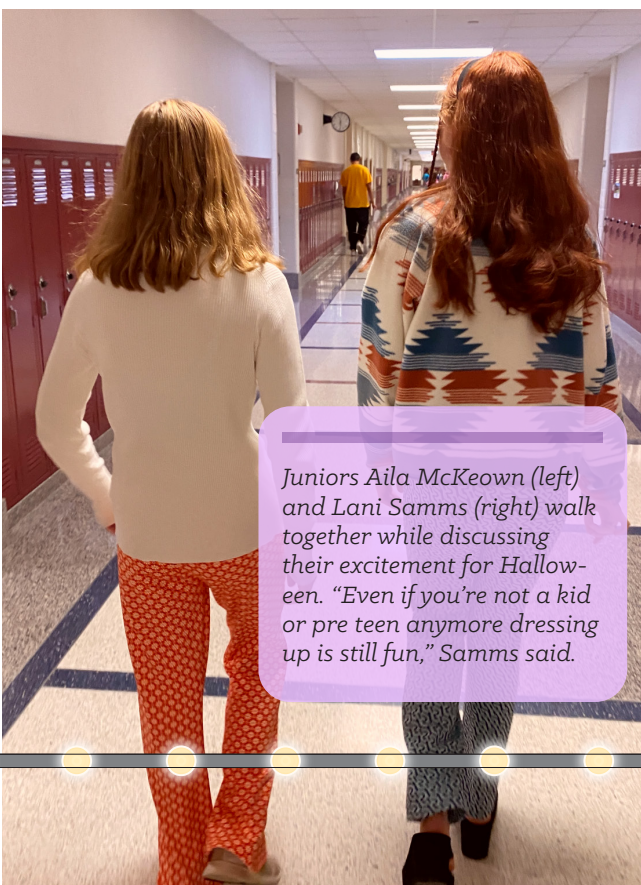
BILLION

annual Halloween decoration expenditure

\$29.5

expected consumer expenditure on candy

SOURCE STATISTA



Juniors Aila McKeown (left) and Lani Samms (right) walk together while discussing their excitement for Halloween. "Even if you're not a kid or pre teen anymore dressing up is still fun," Samms said.

PHANTOM-ENAL

Horror genre offers stress handling, social commentary, builds relationships

WORDS ADDISON JOYCE

Most people have their own varying opinion of horror movies. Some hate when a plot twist makes them jump while others live for the suspense or the thrill. Objectively speaking, though whatever your opinion may be, horror movies are actually good for society and even for your health.

As off-putting as it may seem, horror movies can be psychologically therapeutic. They allow the human brain to be exposed to ideas of fear and death in a safe environment, allowing a greater feeling of control. Your body will tell you you need to be afraid, but you know you are not actually in any real danger. This idea is called the “surrogacy theory” by many scholars because it allows people to experience certain stressors through a “surrogate” story, or a horror film.

According to psychotherapist Kurt Oakley, the surrogacy effect actually releases stress and promotes healthier coping mechanisms. When exposed to stress in a controlled movie environment, people don't cope with the stress in the same unhealthy ways that they may have otherwise. Instead, they learn to manage their stress in the moment, which over time can improve your ability to handle stressful situations in the real world.

Horror movies can work as coping mechanisms themselves, and can become alternatives for more dangerous methods of relieving stress. A study from the National Center for Biotechnology Information on the biological impacts of childhood trauma explained that in the case of people with PTSD, feelings of fear and stress can be comforting and many people seek out such feelings. Often the familiarity in the stress of horror films allows for a feeling of control that can be therapeutic.

In addition to the psychological benefits of horror movies, the different perspectives they can bring is another way they are good for society. A lot of popular horror films have abstract ideas that relay messages about society that a lot of people often miss. A common example is “Get Out,”

which alludes to society's past racism and how that is still interlinked with the present. Other examples include “Godzilla,” which symbolizes the dangers and potential impacts of nuclear warfare, and “The Purge,” which highlights problems with political structure and divisions.

Social commentary in horror films give them more depth beyond just including ghosts and jumpscars. There is more meaning behind a movie that critiques society, and the promotion of different perspectives provides an enrichment that viewers would not receive watching a rom-com or an action movie.

Furthermore, highlighting societal issues, even in an entertaining way, spreads awareness and sparks a desire for change in viewers. Seeing the dystopian world of “Godzilla” promotes an uneasiness surrounding the idea of nuclear war, which is a very real and pressing concern in today's world. Even just that awareness allows for conversation around topics that should be taken seriously in society.

Finally, the mere social aspect of horror movies is part of what makes them so beneficial. Watching a horror movie with people you love facilitates a close, vulnerable environment that no other movie genre can. Being afraid while still having people you care about around you strengthens relationships.

A study from UCLA supports this idea. It found that during horror films, the hormone oxytocin is released in the brain; this is the same hormone that is released when you hug or kiss a loved one. Another name for this hormone is the “attachment hormone” because it promotes bonding and strengthening of relationships.

Overall, whatever your personal opinion on horror movies may be, they have a myriad of big-picture benefits for your health and the health of society. It is irrefutable that horror films aid in the release of stress, provide crucial perspectives on social issues, and strengthen human connections. ☺



Addison Joyce
Sports Editor



HORRENDOUS

Horror genre has become unoriginal, recycled, unenjoyable

WORDS ROYCE BROWN

Imagine a laundry machine. Instead of using detergent, however, this machine just uses plain water. So all the dirty particles in your clothes continue to cycle over and over again, being “washed” in their own filth. Then pause the machine and throw in a bucket of mud. Resume. Then pause the machine and throw in a gallon of motor oil. Resume. After a couple minutes, take out the clothes and take a look at the abomination you’ve just created. The analogy I gave you, believe it or not, reflects the current state of horror movies.

But before I explain, let’s look back at the history of horror movies. The first movie considered to be in the horror genre is thought to be “Le Manoir du Diable” created in 1896 by French film director Georges Méliès. The movie, translated to English as “The House of the Devil,” was relatively short—just three minutes long—however, the new genre gained lots of popularity for its fear-invoking screenplay. Horror continued to expand. The next major movie was “Nosferatu,” a German film created in 1922 that was over an hour long.

However, horror films, while revolutionary in the early eras of movie-making, quickly became some of the most repetitive, predictable and boring movies one could watch. Every horror movie just seems completely identical to the next, using the same tropes, the same jumpscare techniques, the same stereotypical scenarios. Jason in “Friday the 13th” is Michael Meyers in “Halloween”

is Freddy Kruger in “Nightmare on Elm Street.”

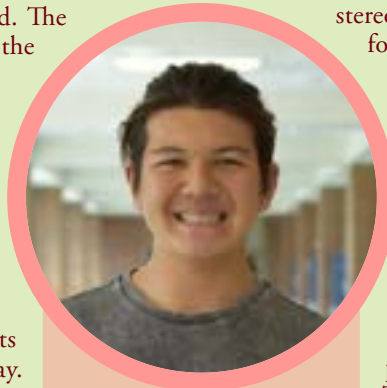
The “jock” character who looks strong always dies first. There’s always the person who suggests the group to split up. There’s the telephone that never works. There’s the same “found footage.” There’s the bad guy who won’t die or the car that won’t start.

Do you see what I’m getting at? This is the mud and motor oil that I was talking about. The same old stereotypes, movie tropes and cliches. A potential for a creative plot is contaminated by garbage that directors forcibly put into the movie. The laundry machine then keeps on spinning, contaminating other horror movies that decide to be unoriginal by forcing jumpscares, stereotypical killers and ignorant characters into the plot. The product you get after spinning the laundry in a pile of mud and motor oil is an average 21st century horror movie.

Look at “Paranormal Activity” as a prime example of a trashy, modern movie. This garbage franchise made seven whole movies without ever learning its lesson. Found footage, constant jumpscares, a boring and repetitive plot. I mean, audiences essentially stare at rooms through security cameras for the entirety of the movie. The plot is just repeatedly washed over and over in the dirty laundry machine, the same features reused again and again.

Horror movies just don’t have the same impact as ones in the past. Today, it’s difficult to be creative and avoid cliché plots. After the wave of “slasher” films in the ‘80s, they became too overused to become impactful. Do you hear anybody talk about new slasher movies? Do you hear anybody say that the eighth “Halloween” movie is better than the first?

In conclusion, horror movies have become too unoriginal to be enjoyable anymore. That’s why many people enjoy watching older, retro horror movies than their modern counterparts. Horror movies have lost their creativity, and with it, their overall impact toward fans.



Royce Brown
Feature Editor



Breaking Barriers

Students, staff in performing arts reflect on experiences with racial barriers

WORDS MADDIE MISTERKA

PHOTO DANIEL TIAN

GRAPHIC GRACE GUO

Gabrielle “Gabi” Bradley, Ambassadors member and junior, has been surrounded by music for her entire life, primarily because of her family’s celebration of the arts.

“We’re very musically and arts focused,” she said. “I think that’s also black culture. Everyone sings. I’ve just always been surrounded by singing.”

Bradley said the focus on music in her life has led her to want to pursue a career in musical theater, especially with increasing representation of people of color in the arts.

One example of these new roles is Disney’s *The Little Mermaid* remake. On Sept. 9, 2022, Disney released a new teaser trailer depicting actress Halle Bailey as “Ariel,” receiving both praise and backlash for the originally white character’s representation by a black actress.

This change is not universal, however. According to the Asian American Performers Actors Coalition’s 2018-19 visibility report, 58.6% of Broadway roles were occupied by white actors, overrepresenting the NYC white demographic by over 25%.

Stages are not the only places dominated by racial barriers, however. According to Ishaan Singh, We Have

“I need to stop typecasting myself. You can (play) any role you want to. You can be any person you want to be. You can’t let people put you into the box of a gospel singer or *Dream Girls*,” she said. “And if you are doing *Dream Girls*, you do that, because I couldn’t sing that way anyway. Don’t let something that hasn’t happened before keep you from being the person to do it.”

JUNIOR GABI BRADLEY

(Below): Senior Brayden Meng plays the violin at the WHAM Palladium performance on Sept. 28, 2022.

All Music (WHAM) events chair and senior, classical music training and music theory are almost solely composed of western influences.

Brayden Meng, WHAM founder and president and senior, said he agrees with this sentiment. “(When you learn music) you have a lot of western rules,” he said. “For one, you can’t have parallel fifths moving together, but you’ll see a lot of that in Eastern Asian music.”

In light of this, Bradley said she thinks there is value in learning culturally diverse music in a respectful way.

With regards to teaching music, Associate Choir Director Kyle Barker said he is deliberate in both how he picks and teaches his music. He said he is always listening to songs he thinks would enrich his students, and if he is not comfortable teaching cultural pieces himself, he tries to bring in professionals of the represented community.

This step towards breaking barriers, however, was not present even in recent years, according to Bradley. “We used to sing “Wade in the Water” in fourth grade, and even then, I felt like we shouldn’t be singing it,” Bradley said. “But sometimes, instead of appreciating the culture, you take the music and you sing it like a song. And it’s not a song like to these people-- it means more than that.”

Singh differed in his view about CHS music representation. “If you’re (spreading any music) in a way that’s not derogatory, like taking music and making fun of it, if you’re doing it just to perform it and spread that culture, it’s not necessarily a bad thing,” he said.

Similar to how Bradley intends to pursue a career in musical theater, Meng said he wants to work as a film score composer in the future. He said he has been learning the skills required in composition for a few years, and has begun to develop a personal voice in his music.

“So I’m kind of taking not only inspiration from Western classical music, where I was trained, but also from modern influences, and my cultural roots,” Meng said. “I’m working on a violin concerto for the senior concerto competition right now. And



I feel like (this piece is) what best describes the culmination of (my musical style).”

Barker said he is thankful for the chance to learn from other cultures through the music the school performs, but recognizes learning is not the final step needing to be taken.

“It’s a fine line of making music accessible without changing the original intent, and recognizing that maybe some songs shouldn’t be (sung) in a school choir,” he said. “I think the choral world is in a spot of learning and growth overall. And I think everybody’s intent is on the right track, but mistakes are gonna be made along the way.”

Bradley said she is thankful for the progress being made, but she has seen many mistakes even within Carmel Choirs.

“Last year we had our signature dresses, and (the dresses) had a panel on the front. Eventually they removed it, but it was white mesh. On all the white girls it looked normal, like a fake strapless dress, but on me and my (black) friend, it looked stupid. It was frustrating,” she said. “It felt a little annoying to see things around me all the time that were just another reminder that the activity wasn’t catered to people like me. (Performing barriers) can be frustrating and isolating in some aspects.”

This year, the Ambassadors costumes Bradley



first of many

Learn about the first African American prima ballerina, Janet Collins

Janet Collins
(March 17, 1917 - May 28, 2003)

- Began learning ballet in Los Angeles
- Carmelita Maracci: Collins’ ballet instructor
- De Basil Ballet Russe Company: Collins auditioned and was accepted into the company at 15, but declined after being told she would have to play special roles or perform in white face
- **1940:** Collins performs in her first theatrical performance in the musical film, “Stormy Weather”
- Ballet master of Metropolitan Opera invited Collins to temporarily join the Metropolitan Company
- **November 13, 1951:** Collins performs in Aida
- **1952:** Collins becomes the first African American prima ballerina to permanently join the Metropolitan Opera

is wearing does not contain a pale panel. She said she is happy for the changes made in the choir department in the short period of time, and hopes it can pass into the rest of the performing world.

“I need to stop typecasting myself. You can (play) any role you want to. You can be any person you want to be. You can’t let people put you into the box of a gospel singer or Dream Girls,” she said. “And if you are doing Dream Girls, you do that, because I couldn’t sing that way anyway. Don’t let something that hasn’t happened before keep you from being the person to do it.” ^A

SOURCE ATLANTA

SUPER PSYCHED!

Check out psychology behind fight or flight response, facts about thriller genre, stories of the creatives behind it all!

GRAPHICS RILEY LAFERRIERE, AKSI ADILET-SULTAN

CREATIVE GENIUS

Check out some of the most iconic thriller writers of all time!



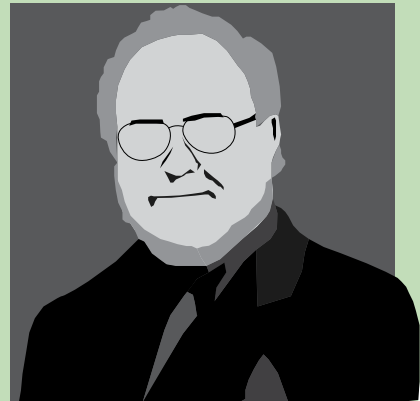
1890-1976

AGATHA CHRISTIE

Deemed one of the most iconic thriller writers of the 20th century, Agatha Christie remains the best-selling novelist of all time, save Shakespeare and the Holy Bible. Throughout her life, she wrote 66 detective novels and 14 short stories. Among her most favorite thriller works of all time are “And Then There Were None,” “Murder on Orient Express” and “The ABC Murders.”

THOMAS HARRIS

Thomas Harris’s “Hannibal” and “Silence of the Lambs” are renowned across the nation. His character Hannibal Lector is often considered the most notorious anti-hero in American literature, and his work in thriller and mystery writing remains relevant to this day.



1940-PRESENT



1947-PRESENT

STEPHEN KING

Stephen King is the author to over fifty books, many of which are bestsellers across the nation, including “Carrie,” “It” and “The Shining.” The culmination of horror, mystery, suspense, crime, supernatural fiction and fantasy are what bring his books to nationwide attention.


SOURCE BRITANNICA




BODY AND BRAIN

Look at some common symptoms of fear, body areas which produce fear

SOURCES PNAS, MAYO CLINIC




Dry throat, shortness of breath




Increased heart rate/ blood pressure

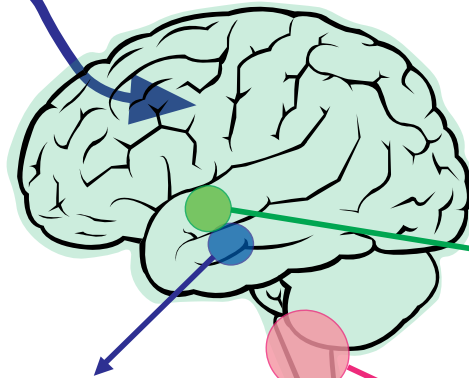
Adrenal glands on both kidneys produce adrenaline and epinephrine, cause of fight or flight responses



Tense muscles/ stiffness of body



Sweaty, clammy palms/hands



AMYGDALA
involved in regulating memory and emotions like fear and anger

HYPOTHALAMUS
helps to regulate blood pressure, heart rate, and fear

MEDULLA
helps control heart beat, blood pressure and breathing

WHAT A THRILL!

Explore facts about some popular psychological thrillers



1. PARASITE
Rotten tomatos: 99%
Plot: Once civil families are torn apart by greed and discrimination

2. SILENCE OF THE LAMBS
Rotten tomatos: 95%
Plot: FBI agent tries to get information about a new case



3. GET OUT
Rotten tomatos: 98%
Plot: Main character goes to meet his partner's family, discovers horrible secret

SOURCE ROTTEN TOMATOES

When did you start mountain biking?

I started mountain biking back in college when I was at Purdue (around 2008). At Purdue, I was in the outing club. They take you all over the United States and allow you to use all their gear.

What level do you bike at?

My husband is a competitive ultra mountain bike racer, so he's racing 100 miles plus. I bike more for the enjoyment and that kind of stuff. We are usually mountain biking somewhere between two and three times a week with my family. I even have my daughter, who's eight, and she's already started mountain biking as part of the Devo group, which is a developmental cycling group.

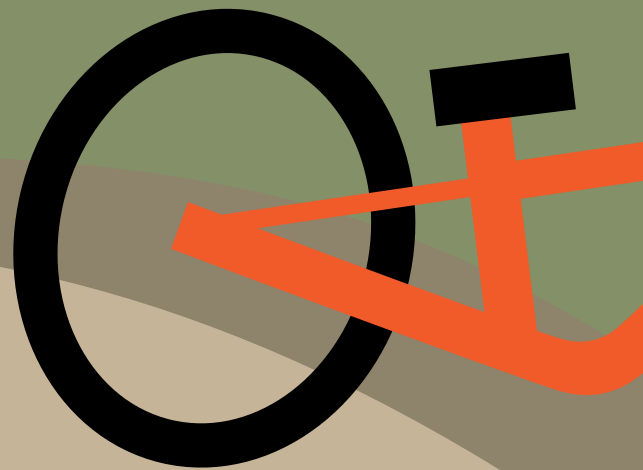
What benefits does mountain biking bring?

The big aspects it really improves are your social life, exercise, and confidence, which is a big thing. I had a really big mountain biking crash 10 years ago, where I actually had to be lifelined in a helicopter because I had a compound dislocation of my ankle. So I literally had to have four surgeries and that kind of stuff, and I had to work confidence back from that.

How do you think commuting on a bike changes things up or makes things more fun than just driving a car?

First of all, it's better for your health and your mental well-being and the confidence that you could do that kind of stuff. It's also better for the environment; you don't need to drive your car everywhere. Third, it's fun. You can have so many more conversations because most people aren't always doing that. I'm telling you when you ride a bike it just puts a smile on your face, and more people just need to do that. You'll just see people having a good time riding their bikes, and they're smiling. It's just a good feeling. Because you're exercising, you're releasing endorphins, so it's also helping with mentally and physically feeling better.

MOUNTAIN BIKING



*Science teacher Christina Mitchell
reflects on her hobby of mountain biking*

Q&A DARIUSH KHURRAM ILLUSTRATION YICHEN LIU

Do you think more people should explore the hobby, and why?

Absolutely. With it, you don't always need to drive somewhere as you can always bike. My husband and I are both bike commuters, so we both ride a bike even to work. Every day, I ride to school and I ride back home on my bike. Mountain biking gives you that confidence that you can do it and you're fine, and you don't always have to rely on a car. It's a great hobby for students who are not always the best at team sports or ball sports, so it allows them to try another hobby that does not have to be competitive. It lets you see the world too, which is cool. You're not always stuck in Indiana, and you can go other places.



tain ing



What's your favorite part about mountain biking?

It is really fun. Also, I'm usually always with my husband. My husband and I are highschool sweethearts, so we're those people that are always together, and so we literally make fun of each other and talking and laughing the whole time when we're mountain biking. I guess it's the togetherness with my family, but also enjoying the environment and the outdoors and laughing at the same time.

For people who want to get into mountain biking, where can they start?

If you want to get into mountain biking and you're not the most comfortable with it, I would really recommend finding a team, for example, Midwest Devo. That is also great because it teaches skills. If you're not comfortable mountain biking, but you're comfortable riding let's say a bike in the grass, you could do cyclocross, or if you're comfortable with a fixed-gear bike, you could ride on the track at the velodrome at Marion University. They teach really good fundamental skills. There's also the NICA team for people that are really looking to join mountain biking.

What do you think differentiates mountain biking from other activities?

What makes it so special for you?

One of the biggest things is being out in the environment. My family is huge on being big outdoor people. We love camping and hiking and snowboarding, so mountain biking allows us to be camping as a family, but then also being out on the trail and everything. Imagine hiking just at a really fast pace. You get to be out in the woods and out by yourself where you never get to go, unless you have that ability to get there, so you get to see far more because you get to be on your bike.

What life skills and values do you think you've learned from mountain biking?

I've learned a lot about recovering and also being resilient because it really put me in a ringer. Even the skills of having fun and enjoyment because you hit the ground all the time when you're mountain biking and you just have to know that you're fine; you just pop right back up and have to keep pushing.

In Their Footsteps

Students, counselor examine how parents influence career choices

WORDS LORNA DING

GRAPHICS YICHEN LIU

As a result of having parents who work in the business field, junior Jessica Wang said she also hopes to pursue a business-related career. “Growing up, I’ve always watched my parents (have jobs) in the business industry and food industry,” Wang said. “When I was younger, my parents were like, ‘Business is a great field to go into because there are many job opportunities,’ and that if I really wanted to, I could choose to start my own business which gives me a lot of freedom.”

Wang is one of many students who want to go into the same field as their parents. According to a New York Times article, daughters are 1.7 times to 1.8 times as likely to have the same career as their father and mother, respectively. Melinda Stephan, College and Career Programming and Resources Coordinator, said there are certain professions that are more likely to continue through generations.

“In terms of the students that I’ve worked with over the years, I’d say medicine is probably a pretty popular one. Teaching (as well) although sometimes I will say, you know, teaching is a hard profession—I mean, a lot of professions are hard—(so) some parents try to steer their kids away from it just because they don’t necessarily want them to experience the same struggles that they have,” Stephan said.

Along those lines, Wang said seeing her parents work has discouraged her from pursuing a food service career.

Wang said, “(At our family-owned restaurant), I saw how hard they worked and I kind of helped out too. That’s kind of why I don’t want to go into the food service industry because I know how hard it is, and I think seeing them work so hard kind of also impacted my

By the Numbers

65%

the percentage by which males are more likely to inherit their father’s job

26.7%

the percentage by which females are more likely to inherit their mother’s job

decision with what career I want to pursue.”

Freshman Mahitha Konjeti said she agreed with Wang and said she wants to pursue a different career from her parents.

“My parents are both software engineers in the tech space,” Konjeti said. “My dad works at home right now because it’s tech and it’s easy to do. I just see it and it’s incredibly boring just to look at it. The idea of spending (my) entire adult life working behind a computer coding and stuff is just incredibly boring to me and that’s just not something I want to do with my life.”

Stephan said exposure to a parent’s career can be informative for students in deciding what they want and don’t want in their professional life. However, she said parental influence on career choices can also be disadvantageous.

“When students have such a strong influence in a particular career because that’s what their parents do, they don’t always see what else is out there. There are literally new career fields being created daily that I think keeping an open mind could be one challenge when you have that heavy influence of, ‘This is what my parents do and I’m going to the same thing,’” Stephan said.

Likewise, Wang said she sometimes feels like she is unaware of other potential careers she could be interested in.

“A lot of times during school, the counselors will be like ‘Oh, you should look at a lot of different careers,’ but for me, I usually stick to anything business-related. And I feel like I do enjoy (business), so I’m slightly interested to look at other fields but also not really,” Wang said.

Regardless, Wang said her parents would support her decision if she wanted to go into a different field.



“My parents tell me, ‘You should pursue business,’ but (at the same time), they’re supportive of whatever I choose to do. I think mostly, it’s because they want me to enjoy what I do for the rest of my life,” Wang said. “They don’t want me to do something that they want me to do but I don’t enjoy and (being forced to) do that for the rest of my life and just (being) unhappy with it.”

On the other hand, Konjeti said her parents have tried to push her into pursuing certain careers.

“My parents have...given me the pressure to pursue a career in the medicine field, which is typically one that’s pushed, but they’ve also encouraged me to look into the (technology) field because it’s an easy way to make money that doesn’t require a lot of time,” Konjeti said. “I think (they encourage those careers) because of the financial stability and security (that comes with it) for your entire life basically, but that’s just not what I’m interested in and it’s not the way I feel like I can impact the most people.”

“*They’re not always easy conversations, but talk early and often about (what you want to do)*”

MELINDA STEPHAN

Stephan said she encourages students to have conversations with their parents about their career interests.

“Sometimes, it’s easy (for) parents to sort of brush off the dreams of their child because they want to do things that seem lofty and big or maybe popular,” Stephan said. “They’re not always easy conversations, but talk early and often about (what you want to do) and have a plan moving forward so that your parent knows, ‘Oh, they’re not just saying they want to do this; they really know how to get there.’”

Ultimately, Konjeti said she hopes students will pursue a career in what they’re truly interested in.

She said, “I don’t think your parents or society should really impact what you want to do and

what your skills are and what your habits and talents are. I think it’s really just understanding what you want to do with your life and not taking in the societal pressures or parental pressures. I don’t think you’ll be happy if you don’t do what you love.” ^A



Next in Line

Learn more about occupational inheritance.

A common phenomena in recent times is the “inheritance” of careers from parent to child.

Most inherited jobs in “times as likely”

MALE

Textile Operator	415x
Boilermaker	275x
Paralegals	191x
Door-to-door sales	130x
Railroad Conductor	94x

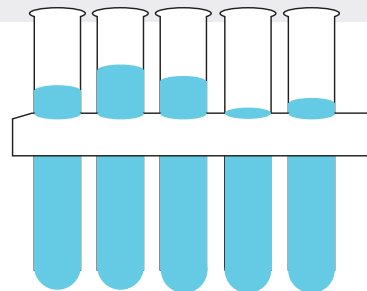
Most inherited jobs in “times as likely”

FEMALE

Fisher	362x
Military Officer	281x
Lab Tech	126x
Librarian	106x
Doctors	19x

More educated parents are more likely to have influence on their child’s career choice, as well as have the resources to better help their child obtain that career.

SOURCE RETHINKECONOMICS, NYTIMES
GRAPHIC MOODY HOMSI



On Jan 31, 1993 Michael Jackson performed during the halftime show for the Superbowl XXVII. It took place at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. The teams competing were the Dallas Cowboys and the Buffalo Bills. Cowboys won the game 52-17 but that wasn't the true highlight of the Superbowl that year. MJ's performance was.

Performing some of his top hits such as "Jam", "Billie Jean", "Black or White", and "We Are the World" the crowd went wild. Some viewers completely skipped the game and only tuned in for his performance.

MJ performed the halftime show wearing his signature military jacket with gold bullet looking sashes across his chest. Including his shades and gold belt he hold the title of one of the best halftime performers in history.

1993 Superbowl Halftime Show



Michael's Mom

GRAPHIC CAROLINE JUST
SOURCES THE ROOT, BILLBOARD,
ROLLING STONE

Released Nov 30, 1982, "**Thriller**" took over not only the nation, but the world. Winning eight Grammys and breaking records, "**Thriller**" is the best selling album of all time. The album having more than 100 million worldwide sales.



1982

s Fashion ments

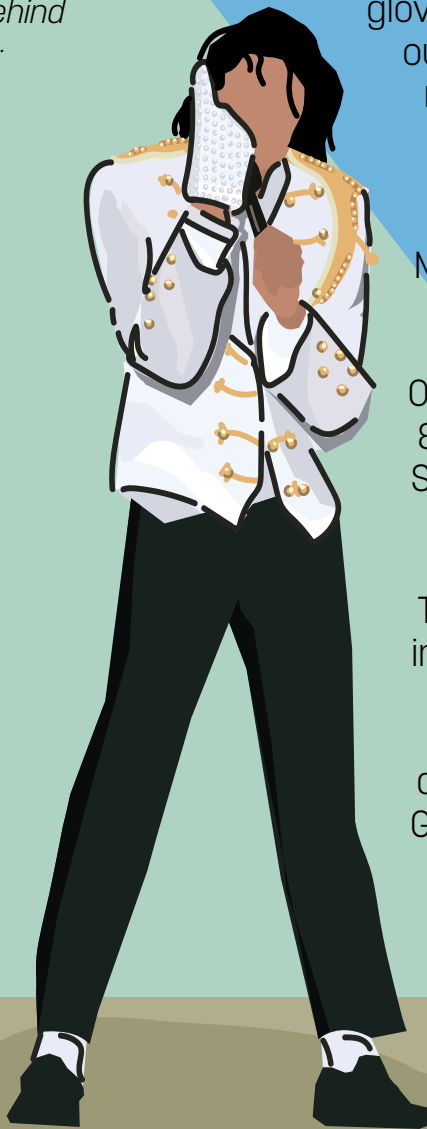
View Michael Jackson's most famous costumes, history behind them.



When the "Thriller" music video was released audiences got to put an image to the song.

Michael wore the classic red/orange tracksuit with black detailing. The Halloween spirit got a whole new meaning when MJ created the spooky song sensation.

Thriller



MJ was always game for a costume that sparkled like a chandelier and made audiences gape. During the HIStory tour of 1996 Jackson showed off not only a white and gold studded jacket, but his soon to be famous staple sequin glove as well. Wearing the glove on only one hand, MJ's outfits were thought of as never to be compared to another performer.

The HIStory World Tour was Michael's third and final solo tour across the world. MJ traveled through Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania, and North America. With 82 concerts the tour lasted from September of 1996 till October of 1997.

The tour debuted at Letna Park in Prague and had over 125,000 people in attendance. The second leg of the tour started at the Weserstadion in Bremen, Germany. The set list had songs added due to MJ releasing his "Blood on the Dance Floor: HIStory in the Mix" album.

1996 HIStory Tour

