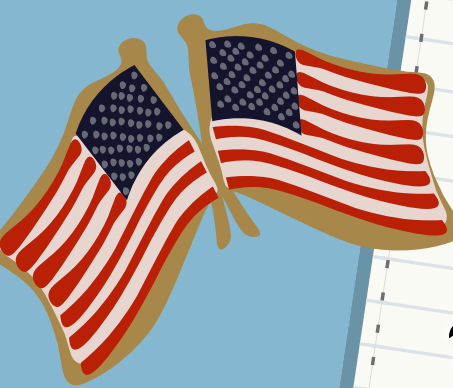
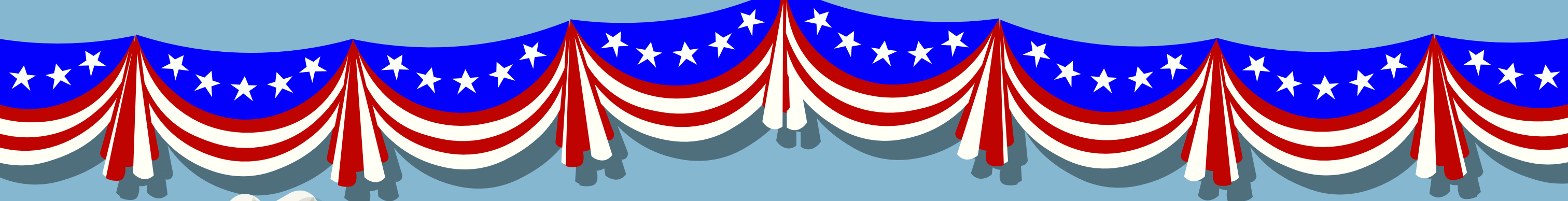


**BORN  
IN THE  
U.S.A.**

*VOL. XX  
ISSUE III  
05.14*





# Dear Reader,

Misunderstandings, misrepresentations, and misinterpretations. In today's day and age, these phenomena continue to prevail, especially within one of the most creative and empowering human activities: the creation of art. With the ability of art to provide poignant commentary on the experiences of humans—from everyday interactions to global issues—artists maintain a raw, vulnerable connection to those who indulge in their work. Portraying the plight, sorrows, joy, and more of the human experience, art truly portrays the complexity of the human experience.

Amongst other pieces of art, Bruce Springsteen's 1984 album "Born in the U.S.A." highlights the complexity of the American dream, amidst the struggles veterans faced after the Vietnam War. Though this album has been misunderstood for many years, in this issue we highlight this complexity with pieces focused on patriotism, political dissent, immigration, and more. Ultimately, we hope this issue inspires you to seek out the complexity in the art around you, while using your voice to amplify the stories of those around you.

*Tsion Daniel: Editor-in-Chief*

BECOMING THE BOSS	4
NON-CITIZEN VOTING	6
MILITARY RECRUITMENT	7
CARICATURES OF AMERICA	8
LIVING AWAY FROM THE USA	10
AMERICAN NIGHTMARE	12
AMERICAN DREAM	13
THE U.S. BUDGET	14
UNITING EVENTS	16
PATRIOTIC PRESSURE	18
TEAM USA	20

### WORDS

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- Lorna Ding
- Matthew Du
- Maryam Hafeez
- Addie Jacobsen
- Saahas Kandru
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# BECOMING THE BOSS

Learn more about Bruce Springsteen's early career, achievements

GRAPHICS TSION DANIEL, MARISSA FINNEY, RILEY LAFERRIERE

SOURCES ALLMUSIC, BRITANNICA, HISTORY

CLICK ON EACH BUTTON IN TIMELINE FOR MORE INFORMATION

# ASBURY PARK

SEPTEMBER 23, 1949

Bruce Springsteen is born in Long Branch, New Jersey

JANUARY 5, 1973

"Greetings from Asbury Park, N.J." is released with average sales but largely positive reviews

AUGUST 25, 1975

"Born to Run" is released, marking Springsteen's transition into an international superstar

MAY 23, 1978

The Darkness Tour of North America begins and several rock radio stations broadcast complete shows of the "Darkness on the Edge of Town" album

JUNE 4, 1984

Springsteen's seventh studio album "Born in the U.S.A." is released, becoming one of the best-selling albums of all time



FEBRUARY 1, 2009

Springsteen performs at the halftime show at Super Bowl XLIII

## A+ Awards

Take a look at awards Bruce Springsteen has won throughout his career

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Trophy (1999)

Peabody Award (2002)

Kennedy Center Honors (2009)

OFTA Film Award (2016)

VMA (1985, 1994)

Grammy (1985, 1988, 1995, 1997, 2003-2010)



Golden Globes, USA (1994, 2009)

Gold Derby Awards (2009)

Critics' Choice Documentary Awards (2019)

ASCAP Film and Television Music Awards (1995)

American Music Awards (1985, 1986)

20/20 Awards (2014)

Academy Awards, USA (1994)



# Noncitizen Voting

*U.S. permanent residents should be able to vote in local elections*

In the past few years, there has been a growing movement to allow non-citizens to vote in local elections. Many of the largest cities in the United States, such as New York City have recently passed legislation allowing non-citizens to vote. Although many starkly oppose the idea of non-citizen voting, I believe it is imperative for US permanent residents to be allowed to vote in local elections.

While permanent residents are not citizens, they still play a vital role in many communities across our nation, and many local initiatives and measures affect their daily lives. Many permanent residents' children go to public schools, visit public libraries, and utilize community resources. By not being able to vote in school board elections, city council races, local initiatives, referendums and electing the mayor silences the voices of many community members, and denies non-citizens the right to improve their communities. By allowing permanent residents to vote in these elections, we would be able to empower many to fight for a change in their community.

For many Americans, the term "Taxation with representation" is synonymous with voting suffrage and played a vital role in the American Revolution and the framework of our constitution. Permanent residents pay taxes to their local municipalities and communities and deserve the right to vote for what they think is the best for their community and voice their opinions, which is a necessity in democracies.

Furthermore, the concept of non-citizen voting is not new and has seen success in countries such as Canada, Sweden and New Zealand. These countries



**Safin Khatri**  
Sports Beat Editor

GRAPHIC, ILLUSTRATION YICHEN LIU

showcase that allowing permanent residents to vote is a step in the right direction, and a step to a truer democracy, where everyone's voice and vote counts. By following in their footsteps, the United States can ensure a more inclusive and representative government.

However, many critics argue that being able to vote is an action that should be reserved for citizens, as they have taken an oath of allegiance to the United States. Although this is a valid opinion, it overlooks the fact that many permanent residents have

stakes and roots in local communities, and allowing non-citizens to vote in local elections does not grant them the right to vote in state or federal elections. Additionally, allowing non-citizens to vote sets the framework for being a citizen, and teaches and promotes the morals of the United States.

All in all, allowing permanent residents to vote in local elections will be a step in the right direction for local communities and democracies. Permanent residents have stakes in local communities and their voices deserve to be heard through voting, as it affects their everyday lives. Therefore, I believe that local communities should fully support non-citizen voting and embrace this idea to make it a reality across the nation. <sup>1</sup>

## By the Numbers

9.8%

of eligible voters are foreign born

23

MILLION immigrants were eligible to vote in the 2020 presidential election

SOURCE PEW RESEARCH CENTER



# Military Recruitment

*Reasons for joining military*

ILLUSTRATION YICHEN LIU

Military recruitment is a topic that has garnered much attention over the years. It is a process that involves the selection and enlistment of individuals into the armed forces of a country. People join the military for various reasons, some of which include a sense of patriotism, a desire for adventure, financial stability, and access to education and training.

One of the primary reasons people join the military is a sense of patriotism. Many individuals feel a sense of duty to serve their country and protect their fellow citizens. They view military service as a way to contribute to the greater good and make a positive impact on society. This sense of duty often drives individuals to enlist in the military and pursue a career in the armed forces.

Another reason people join the military is the opportunity for adventure. Military service can provide individuals with a chance to travel to different parts of the world and experience new cultures. It can also offer opportunities for individuals to participate in activities such as skydiving, scuba diving, and other extreme sports. These experiences can be highly attractive to individuals seeking excitement and adventure in their lives.



**Saahas Kandru**  
Entertainment Editor

SOURCE (below) CENTER FOR THE NATIONAL INTEREST

Financial stability is also a significant factor for many people considering military service. The military offers a steady salary, healthcare benefits, and retirement benefits. This can be especially attractive to individuals who come from low-income backgrounds or who are struggling to find employment in their civilian lives.

Access to education and training is another reason people join the military. The military offers a wide range of educational and training opportunities, including on-the-job training, college education, and technical training. This can be highly beneficial for individuals seeking to further their education or develop new skills.

While there are many reasons people join the military, it is important to note that military service is not for everyone. The demands of military life can be rigorous and challenging, requiring individuals to be physically fit, mentally strong, and emotionally resilient. It is essential for individuals to carefully consider their reasons for joining the military.

In conclusion, military recruitment is driven by a complex set of factors. Whether it is a sense of duty, a desire for camaraderie and belonging, job security, or the opportunity to travel and gain new experiences. <sup>2</sup>

By the Numbers

37%

of soldiers enlisted due to both institutional (family and duty) and occupational (professional development and stability) reasons

46%

of soldiers cited purely occupational reasons



# CARICATURES OF AMERICA

Learn about longest-running animated television series, longest-running U.S. scripted prime-time TV show in U.S. history, *The Simpsons*

GRAPHICS GRACE GUO SOURCE BBC, BRITANNICA, COLLIDER, FANDOM, FOX 29, INSIDER, NATIONAL REVIEW, NBC

## “Nuclear Family”

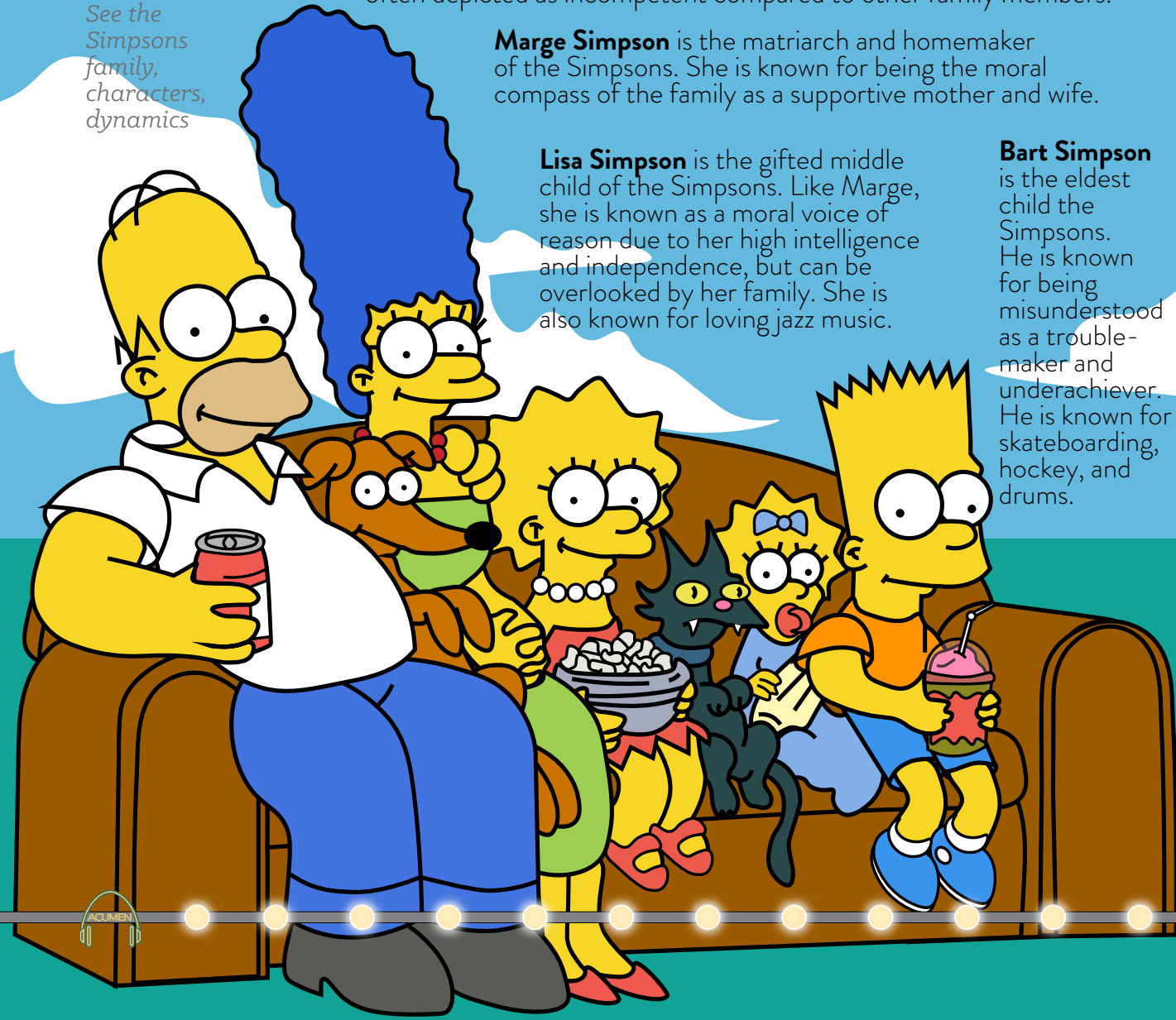
See the Simpsons family, characters, dynamics

**Homer Simpson** is the patriarch of the Simpsons and works as a nuclear power plant safety inspector. He is known for being overweight and for his love of unhealthy foods, such as donuts, beer and bacon. Homer is often depicted as incompetent compared to other family members.

**Marge Simpson** is the matriarch and homemaker of the Simpsons. She is known for being the moral compass of the family as a supportive mother and wife.

**Lisa Simpson** is the gifted middle child of the Simpsons. Like Marge, she is known as a moral voice of reason due to her high intelligence and independence, but can be overlooked by her family. She is also known for loving jazz music.

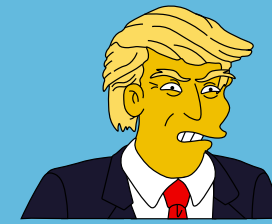
**Bart Simpson** is the eldest child the Simpsons. He is known for being misunderstood as a trouble-maker and underachiever. He is known for skateboarding, hockey, and drums.



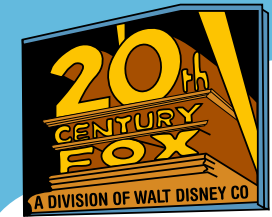
## Back to the Future

*The Simpsons* is sometimes thought to predict the future, see predictions that came true

**Season 4, Episode 21 (1993):** a truck releases a swarm of “killer bees,” compared to the **Asian Giant Hornet** that became a threat to bee populations in 2020.



**Season 11, Episode 17 (2000):** Bart sees the future as Lisa succeeds Donald Trump as president. Trump was elected president in 2016.



**Season 10, Episode 5 (1997):** a sign outside 20th Century Fox shows the acquisition of the company by Disney, which would occur in 2019.

## Springfield, U.S.A

Learn about setting of *The Simpsons*



*The Simpsons* is set in the fictional town of Springfield, designed to be a generic American town. Springfield includes a nuclear power plant, multiple elementary schools, a minor league all-star baseball team, an airport, a harbor and multiple ethnic enclaves.

## Speak Up!

What comes to mind when you think about the portrayal of Americans in media?



“Something that comes to mind is the idea of the American high school, and how that’s romanticized in entertainment, or that’s the impression of what America is.”

JUNIOR RYUNE KONO



“I think of how they’re very much the center of attention wherever they go. They tend to be the game-changer, portrayed as very bold, confident, strong—they tend to be associated with power.”

SENIOR JOCELYN YANG

SPEAK UPS CLAIRE HE

## The Longest Running...

See history of *The Simpsons* on television

*The Simpsons*, created by Matt Groening, begins as a cartoon short on the *Tracey Ullman Show*.

*The Simpsons* debuts as a thirty-minute Christmas special.

*The Simpsons* begins airing regularly.

*The Simpsons* surpasses *The Flintstones* and becomes the longest running prime-time animated series in television history.

*The Simpsons Movie* is released.

1987

Dec. 17, 1989

January 1990

1997

July 2007

BORN | 05.14 | 09

# LIVING AWAY FROM THE USA

Students, media assistant share experiences living outside the United States

WORDS LORNA DING PHOTO SUBMITTED

“Are you British?” is one of the first questions people ask junior Anshika Saxena when they hear her speak. Saxena said she was born in England and moved to America when she was seven years old.

She said, “(People are) like, ‘Oh my god, where are you originally from?’ All my friends know me as the Brit, and even if they don’t know me, they’re like, ‘Oh, who’s that British girl?’ It doesn’t bother me; I think it’s cool. People notice that I’m not fully American.”

These questions posed to Saxena represent the growing foreign-born population in America. According to the Pew Research Center, the U.S. foreign-born population reached a record high of 44.8 million in 2018. In addition, the U.S. Department of State estimated that the number of Americans living overseas was around 9 million in 2020. Taken together, these statistics reflect the increase in people like Saxena who have lived outside the United States.

Saxena said that a change in country of residence comes with many cultural adjustments.

“(My initial impression was that) everything is really big,” she said. “I still remember (in) third grade, we first went out to the playground and I was like, ‘Oh my gosh, this is huge. What is this?’ I just felt really small because everything was so big.”

“Everything here is also called different things,” she added. “Instead of ‘playtime,’ it’s ‘recess.’ Instead of ‘pavement,’ it’s ‘sidewalk.’”

Media assistant Hannah Barbato said she agreed with Saxena.

Junior Chaz Chapman (left) poses for a selfie with his friend in China. Chapman said they were unable to meet in-person due to COVID restrictions. He said, “This was the first day after over two months that I saw any of my friends in-person and left my apartment complex.”

Barbato, originally from Scotland, immigrated to America when she was 23 years old after falling in love with her American husband.

“My own personal experience is that people are friendlier here but it (feels) fake,” Barbato said. “People in stores won’t leave you alone while you’re shopping whereas in Britain, if you’re shopping for clothing or whatever, no one’s going to say, ‘Hey, can I get you something to go with that?’ I felt like here it was like, ‘Do you want some socks?’ and I (would be) like, ‘Just leave me alone.’”

“(So, it’s) more intrusive (here) but people are definitely friendlier,” she added. “You wouldn’t have people in (Britain) ask a random person, ‘How’s your day going?’ and I really like that about here.”

The adjustments to these differences, Barbato said, was hard. Eventually, with time, Barbato said she got used to the American way of life.

She said, “When I first moved here, it was about two years before I could talk about Scotland before crying. It was like a death. I was so homesick that it was like somebody had died, but now I’m fine.”

While junior Chaz Chapman’s situation is somewhat different from that of Barbato and Saxena’s, he said he also experienced hardships with adjusting to a different culture. Chapman lived in Shanghai, China for 15 years and moved back to the U.S. in 2022 due to China’s COVID-19 restrictions.

“Despite having technically more freedom here, I felt more restricted because I had to rely on my mom for me to go anywhere. In Shanghai, I could just

## american differences

Take a look at differences of certain aspects in American culture compared to the world

### Backwards Dates

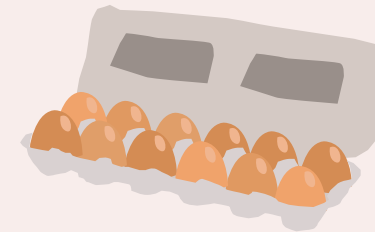
World:  
DD/MM/YEAR

United States:  
MM/DD/YEAR

### Eggs

World:  
Unrefrigerated eggs

United States:  
Refrigerated eggs



### Time

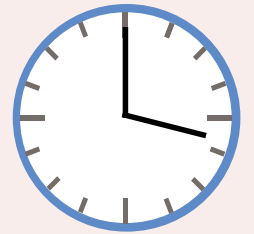
World:  
24 hour clock

United States:  
Two sets of 12 hours, A.M. and P.M.

### Dinner Time

European countries:  
8 P.M.

United States:  
6:22 P.M. on average



KENT FUJITA GRAPHIC SOURCE  
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

walk and use public transit to go anywhere and I was basically allowed to do that,” he said. “I’m still not fully adjusted (to American society); I haven’t learned how to drive yet.”

“Sometimes my parents will say that I’m Chinese,” he added. “In China, you can just ask someone how much (money) something is. Here, you aren’t really supposed to ask, ‘Oh, how much did you buy that for?’ I never thought that was rude until my parents were like, ‘You shouldn’t ask in America things like that.’”

On the other hand, for Saxena, she said her transition to American society has been smooth since she moved at a young age.

“I can’t really say much about cultural differences because I was seven when I moved, so I haven’t really had any trouble with adjusting,” she said.

Despite having a smooth transition overall, Saxena said her accent has sometimes been a communication barrier.

She said, “I don’t know if it’s because of my accent, but every time I go to a restaurant and I ask for a glass of water, no one can understand me. I think it’s so funny because how are they supposed to know? (My accent) is different. So, I will do the whole, ‘Oh yeah, can I have a glass of water? (American accent)’ It’s not that big of a deal. I’m personally not the type of person to get offended if someone can’t understand me.”

Along those lines, Barbato said people often cannot understand what she is saying due to her accent.

“My coworkers still (cannot understand what I’m saying). My boss—she’ll smile and nod sometimes, and I’m like, ‘You didn’t get what I just said,’ and she’s like ‘No,’” Barbato said. “That’s usually on me because if I’m just talking normally, it’s fine, but if

## By the Numbers

# 13%

of Carmel residents from 2017-2021 were foreign-born

# 44.8

MILLION people in the United States population in 2018 were foreign-born

SOURCES  
CENSUS.GOV,  
PEW RESEARCH  
CENTER

I get really excited about something, I’ll talk really fast and then it’s understandable that they can’t.”

Like Saxena, Barbato said she does not get offended by people not understanding her. However, she said she is bothered when people mistake her nationality.

“I did get a little tired of, ‘Your accent! Where are you from?’ I still get it a lot,” she said. “What I do get irritated by is people assuming I’m from somewhere that I’m not. (If they don’t ask), ‘Where are you from?’ and (if) they don’t get Scottish, they always go, ‘Irish?’ I’m like, ‘Nope,’ and then they don’t believe me. They’re insistent that I’m Irish.”

“(St. Patrick’s Day) is my least favorite day of the year,” she added. “People won’t believe that I’m not Irish. They say (I’m) Irish because of (my red) hair but Scotland is also known for red hair.”

For Chapman, he said his Mandarin accent is becoming Americanized.

“My accent is so much more American now (because) I don’t listen to Chinese or speak Chinese on a daily basis,” Chapman said. “The other day I was working on Chinese homework, and I was reading stuff out loud and I was struggling to say some of the words correctly when I used to never struggle to say those things correctly.”

Ultimately, Chapman, Barbato and Saxena said they enjoy living in America while remaining connected with the culture of the country they lived in.

Barbato said, “I’m—for the record—not an American citizen. I’ve been eligible for 18 years and I haven’t taken (the chance). I like being British, and I know that sounds so silly, but I don’t want to identify as anything other than British. I don’t think I would ever call myself American. I call both places home, but I’m British.”



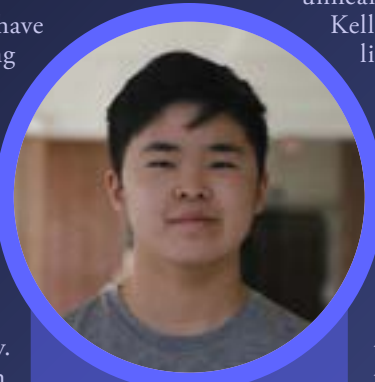
# AMERICAN NIGHTMARE

Concept of "American Dream" is false, benefits already wealthy people

The "American Dream," where you come from nothing, but you pull yourself up by the bootstraps and you work hard, then you become rich and happy. Everyone has an equal opportunity for success and it sounds great, right? Well, the United States is by far not the worst place to be. That being said, the American Dream is absolutely not true, and could actually be harmful in some cases.

First, Americans born in poverty have very little chance to rise above. According to NPR, the amount of children earning more than their parents has severely declined. Roughly 90% in the 1970s has declined to 50% in the 2010s. Not only this, but the increasing wage gap and the fact that 4% of working families are still in poverty only further proves that hard work is not proportional to wealth. The American poverty trap is very real, which is institutionalized in the economy. Take "trickle-down economics," in which it actually justifies more tax cuts for the wealthy. By creating more jobs, they are entitled to more tax cuts by the government, which does not promote proportional spending or equal investments for the workers. This superficially seems to be a win-win situation, in which more jobs are created and people make more money. By taking a deeper dive, we can see that this only benefits the millionaires and billionaires profiting off the businesses.

Our current billionaires like Elon Musk and Mark Zuckerberg were born wealthy. Elon Musk's parents were by no means poor, as his father was an engineer and his mother was a nutritionist. Zuckerberg's father was a successful dentist, who gave Mark a \$100,000 loan to start Facebook. These billionaires we praise as "self-made" are not as they seem. Many are already wealthy, and simply had more opportunities to make more money because of their elevated status. We can see these billionaires and corporations



Matthew Du  
15 Minutes Editor

actively changing the scientific landscape. Take into account Tufts School of Nutrition Science, in which they made a compass of comparing Kellogg's cereals to others, in which they stated that "Frosted Mini-Wheats" were "to be encouraged" and that "chicken filet, grilled" was "to be moderated." The problem is that not only is this factually untrue and unhealthy, promoting the eating of sugary cereals, Kellogg's is also one of Tufts sponsors. Brands like Kellogg's are major funders behind food science, in which they can essentially extort nutrition science companies into saying that Kellogg's extremely sugary cereals are healthy, with the threat of pulling funding. These corporations and billionaires are not your friends, and will do nearly anything to keep making money. This is not only extremely harmful for both consumers, but also for the American economy as they actively lie to promote their own products. These lies cater to the interests of the top 1%, which only increases the pay of the top 1% at the expense of the health of the people they sell to. The billionaires are quite literally poisoning people to make money.

Not only this, but the American Dream also pushes the harmful stereotype of how poor people are lazy and if they put in hard work, they could be richer. While this may be true in a select few cases, until wages and employment opportunities increase, the American economic system is essentially rigged against the poor. It is nearly impossible for those in poverty to both battle inflation as well as lobbying to prevent the increases of wages. The corporations make more and more money while paying their workers as little as they can get away with while making the CEOs and shareholders richer. While this itself is a facet of capitalism, it is an undeniable fact that in the current American economy, the poor will almost always stay poor.

# AMERICAN DREAM

Junior Ana Mencias details experience of running business

Q&A ADDIE JACOBSEN PHOTO RAGHAV SRIRAM

## WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS?

I have a jewelry business, so I sell handmade items such as necklaces, earrings and bracelets.

## WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO START YOUR OWN BUSINESS?

So, originally the business was supposed to be based off of, like all the jewelry was supposed to be based off of characters from shows or movies that I liked because I had bought a pair of earrings that were based off of a character that I liked and they were super expensive, they cost like two weeks of work for me and so I, with my friend, we joked about like what if we made a business of characters that people liked, but ones that could be affordable jewelry, or at least not hundreds of dollars, so I just went through with it and I just started branching out from characters to regular jewelry.

## WHAT STRUGGLES HAVE YOU FOUND WITH STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS?

I think the biggest part would be marketing because that's really probably 80% of the business, and it was just a challenge to figure out what the best ways were to reach people and also customer service is a challenge because I'm an introvert so it can be really hard even like responding to people with questions, like I have to run through everything that I'm saying, I have to run it by my mom and my sister because I get really nervous and also like handling any problems from a customer can sometimes be a challenge just because I only communicate by messaging.

## DO YOU BELIEVE THERE IS STILL MORE TO ACHIEVE OR HAS THE "AMERICAN DREAM" BEEN ACHIEVED FOR YOURSELF?

Definitely more to achieve. There's so many different places I want to go to try and sell my stuff and new items that I want to create, and new people that I want to interact with.

Junior Ana Mencias works on her latest jewelry order. She said, "For this order, there are chains that wrap between each section and go down; chains are so difficult to work with... it's easy to break them."

## WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO PEOPLE TRYING TO START THEIR OWN BUSINESS?

I'd say give it time, no matter what don't lose hope because you're not getting attraction or it's just not going the direction you had expected it, you have to be very optimistic and sometimes that does leave a lot more room for disappointment but otherwise there's not as strong a motivation factor so you just have to give it time.



# Economic Egos

3 American leaders that had strong economic opinions

Jackson served as the seventh president of the United States from 1829-1837)

**Andrew Jackson (1767-1845)**



He was incredibly strict with federal funds and making sure the nation didn't obtain new debt

From 1835 to 1837, the USA was debt free for the first and only time in the nation's history because of Jackson's motivation and methods



**Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933)**

Coolidge was America's thirtieth president that served from 1923 to 1928

Coolidge managed to bring down the national debt from \$3.14 billion in 1923 to \$2.96 billion in 1928

By meeting with his budget bureau director and campaigning for lower spending in every area of government, he lowered the national debt

Hamilton acted as America's first secretary of the treasury from 1789 to 1795

He planned to get rid of national debt by making the government repay federal and state debt

He believed that if the government bought all the bonds before 1798 then the economy would become more balanced



**Alexander Hamilton (1757-1804)**

# Military Money

Ways US military spend budget money (based on the fiscal year of 2021)

**Military Personnel**

Focuses more on providing support for veterans through retirement benefits and housing if needed

Personnel spent about \$173 billion on veterans and support in 2021

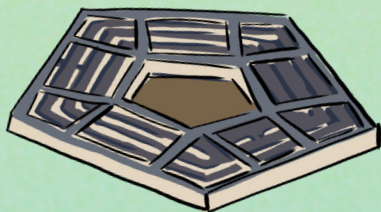


**Smaller Spending Areas**

\$141 billion was spent on procurement of weapons and systems

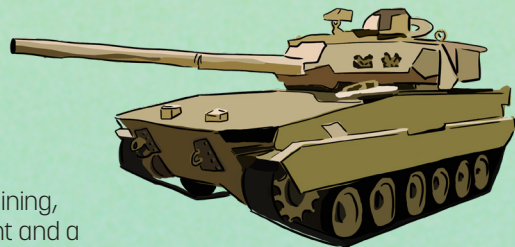
\$106 billion spent on research and development of weapons and equipment

The amount of \$10 billion was spent on construction and manafement of military facilities



Operations and maintenance was the largest category that money was put towards (\$286 billion)

Covers planning and training, maintenance of equipment and a majority of the healthcare system for the military



**Operation and Maintenance**

America's budget is split into three different sections. Mandatory, discretionary, and interest spending. Each category has equal importance.

Most money goes to Social Security and Medicare programs

\$1.5 trillion put towards mandatory spending in 2022

\$475 billion put towards interest spending in 2022 which is the highest it's ever been

Normally interest has the smaller budget compared to discretionary and mandatory funds but was higher in 2022 to combat inflation

Top 3 areas within discretionary spending are the military, education, and health

In 2022, Congress budgeted \$131.8 billion to discretionary funds



# The U.\$\$. Budget

Learn more about economic history, modern. budget of United States

CAROLINE JUST GRAPHIC

REDBULL, ACTIVE SOURCES

# Debt Increase

Read about three events that had major impacts on national debt in America

## 1920's: Great Depression



By 1933, America's national debt had risen to over \$22 billion

National debt was already high but when the stock market crashed in October of 1929, it plummeted even further

Bank failures, collapse of money supply, and high supply but low demand all threatened the economic stability of the USA

## 1940's: WW2

The estimate for America's spending throughout World War Two was about \$323 billion

Two third's of the \$323 billion spent were borrowed so as to not disrupt the economic climate of America any further

Almost all citizen's were effected by the expenses of World War Two through donating war bonds, creating victory gardens, or helping directly in the war effort by joining the military

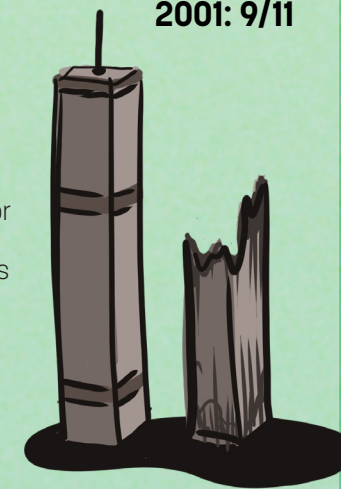


After the attack national security funds severely increased to combat the fear of future terrorist attacks and comfort American citizens

The attack created a major setback in the economic progress the United States was making in the early 2000's

A good portion of the funds was put towards rebuilding the power of the Pentagon and securing the facility

**2001: 9/11**





# Uniting Events

*Events, how they create unity, division in society*

WORDS ROYCE BROWN

ILLUSTRATION YICHEN LIU

In recent years, there have been many events that have created unification for the U.S, but also developed underlying themes of division as well. One of

these events, COVID-19, has been extraordinary for people born after the 9/11 crisis, since this is their first major global crisis of their lifetime that they can recall and have lived through. For junior Yianni Paikos, he said unification and division is a common theme in history.

“There really is no in-between,” Paikos said. “Society is usually either divided or unified. We see division, for example, during elections when different political views are expressed or when people hold different views on social norms.”

He said the most recent example of social division was the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The pandemic for sure caused division,” he said. “This is especially seen with the differing opinions on government mandates and policies. I remember there was a big problem with people wearing or not wearing masks, or people who supported vaccinations and people who didn’t.”

Junior Caleb Kim said division also occurred from the racist sentiments that came with the pandemic.

“An obvious effect of the pandemic was the increase in racism towards Asians,” he said. “A lot of people blamed Asians for the outbreak of the pandemic and continued to put blame on them as the illness spread. Asian hate really became a more heightened issue.”

However, COVID-19 is only one of the many events that have taken place which created division. In the case of history teacher Allison Hargrove, 9/11 was a major event which created both unification but ultimately division in the U.S.

“In my lifetime, the most obvious example would be Sept. 11, 2001,” she said. “I think that as an AP U.S. History teacher, one of the things that I have the ability to understand is that there are moments in history that collectivized groups in society. This certainly occurred on 9/11. Despite all of the political divisions that existed prior to that day, this was something where the nation came together, mourned together and grieved together.”

She said 9/11 brought many Americans together in the midst of the crisis.

“I always talk in my AP U.S History class about the period after 9/11 where there was a concern about France and their (lack of) support during the crisis,” she said. “So instead, when people would go out and order french fries, they would ask for ‘freedom fries’. So it created a sense of depending on ourselves, that we are united in this fight, but at the same time it put us against the world. There was a sense of us versus everybody else.”

However, during this moment of unification, Hargrove said divisions within the U.S began to occur.

“Within the country of course, internal divisions developed,” she said. “People supporting the global efforts, people who didn’t support the global efforts. But also people who start becoming concerned about radicalized groups and what that could lead to at home. We look at minority groups, specifically Muslims, and how they became targeted because of the actions of a radical few.”

According to Paikos, the COVID-19 pandemic is significant because of how recently it took place.

“COVID-19 is important because it happened in our lifetime or our generation,” he said. “You look at other events in the past like 9/11 which created unification or division, and you can’t really relate to it because obviously we weren’t alive then. But COVID-19 is something we still remember really well.”

Kim said 9/11 and COVID-19 are similar in some ways.

“Although the actual events that happened were very different, one being a terrorist attack and the other being an illness, some of the effects were similar,” he said. “For example, the government played a really big role in both events. For 9/11, airport security became more strict and during the pandemic, the vaccine and mask mandates were passed by the government. There were of course some similarities in which minorities were discriminated against, with Muslims being the main

target during 9/11 and Asians being a target during the pandemic.”

Paikos said the pandemic created unity as well, even in the midst of division.

“The pandemic brought a lot of people together in different ways,” he said. “Look at Zoom for example. People needed ways to communicate outside of meetings face to face. This encouraged people to devise new ways of

communicating or better means of communication. People had to work together and improvise. And I think this changed society in a positive way.”

Hargrove said she agreed with Paikos. She said unification was a big theme during the crisis.

“(COVID-19) did create unity,” she said. “I think especially at the beginning when people were so scared and during lockdown when most people were willing to do that initially. It created a sense of unity, that we’re in this together and how we’re fighting against a common enemy, which in this case was an illness.”

However, she also emphasized the long term divisions that occurred from the pandemic.

“I think though, after the first wave and the lockdown, people started to challenge the information that was being given and started to really question the methodologies that the government were using,” Hargrove said. “People were scared so they trusted the scientists and when things didn’t exactly turn out as initially anticipated, people started to scatter and all sorts of conspiracy theories emerged. Many people clung to the science and the government response while others resented it. And so there was an initial sense of unity that we saw, but at the same time it created a deeper sense of distrust for the government to some people.”

Paikos said major events always have negative and positive consequences. However, he said it’s important to understand historical events in an objective way.

“Many crises in history are similar to a coin, where there’s a heads and tails,” Paikos said. “There are both sides to them, whether they are positive or negative, or cause unity or division. What I think is important though, is to analyze the event objectively and see the negatives or positives without bias. If you look at history this way, things become more clear and you get a better understanding of what really happened.”

## Effects of 9/11

*Take a look at short-term, long-term effects of 9/11*

### Short-Term Effects

- Travel stocks fell
- Unemployment rates increased
- Stress



### Long-Term Effects

Significant minorities are less willing to...

- Take flights
- Go into skyscrapers
- Travel overseas
- Attend mass events



GRAPHIC SIRI BYRISETTY  
SOURCE BROOKINGS



# PATRIOTIC PRESSURE

Students, teacher discuss meaning, traditions of patriotism

WORDS MARYAM HAFEZ, JILLIAN MOORE

Many Hoosiers will tell you Indiana is a patriotic state—at least in comparison to those of the East and West coasts. We're the only state with a city named Patriot, after all, and Indianapolis devotes more acreage than any other U.S. city to honoring the fallen. However, when measured along the criteria of military and civic engagement, we fall short. Indiana was ranked a shocking 44th most patriotic in a 2022 study that cited metrics like voter participation, trial- and grand- jury participation, civil volunteerism, completion of the U.S. history education requirement, military enlistment (broken down into subsets), and more.

For John Carter, U.S. history and AP Comparative Government and Politics teacher, the amount of students saying the Pledge of Allegiance has, in his own words, “decreased dramatically” within the last three or four years, a change which he attributes at least partially to cell phone culture and the pandemic. However, he said this might not directly correlate with patriotism in all demographics.

“Ironically, I’ve probably seen a few more international students saying the Pledge or at least standing for it than even American students,” he said.

Although 13.6% of the U.S. population is foreign born, according to the most recent data from the Migration Policy Institute, only 5.6% of Hoosiers are. The gap only widens for second generation immigrants, with 25.9% of the U.S. population under 18 having one or more foreign-born parents and only 11.7% of Hoosiers under 18 having one or more foreign-born parents.

Sophomore Vincent Gao, who immigrated to the U.S. as a young child, said he identifies as patriotic.

“To me, patriotism means being devoted or showing love to one’s country. I would describe myself as patriotic as I love, care, and am devoted to my country. I enjoyed the times and memories I’ve had throughout the years as they brought many joys to my life.” he said.

*“To me, patriotism means being devoted or showing love to one’s country. I would describe myself as patriotic as I love, care, and am devoted to my country.”*

SOPHOMORE VINCENT GAO

Carter said nationalism is typically stronger at private schools and small, rural schools, citing his own experiences at a rural elementary school that released red, white and blue balloons on Memorial Day and played patriotic songs.

“Carmel, (for) a large school, actually has a lot of nationalistic practices, surprisingly. It tends to be larger, urban schools that I would assume have less,” he said. “A lot of schools around the nation don’t say the Pledge of Allegiance anymore and there’s even some schools that have quit playing the national anthem at sporting events, which is something we still do at all our events.”

Senior Celia Watson, who identifies as an expat having lived outside of the U.S. for most of her life, said that such practices can be detrimental for immigrants and expats.

“Due to the pressures that specifically American society puts on those who live in the country, there is a certain ideal that the general public needs everyone to adhere to which isn’t achievable for most people, especially immigrants or expats,” she said. “I think one of the most obvious examples is celebration of non-traditional holidays that aren’t necessarily American - a lot of people see this as something strange or not normal when it should be embraced for as many cultures as possible.”

Watson said she has struggled with not feeling “American” enough as a result.

“I used to struggle with it a lot more when I was younger, but as I’ve matured, I found ways to make sure that I’m able to adhere to the kind of person I want to be regardless of what other people expect me to be. That’s not to say that it wasn’t a huge issue - it has definitely created the person I am for better and for worse.” she said.

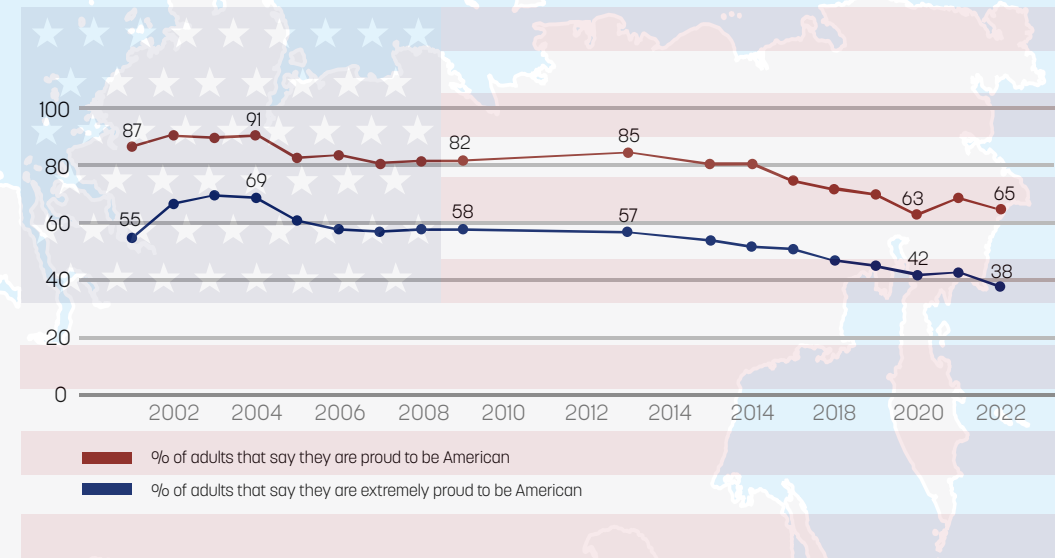
Unlike Watson, Gao said he has not faced many of the struggles that often affect immigrants and expats.

“Throughout my 10 years in the U.S. I have never experienced discrimination from friends, classmates, peers, or strangers. I feel no pressure to express the norms of American culture as I don’t focus on this

## PATRIOTIC DECLINES

Take a look at this graph to learn more about American patriotism over the past decade

GRAPHIC ROMAN GRALAK  
SOURCES CNN, GALLUP



point and live every day normally,” he said. “I feel connected to the culture, like I myself am American. I consider myself an American having spent the majority of my life living here has greatly impacted and changed my life to shape who I am today.”

Carter said he agreed/disagreed, stating while the word “patriotic” is politicized, actual patriotic sentiment and pride for the country is still strong.

“I think politics has killed the idea of patriotism. It’s been turned to more right-wing rhetoric. So, I think a lot of people don’t identify as patriotic anymore even though they still have a strong affinity for the United States or to be an American citizen,” he said. “With the recent rise in extreme populism on both the left and right, there’s a lot of tension around the idea of American nationalism, particularly using terms like patriotism.”

Watson agreed with Carter’s assessment and stated that she would not describe herself as patriotic.

“(Patriotism) often gets a negative connotation in the media, and for good reason. To me, in the best case scenario, it describes someone who is willing to put in the work to make their country something that they are proud of, and in its worst case scenario, it describes someone who is so blinded by an imperfect reality that they can’t see the system with any flaws, which I think is negative,” she said. “I would not (describe myself as patriotic), mainly because I think that leads to an association of an overly American stereotype that I don’t consider myself a part of. I also think that if someone describes themselves as that it often is for more selfish reasons just due to the connotation of the word in today’s status quo.”

Referencing his experiences working with refugee placement groups in Lexington, Kentucky, Carter said one’s status as an immigrant, and even language barriers, aren’t indicative that a person will be less patriotic. He said applying patriotism to a more global context is necessary to understand

By the Numbers

32%

of Americans believe national identity is strongly tied to birthplace

45%

of Americans believe sharing national customs and traditions is very important for being truly “American”

SOURCE PEW RESEARCH CENTER

the complex relationships students have with their cultural identities.

“I travel quite a bit, and when I hear the national anthem or if I’m at a national celebration, I try to show respect for it even though it’s not my nationality or my country. I may not not necessarily participate but I at least try to be respectful. And I think most students are (respectful),” he said. “We do say the Pledge everyday with a lot of students who don’t have American citizenship.”

According to Gao, coming from an immigrant background can lead to many differences in nearly all aspects of one’s life.

“Something that would differ from someone who was born here would be cultural differences, family customs, manners, greetings, and the people you surround yourself with which may depend on race, gender, culture, religion, etc.” he said.

Discussing his background growing up in an American military family, Carter said traditionally patriotic actions can be perceived very differently by first generation and second generation immigrants.

“Someone in every generation of my family has served in a war for the United States. From that lineage, I was brought up with a strong patriotism. I remember watching football games on TV, or baseball games, and my grandpa making me stand for the national anthem or the Pledge,” he said. “For people who have been shunned or disserved by the system, or even faced prejudice from the system, I think it would be a very different reaction.”

Gao said he takes steps to balance both aspects of his identity, being an immigrant and being American.

“I’d say trying to balance the two sides may be challenging for others, but I myself have balanced by expressing my actions both as an immigrant and an American to show my true emotions and feelings towards my identity and the importance it reflects on my life.” he said.



# TEAM USA

*Q&A with runner, senior Kole Mathison on representing Team USA*

Q&A DARIUSH KHURRAM PHOTO SUBMITTED ILLUSTRATION TSION DANIEL

**Can you explain the process of how were able to represent the United States internationally?**

*I found out about the event through my athletic trainer. He has worked with Team USA and gone to world athletics events with them. He told me that there was going to be a huge U20 qualifying race in January and that if I finished in the top however many places I'd be able to represent Team USA on the world stage.*

**What kind of training went into this experience?**

*I was mainly just doing mileage for the most part because my coach didn't want me to overextend myself because it had been a long season, but I got in a couple tempo runs before the qualifying race. I knew I had an aerobic base and had a little bit of strength to hold on throughout the race, but I knew I was not going to be able to close super well. My goal was just to go out hard and stay with the lead pack, and it worked out pretty well. I definitely fell off a little towards the end but did just enough to qualify for the team.*

**After all that training, how did it feel finally putting on that USA kit, and how did it feel representing your nation at a global scale?**

*Like I said, it's the highest honor you can have, and it's just a super cool opportunity. It's something special, and it was pretty surreal. I mean it still has not set in that I represented my own country. That's a dream that I've had ever since I started running, and the next goal after this is definitely to hopefully wear the Team USA singlet for the Olympics or World Championships in track.*

**What sort of challenges did you face?**

*I definitely faced some obstacles on the mental side of things; going for that long and extending my season definitely took a mental toll. It's hard to keep going at that high of a level and training as hard as you can to be the best you can for that moment. It was definitely tough, but I had a lot of great support around me with my family, friends and coaches. That definitely helped me getting through all of that and preparing physically, as well in terms of training and all that.*

**Is there anything else that you think readers should know?**

*God is a huge part of my life and a huge part of my running career. Thanks be to Him for all the opportunities that I've been able to experience through running and the people He has surrounded me with and the friends and teammates that I have coaches, trainers and everybody that supported me in my running career. Thanks be to God.*



