

Spring 2022

FEBRUARY 9

VOLUME 24

issue #7



THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CURRENT

VALENTINE'S DAY

Chex Mix

46

THE POWER OF THE DOG *Review*

22

REMEMBERING BETTY WHITE & BOB SAGET

16

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

6-15

"I'm no longer
accepting the things
I cannot change
I'm changing the
things I cannot accept"



Preview

44

EDITOR
Dustin Durham

**MANAGING
EDITOR**
Dustin Durham

STAFF
Joe Barberi
Davon Brown
Jordan Leroy
Jaizier St.Hilaire
Melissa Tee

ADVISOR
Kevin Amenta

.....
The Current is the official
student publication
of Three Rivers
Community College.

/
It is written,
edited, and designed
solely by students.

.....
If you would like
to contribute to
The Current

/
Please email submissions,
responses, and ideas to:

trccnewspaper@gmail.com
or
kamenta@threerivers.edu

Front Cover Photo Courtesy: Davon Brown
Back Cover Photo Courtesy: NPR

COMMUNITY

.....
4 The Gold Star Bridge
Not shining as it used to

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

.....
6 Black History Month
Why it's important

8 Black Lives Matter
It's importance then, now, & later

12 The Civil Rights Movement
A not-so-distant history

14 In Memoriam
Influential passings

ENTERTAINMENT

.....
16 Our Family in Hollywood
Two Hollywood icons

18 Escape From Tarkov
Video game review

20 Station Eleven
Thoughts on the new series

22 The Power of the Dog
Spoiler-Free movie review

EDITORIAL

.....
24 Valentine's Day
Yay or Nay?

TECH

.....
28 The Cost of GPU's
What are you willing to pay?

30 What the Heck is Neuralink?
How it will change the world

32 Playstation VR2
As announced by Sony

36 Microsoft Buying Activision
What does it mean?

EDUCATIONAL

.....
38 New Planet, who's this?
Big plans for the red planet

40 Chinese New Year
The history of Chinese New Year

SPORTS

.....
42 Sports Betting
The new addiction

44 Super Bowl LVI Preview
When, where, & who

RECIPES

.....
46 Valentine's Day Chex Mix
Seasonal recipe

THE GOLD STAR BRIDGE

NOT SHINING AS IT USED TO, YET

Story and photos by Jaizier St.Hilaire



The Gold Star Bridge, the largest bridge in Connecticut, is in a not-so-good condition when referring to the northbound side. The bridge is considered safe for cars to pass through; however, oversized, heavy-loaded vehicles like dump trucks are restricted to enter.

"It is beyond time to address the structural deficiencies, for sure," said Priti Bhardwaj, a lead supervising engineer working on a project with the Connecticut Department of Transportation. The bridge's condition is so poor that it was rated a 4 out of 9.

Why is the northbound bridge now considered to be in poor condition? The Gold Star bridge's materials have, in layman's terms, outlived its purpose. The bridge is about 80 years old with materials from 1943.

Most of the repair process will happen underneath "reinforcing and or strengthening it with plating," according to Bart Sweeney, who is the transportation and division chief for that section of the bridge.

The process to do this is not an easy one. The strengthening of this bridge is set to be a multi-year, multi-phase project, costing about \$300M. The first two phases will address the needs and strengthening of the bridge and address the conditions. According to Sweeney, the first phase will start this Spring and will alone take about 3 years to complete.

The second phase will begin in 2025 and will focus on the approach span and girders (support beams) on either side of the bridge.

Finally, phase 3 will work on the deck (the road) of the bridge.

The project is set to be completed by 2030. Both Bhardwaj and Sweeney say that drivers won't notice a physical difference.

"It is beyond time to address the structural deficiencies, for sure."

-Priti Bhardwaj

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH
WHY IT'S IMPORTANT**

By Dustin Durham

A celebration of Black success and leadership was created in 1916 by Black historian Carter G. Woodson, often referred to as the “Father of.” Woodson is known for his dedication and triumphant success in recognizing the accomplishments and historic contributions of Black leaders.

Now established as a month of celebration and notoriety for the Black community, February is Black History Month, and is owed to Woodson. On campuses all over the United States, Black History Month is known for putting a spotlight on Black culture and the successful Black men and women who have made an impact on the world.

Woodson passionately believed Black people should be proud of their heritage and all Americans should understand the high percentage of immensely overlooked achievements of Black Americans within society. Woodson wanted the study of Black history and the accomplishments of Black people to be highlighted and appreciated within academia as well as widely recognized within American society.

In a combined effort with The Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Woodson started Negro History Week. 50 years later during the civil rights movement, student groups on college campuses around the US would petition that week be expanded to a month. Finally, in 1976, roughly 60 years after it was started, a sitting president by the name of Gerald Ford would formally acknowledge Black History Month for the first time.



March on Washington 1963. Photo Courtesy: Library of Congress

February is important because Black history is American history. Furthermore, the celebration is important because there is a sizable span of time when black history was ignored. It is important that we look at Black history in all of its forms, from representation, identity, and diversity to inventors, thespians, and global pioneers in cultural equality.

Names such as Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., or Nelson Mandela do not just resonate with society because of their success as Black people, they resonate because regardless of the color of our skin, we acknowledge a universal story of triumph, social justice, perseverance, and achievement in fighting racism as human nature.



BLACK LIVES MATTER

All photos by Davon Brown.
Hartford, CT. BLM Protest. 2020

ITS IMPORTANCE THEN, NOW, & LATER

Story and photos by Davon Brown

This is precisely the void that BLM fills, as Americans are talking about Black Americans a lot more today.

However, at this point and after so many fights and losses, is just talking good enough?

Over and over again the Black community has had to have protests, rallies, and speeches, when the community has reached yet another breaking point.

This happened two years ago this upcoming summer, back in 2020 in the middle of a pandemic. The community took to the streets after George Floyd was brutally murdered by the knee of a police officer, forced on his neck.



The Black Lives Matter phrase, hashtag, and slogan, as stated on the foundations website, “is a global organization ... whose mission is to eradicate white supremacy....” The point of the BLM movement is to give the Black community a voice in regard to fair trials, justification and punishment for wrongful arrests, or more often murders of those arrested, as well as all the other hate crimes and disregarding of the Black communities human rights.

In 1998, a third of a century after the 1964 Civil Rights Act was adopted, Nathan Glazer argued that, “this country has a special obligation to blacks that has not been fully discharged.” Twelve years later, in 2010, echoing the observations of esteemed Harvard colleague, William Julius Wilson, Glazer restated the problem more forcefully: “perhaps the strangest thing about Black America today is how little we talk about it.”



The community quickly organized rallies and protested in the streets, chanting things like, “no justice, no peace,” “say his name: George Floyd,” or “I can’t breathe,” one of the last things Floyd uttered before being murdered.

One heartbreaking photo from a protest in Hartford, CT back in 2020 of a first grader holding a sign “stop killing us,” sums up the emotion that spread through the country, and emphasizes when is enough—enough.

After decades of multiculturalism and diversity talk, the BLM huge and widespread reawakened movement in 2020, brought many non-Black Americans to the conclusion such things were preposterous.

Defending the officer, Derek Chauvin, by claiming that Floyd was on drugs or he had a heart problem, being the cause of death, was a widely spread narrative, defending police brutality and deafening the cries of the Black community. Also ignoring the fact of the lengthy video footage of Chauvin kneeling on his neck.

Sparking these conversations to the point of shutting down streets, was the only way, as it has always felt within the Black community, that the voices of the community be heard and acknowledged.

This movement as the many before it is important not just for the Black community today but for their generations to come down the line.

The fight for full equality for the Black community is far from being settled tomorrow, but as the strength of the Black ancestors who built this country shows, the Black community has the fight and strength to persevere, to accomplish equality for all minorities.



“I’m no longer accepting the things I cannot change, I’m changing the things I cannot accept.”

- Davon Brown

B

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

A NOT-SO-DISTANT HISTORY

By Melissa Tucker

We are all familiar with the civil rights movement, and the iconic images that mark it.

Photos such as, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s march on Washington, young Ruby Bridges walking to school amongst protesters, the Selma March, teenage Elizabeth Eckford of the Little Rock Nine, as well as many others.

What often comes as a shocking reminder to many is that these historical events occurred not that long ago. Because events are in our textbooks, it can easily be felt as though they might as well reside in a farther place in time altogether.

Almost all of the images from the civil rights movement are in black and white which is another factor that contributes to the sense that the movement is older than it really is.

In a world saturated in technicolor, the lack of color in images tends to distance us from the past.



Martin Luther King Jr. Photo Courtesy: BuzzFeed

Ruby Bridges walking into elementary school in Louisiana. Photo Courtesy: The Guardian



Take for example the images of Martin Luther King Jr. in color in comparison to the black and white images we are most familiar with. The color image instantly feels more real and recognizable.

Martin Luther King Jr. himself would only be 92 years old if he were alive today. To put that into context that's younger than Betty White was when she passed in 2021, and three years younger than the current queen of England. Martin Luther King Jr. was also born the same year as journalist and host Barbara Walters.



Elizabeth Eckford entering Little Rock High School in 1957. Photo Courtesy: NPR



Ruby Bridges today. Photo Courtesy: Wikipedia

Many prominent figures of the Civil Rights movement are still alive today and here to speak about their experiences. Ruby Bridges, who at 6 years old was the first African American child to attend and integrate an all-white elementary school in the south in the year 1960, is only 67 years old today.

Elizabeth Eckford of the Little Rock Nine, a group of African American students who first attended and integrated an all-white school in Little Rock, Arkansas, is now 80 years old today and still speaking about her traumatic experiences when she was 15.

With racial tensions and the Black Lives Matter Movement becoming a bigger issue in the world today, the civil rights movement is more relevant than ever. We can look to the activism of the past to influence the activism of today and the future.

"Don't follow the path. Go where there is no path and begin the trail"

- Ruby Bridges

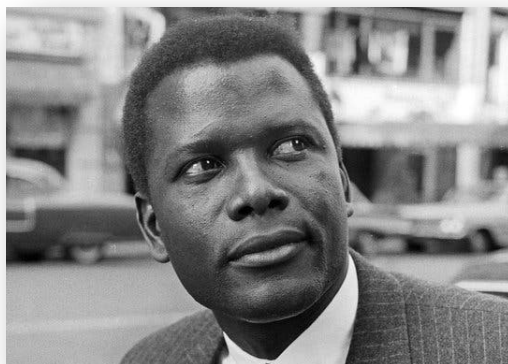
B

IN MEMORIAM

INFLUENTIAL *African Americans*
THAT HAVE PASSED

2021-2022

By Melissa Tucker



Sidney Poitier. Photo Courtesy: IMDB

Sidney Poitier, 95

(February 20, 1927- January 6, 2022)

Sidney Poitier was an actor, film director and diplomat. He was the first black actor to win the Academy Award for Best Actor for "Lilies of the Field."



Bell Hooks. Photo Courtesy: NPR

Bell Hooks, 69

(Sept. 25, 1952-Dec. 15, 2021)

Bell Hooks, also known as Gloria Jean Watkins, was an author, critic and social activist. Famous for her feminist work *Ain't I A Woman?* In which she detailed how racism, sexism and classism were oppressive to black women.



Virgil Abloh. Photo Courtesy: The FADER

Virgil Abloh, 41

(Sept. 30, 1980-Nov. 28, 2021)

Virgil Abloh was the artistic director for fashion brand Louis Vuitton menswear as well as the founder of the fashion label Off-White.



Colin Powell. Photo Courtesy: The Atlantic

Biz Markie, 57

(April 8, 1964 – July 16, 2021)

Biz Markie was a hip hop legend most known for his hit song "Just A Friend".



DMX. Photo Courtesy: The FADER

Gloria Richardson, 99

(May 6, 1922- July 15, 2021)

Gloria Richardson was a civil rights pioneer who became the face of the civil rights movement in Maryland in the 1960's.



Paul Mooney. Photo Courtesy: The New Yorker

Martha White, 99

(April 2, 1922- June 5, 2021)

Martha White was a civil rights activist, a freedom fighter who refused to give up her seat on the bus in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1953. She helped start the Baton Rouge bus boycott.

Colin Powell, 84

(April 5, 1937- October 18, 2021)

Colin Powell was the 65th United States secretary of state from 2001-2005. He was the first African American secretary of state.



Biz Markie. Photo Courtesy: NewsOne

DMX, 51

(December 18, 1970 – April 9, 2021)

DMX, also known as Earl Simmons, was an influential rapper and Grammy nominated artist.



Gloria Richardson. Photo Courtesy: NewsOne

Paul Mooney, 80

(August 4, 1941 – May 19, 2021)

Paul Mooney, also known as Paul Gladney, was a legendary comedian and writer. Most known for his work as head writer for the sketch show "In Living Color" and appearances on the Dave Chappelle Show.



Martha White. Photo Courtesy: Legacy

E BETTY WHITE & BOB SAGET OUR FAMILY IN HOLLYWOOD

TWO HOLLYWOOD ICONS THAT ADDED TO OUR FAMILIES AND OUR COMMUNITIES.

By Davon Brown

Betty White and Bob Saget, icons of Hollywood, no doubt, and were the nation's TV grandmother and TV dad, passed away within weeks of each other.

Betty White, most notably known for her role of Rose on *The Golden Girls*, died peacefully in her Hollywood home just hours before the new year and weeks before her centennial celebration on January 17th.

Her television career began in 1949 working as a "girl Friday" on Hollywood on Television, of which she later became a host. Following in 1952 she co-founded Bandy Productions to develop her own projects, and would later be on multiple shows and movies.

Off camera, White was a huge animal rights activist serving on the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association's board of trustees starting in 1974. In 2010 she became chairman of the board and three years later honorary zookeeper. She also served as a trustee, board president, donor and spokesperson for the Morris

Animal Foundation.

Being such a vital component of animal rescues and shelters, after she passed, social media spread a challenge of donating money to shelters on White's 100th birthday, in her name. According to *Variety*, the challenge dubbed #BettyWhiteChallenge raised almost \$13 million dollars for animal shelters all over the world.

In response to this abundance of love and generosity given by her fans, her team on the official Betty White Instagram page posted, "as we continue to see numbers coming on from all over the world ... she could never have imagined such an outpouring of love and would have been so grateful to everyone." This was the caption under the last video of her which was prerecorded intended to be posted on her 100th birthday, giving her fans a final thank you for all their love and support.

One statement from Leslie Davidson, a supervisor at Mohegan Sun, sums it up this way, "you know you lived a great influential life when at 99 years of age, everyone is saying she was taken too early."

"Am I the raddest, baddest dad a kid ever had," - Danny Tanner portrayed by Bob Saget. The world's sitcom dad in his little house in San Francisco, from the iconic television show in the 90s *Full House* was

the show Danny was introduced to the world, and the love for Bob Saget only grew with abundance.

A well known and "in your face" comedian and actor died in his hotel room in Florida while in the middle of his recent comedic tour, "I Don't Do Negative Comedy," on January 9th 2022.

Throughout his life Bob Saget was always recognized for his kindness and humor on and off screen. Much like the fans of Betty White, fans of Saget donated to his favorite charity of which he was a board member of, the Scleroderma Research Foundation, a rare autoimmune diseases research foundation.

They received more than 1,500 donors from all over the world, totaling over \$90k before one of the fellow board members said they'd match every donation up to \$1.5 million.

Having such huge icons of Hollywood die within weeks of each other, that were America's family of Hollywood, shook the entire country, which still is being felt to this day, a few weeks later.

One Twitter user had this to say about losing White and Saget that sums up all the emotion, "[it] feels like my childhood is crashing ... R.I.P. you magnificent artists."



Bob Saget. Photo Courtesy: The Guardian



Betty White. Photo Courtesy: ABC News

ESCAPE FROM TARKOV

After over 3000 hours (about 4 months in total) of playtime over the course of about 3 years, I feel confident in my ability to give an authentic, in some sense biased, yet accurate review of one of today's most popular PC games, *Escape from Tarkov*.

Escape from Tarkov is a Russian made, Russian themed, hardcore mil-sim tactical shooter developed by BattleState Games. When I say hardcore, I mean the ability to mod a firearm identical to those found in today's market, from the gas block to the type of sight mounted on top, to being required to conduct surgery mid-fight after losing a limb. These alone are just minuet distinctions that could be used to set *Tarkov* apart from today's Triple A shooters such as *Call of Duty: Warzone*.

Tarkov is not just a realistic shooter in terms of categorization within the

By **Dustin Durham**

gaming world, there are MMO and RPG aspects to consider when categorizing a game with this amount of depth and detail. It is also important to mention that *Tarkov* is still in Beta, and the overall scope of the game is expected to change drastically in coming months.

In some sense, *Tarkov* is in a league of its own amongst today's overly saturated Battle Royale genre, yet in some respects could be considered a Battle Royale of its own caliber. The core objective in a Battle Royale is to be the sole survivor or winning team, traversing across a large landscape with multiple other enemy players and points of interest to



Tarkov is as unique and brutal as they come. Its unforgiving nature is what keeps me coming back for more. If a helping hand or user-friendly in-game tutorials are what you are looking for, you will not find it in *Escape from Tarkov*. If tactical gameplay with punishing consequences sounds fun to you, give *Tarkov* a go.



encounter along the way. *Tarkov* gives you the ability to load into a map of your choosing with a distinct time limit, but your objective here is to explore the map for loot, and exfil at the designated extraction zones within the time limit.

Over the course of a raid, you may engage in firefights with other players like yourself, AI controlled enemies known as Scavs, or occasionally run into a boss and his minions unique to the map you chose. Whatever you make it out with, you get to keep... Whatever you die with, you lose forever, well, kind of.

The anxious, adrenaline filled experience that comes with loading into a map in *Escape from Tarkov* is still unmatched in comparison to any other shooter out there.

All screenshots taken in-game.

"You probably no like Tarkov, this ok with me. Hard game is good game."

- Nikita Buyanov

CEO of Battlestate Games

E

STATION ELEVEN

THOUGHTS ON THE NEW HBO LIMITED SERIES

By Melissa Tucker

Station Eleven is a show based on the 2014 international best-selling novel of the same name by Emily St. John Mandel. The show was created for television by Patrick Somerville and stars Mackenzie Davis, Himesh Patel, and Matilda Lawler.

Station Eleven tells the story of what happens when a devastating and fatal flu hits and takes out most of the population. The story is of a post-apocalyptic world and survival after the fall of civilization as we know it.

The storyline of a pandemic that sweeps the globe is a timely one. While watching during our own current pandemic, COVID 19, the scenes were vivid and it was all too easy to envision the scenarios being played out before me.

But *Station Eleven* is much more than a post-apocalyptic show. At first, I had reservations about watching the show. My thinking was that I'm living through a pandemic, why would I want to experience an even worse one for entertainment? The



Himesh Patel stars as Jeevan. Photo Courtesy: IMDB

premise seemed anxiety provoking, but I was curious enough to watch anyway.

I'm glad that I did. The show follows two timelines; one from the early days and start of the pandemic and the other is from 20 years later.

The bulk of the show is shown through the main character Kristen's point of view. We see her as a young girl and then 20 years later as an adult. Kristen's story pulls on the heart strings as she goes through a lot of trials and tribulations as a child.

The switch between the two timelines made the story extremely engaging. The story unfolds slowly, and questions are answered in a way that is satisfying to the viewer.

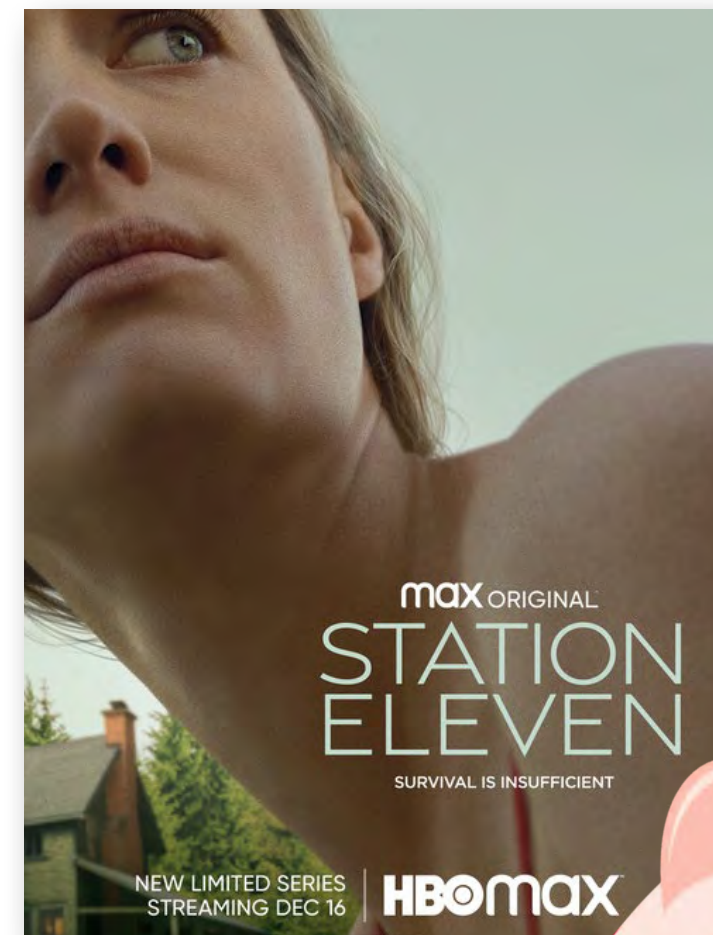
The scenes from the timeline from the early days of the pandemic are some of my favorites. One of the main characters Jeevan, played by Himesh Patel, was a favorite of mine.

Jeevan is a relatable character as he is thrown into this new world suddenly taking care of and responsible for young Kristen. Patel's performance was extremely well done as he captures the vulnerability and perseverance of the character.

Although *Station Eleven* is a slow burn, the payoff for sticking with the show at the end is definitely worth it. There are many moving parts to the story, with side characters, backstories and mysteries, and characters having you asking questions and wanting to know more. *Station Eleven* is one of those shows that uses the principle "show don't tell" and it works wonderfully.

I fully recommend this show to anyone, not just those interested in the apocalyptic genre. It is a refreshingly hopeful show in comparison to a lot of others in the genre. There is a big focus on rebuilding and the future as well as holding onto what has been lost.

The theme seems to be that all things that are lost have a way of finding their way back to you again eventually, which I find to be really comforting. A post-apocalyptic show and comforting in the same thought. Imagine that! *Station Eleven* manages to be a truly unique show.



Mackenzie Davis stars as Kristen.
Photo Courtesy: IMDB

THE POWER OF THE DOG

(Spoiler-Free)

By Jordan Leroy

Benedict Cumberbatch strikes again in his latest film - and no, his new role has nothing to do with Marvel. In fact, the actor takes on a character that strays far from the likes of Doctor Strange or Sherlock Holmes; he plays as a rancher in 1925 Montana.

The Power of the Dog began streaming back in December 2021, as a Netflix original movie.

Personally, I had no interest in *The Power of the Dog* before I watched it. I didn't even know it existed. However, when you live with your retired grandparents who stay in the know about upcoming movies, you sometimes get roped into what they're watching. I can say with certainty, this was one film I am glad I stuck around for.

Unless you go looking for spoilers, you really have no clue what this movie is about. Neither the title (*The Power of the Dog*) nor the trailer give you any hints as to what will happen; these only add to the mystery and draw you in more, enticing you to watch.



Netflix's *The Power of the Dog* Poster.
Photo Courtesy: IMDB

Although it doesn't get easier when you actually begin the movie, *The Power of the Dog* almost feels like a game. Throughout the entire movie there are moments when you think you're catching on, and just when you think you fully understand what's happening - you're brought back to square one with a jump that you could not see coming.

That's how this film keeps its hold on you; it doesn't give you the satisfaction of knowing, challenging you to try and figure it out when you simply cannot. The truth is that it is very difficult to watch *The Power of the Dog* once and then never again.

This is not the kind of movie that presents itself clearly; it will leave you with several questions, and most of them have no definite answer. If you watch this movie once, you will need to watch it again to try and get a better grasp of it. Who knows, maybe some of those questions will be answered the second time around.

I recommend watching *The Power of the Dog* not because I think it's a "good movie," but because it will leave you thinking about it weeks after you've watched it. Not many movies nowadays stay in your mind the way this one does, keeping your brain wrapped around the events and characters portrayed in the film.

The cinematography is eye-catching and the actors did a phenomenal job with delivering exactly what *The Power of the Dog* called for; a dark, psychologically dramatic film that captivates its audience far longer than its two hour and five minute long duration.

"Although it doesn't get easier when you actually begin the movie, *The Power of the Dog* almost feels like a game."



Benedict Cumberbatch stars as Phil Burbank. Photo Courtesy: IMDB

E

VALENTINE'S DAY: YAY OR NAY?

All's Fair in Love & Hallmark

By Jordan Leroy

Valentine's Day; you either love it, or you hate it. Some embrace the hearts, the gift-giving, the dinner reservation-making, while others see it as a commercialized holiday that gives restaurants an excuse to raise their prices. This article will strive to remain unbiased while bringing the perspectives of both the pro and anti Valentine's Day groups to light.

WHAT DO TRCC STUDENTS THINK OF VALENTINE'S DAY?

In a recent poll taken by the staff of the Current, we had a variety of responses from Three Rivers students as to what/how they feel about Valentine's Day. Over half of these students responded that they love Valentine's day, while 33% stated that they did not care for it.

However, when asked how they would prefer to celebrate Valentine's Day, the responses were split perfectly, with one half preferring to go out and the other

preferring to stay in.

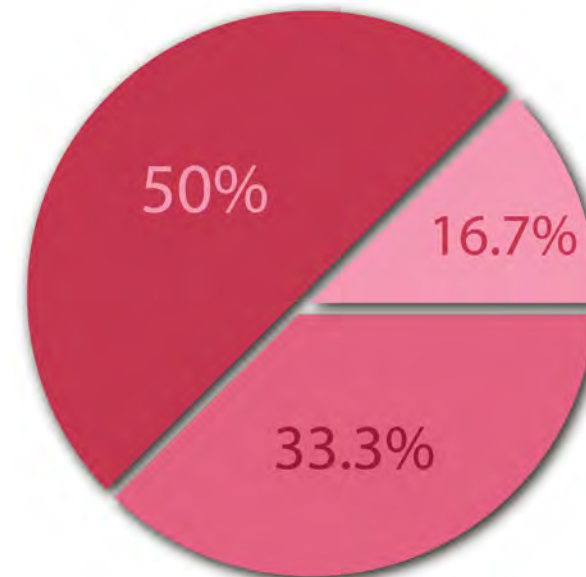
As for what their ideal Valentine's Day gift would be, half of the Three Rivers students that responded said they prefer chocolate.

Prompt: "Do you have a favorite or least favorite part of Valentine's Day? If so, please tell us what it is!"

- Being with people I love.
- I always give my little cousins a small stuffed animal with chocolates. A Valentine's gift doesn't need to just be from a significant other!
- It's a made-up commercialized holiday. If you love someone, show them and tell them when you can!



IDEAL VALENTINE'S GIFT



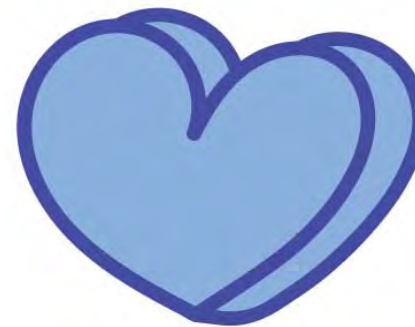
Chocolate



Flowers



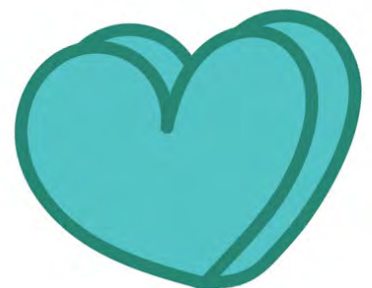
Stuffed Animal



Going Out VS Staying In

50%

50%



E



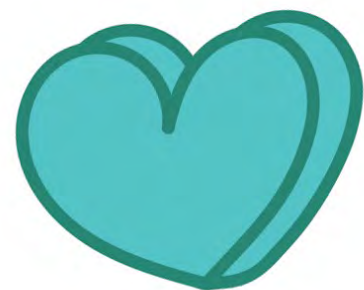
PRO-VALENTINE'S DAY

For those who favor Valentine's Day, there are a few different reasons as to why they enjoy it; the gift-giving, the incentive to go out to celebrate, or simply a day to reflect and emphasize their love for people in their lives.

If you're like me, then you may have a fondness for the material side of Valentine's Day. There is nothing I love more than going out and finding things to pick out for my family, whether it's a bundle of chocolates for my younger siblings or a bouquet of flowers for my mom. I'll admit that I may pick up some decorations for myself as well, things like Valentine-themed candles or dish towels. Regardless, the gift-giving aspect of Valentine's Day does not need to be restricted to a significant other! And of course, you can give your loved ones a gift at any point of the year, I just like to do it on Valentine's Day as well.

On the theme of gift-giving, any parents out there who have their children enrolled in schools may feel the pressure around

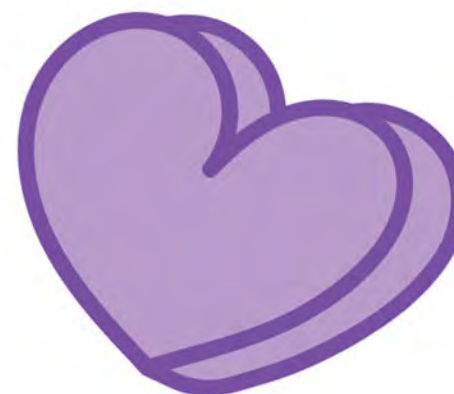
Valentine's Day to send their child in with some kind of treat for their classmates. If you go the store-bought route, I can verify that you will have quite the selection of Valentine's gifts specifically for the classroom. If your child loves Paw Patrol, you'll be able to find Paw Patrol Valentines, trust me. On the other hand, there are hundreds of easy DIY Valentines you can make with your child!



ANTI-VALENTINE'S DAY

Time to face the music- Valentine's Day is definitely not for everyone. I will agree with the fact that it has become an overly commercialized holiday, that companies take advantage of this day to the extremes. Valentine's Day can easily pressure folks- especially those with significant others- into buying gifts and the like in order to "prove" their love. So, what better way to say "Nay" to this holiday than to celebrate Anti-Valentine's Day instead!

Anti-Valentine's Day is celebrated on February 13, and it is quite the opposite (if you couldn't tell by the name) of Valentine's Day. There are several ways to celebrate, so long as they do not fall in line with the stereotypical Valentine's celebrations. If you want to stay in, order takeout and watch that show or movie that's been sitting in your watchlist! Want to go out? Weather-permitting, check out your local hiking spots and go embrace nature. Or do nothing! That is the beauty of Anti-Valentine's Day- you are free from the constructs of Valentine's Day, no worrying about falling in line with it! Whatever way you celebrate, you can do so without the looming dread of Hallmark or Russel Stowe hanging over your shoulder.



THE COST OF GPU'S

By Dustin Durham

What are you willing to pay?

Are you currently interested in building a PC with the most up-to-date specs? Well, good luck. In recent years, purchasing a GPU at retail price has been next to impossible for gamers eager to upgrade their existing builds. Between the industry's component shortages, the pandemic, and the cryptocurrency mining, you would have better luck gaming on a Mac. Ok, maybe not that impossible, but nonetheless, the cost of a GPU alone may discourage you from building a PC or fulfilling your need for more frames.

To put this in perspective, A Nvidia GeForce RTX 3070, which would classify as a high-end card, retails for \$499.99 and has remained out of stock since its release in June of 2021. After browsing the completed listings on eBay.com, the average resale price of a Nvidia GeForce RTX 3070 is roughly \$1,200. For many, like myself, this is a price point that is just unachievable.

For those looking for the best card available such as the Nvidia GeForce RTX



3090, which retails for \$1,499.00, the cheapest I could find on eBay averaged around \$2,300. At this price point, you could have built a top-of-the-line gaming rig in 2019; trust me, I did it.

To be clear, it would be a massive minimization to say no one is happy with the current prices gamers are paying for graphics cards amid the pandemic. To even minimize the effect on just gamers would be inaccurate. As a graphic designer, my workflow is largely dependent on multiple displays. For programmers, content creators, game developers, video editors and many other trades that utilize a multiple display setup, keeping your components up to date is vital. If you're running multiple displays at high resolutions it's imperative you have a GPU that can handle it.

Looking forward, Nvidia looks to offer more budget friendly options this year with the GeForce RTX 3050 releasing at a retail price of \$250.00. Whether or not you can actually get your hands on one for that price remains to be seen.

WHAT THE HECK

IS NEURALINK?

By Joe Barberi

Over the last few months there have been a lot of conversations about a new technology called Neuralink. Due to the technology being extremely new and seeming like it could only be possible in fiction, Neuralink has its fair share of controversy. Some of the questions that arose from this new technology include; what is Neuralink? What will it do? And, when will this technology become a full-blown reality?

Neuralink is a small device that is implanted into your brain using what the company themselves call, "Precision Automated Neurosurgery." This surgery is controlled by a robotic system. On their website, they explain that due to "The threads on the "link" [being] so fine and flexible they can't be inserted by the human hand." The "link" as the company calls it, boasts that it can let a human control a computer, phone, or any other mobile device with their mind.



Neuralink implant example. Photo Courtesy: Neuralink

Neuralink was founded back in 2016 by Max Hodak and co-founded by Elon Musk. Hodak is an American entrepreneur who has founded a couple other successful companies such as Transcriptic. Musk is also an entrepreneur who has founded several successful companies such as Tesla Motors.

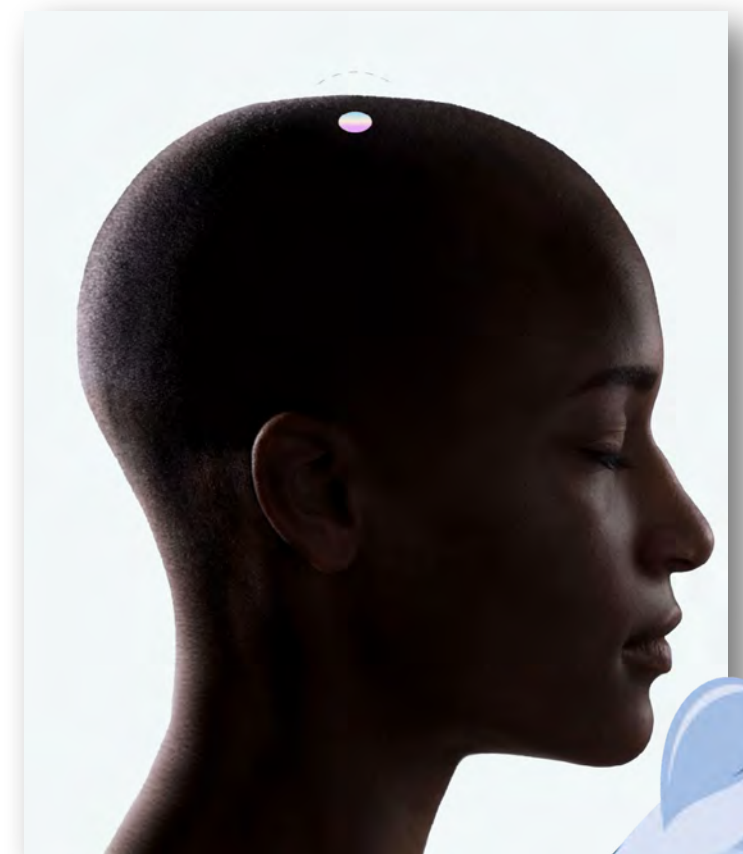
EXPLAINING NEURALINK & HOW IT WILL CHANGE THE WORLD

For context, Neurosurgery, and the "link" itself aren't completely developed yet to be fully working or becoming a device that humans can use. However, in a live interview by the Wall Street Journal at the end of 2021 with Elon Musk, he explains where in the process they are with creating the "link."

Musk says, "We have Neuralinks working well in monkeys, and we're actually doing a lot of testing and confirming that it's very safe and reliable, and the Neuralink device can be removed safely." Musk and Neuralink are taking very safe precautions to make sure that the whole process of a "link" will be harmless.

As for when humans will be able to get a Neuralink installed is still unknown. Although, in the same interview Musk explains that they will be implanting, for the first time, the "link" in people who have spinal cord injuries. Musk explains this further by stating, "We hope to have this in our first humans, which will be people that have severe spinal cord injuries next year, pending FDA approval." This is a big deal, Neuralink is much closer to getting their device vetted and becoming a usable product than we think. Towards the end of the interview, Musk ends the

topic with, "I think we have a chance; I emphasize a chance of being able to allow someone who cannot walk or use their arms to be able to walk again, naturally." If this can become a reality, Neuralink will be revolutionary and one of a kind. But for now, we will have to wait and see what the future holds.



Neuralink implant. Photo Courtesy: Neuralink

PLAYSTATION VR2: THE SEQUEL?

SONY JUST ANNOUNCED THE PROTEGE TO THE PS VR

By Jaizier St.Hilaire

Within the gaming community, it is safe to say that Virtual Reality (VR) is pretty cool. Being able to immerse yourself in a virtual world that allows you to interact with it physically, is as awesome as it's going to get in the world of games. But just when the gaming community thought VR gear like the Oculus, Valve, Vive, and Playstation VR was good enough, comes the announcement with even crazier news.

Sony just announced the PlayStation VR 2 at CES 2022 in Las Vegas on January 5, and also announced with that headset, the PS VR2 Sense controller.

Now, since every generation of console, game, electronics, etc, is supposed to be better than the last, what exactly makes the VR2 better than its predecessor?

When it comes to visuals, the VR2 will allow you to experience games in 4K HDR



PS VR Headset w/ Controllers. Soon to be de-thrown?

and have a 110-degree field of view. The lenses will have an OLED display resolution of 2000x2040 and framerates of 90/120Hz, giving players high-quality gameplay when it releases.

The headset will have inside-out tracking, tracking you and your controllers through built-in cameras to follow your movements, excluding the need of any external cameras.

The VR2 uses multiple features to create an immersive atmosphere as much as it can, such as combining eye-tracking, headset feedback, and 3D Tempest AudioTech.

Combined with the Sense controllers, this will create a "deep feeling of immersion," wrote Hideaki Nishino, Sony's Senior Vice President of Platform Experience.



PS VR2 Sense Controllers. Photo Courtesy IGN

A new feature to be introduced for the headset, will increase the sensations of the decisions done by the player by having a single built-in motor with vibrations that add to the experience.

"...Gamers can feel a character's elevated pulse during tense moments, the rush of objects passing close to the character's head, or the thrust of a vehicle as the character speeds forwards," Nishino wrote.

The eye-tracking feature will detect the motion of the player's eyes, adding additional input for the game character. This "allows players to be more intuitive in new and lifelike ways, allowing for the heightened emotional response and enhanced expression that

provide a new level of realism in gaming." Another cool feature that Nishino revealed in the blog, is that The PS Sense controllers will have better gameplay with its haptic feedback and adaptive triggers. It will also have a single cable cord that you can connect directly to the PS5, making it a much easier setup than its predecessor.



Horizon: Call of the Mountain VR.
Photo Courtesy: IGN

PlayStation VR2



PSVR 2

PSVR

OCULUS QUEST 2

VALVE INDEX

	PSVR 2	PSVR	OCULUS QUEST 2	VALVE INDEX
PIXELS PER EYE	2000 X 2040 PER EYE	960 X 1080 PER EYE	1832 X 1920 PER EYE	1600 X 1440 PER EYE
DISPLAY	OLED	OLED	LCD	LCD
SCREEN REFRESH RATE	UP TO 120Hz	UP TO 120Hz	UP TO 120Hz	UP TO 144Hz
TRACKING	INSIDE OUT TRACKING (X4 BUILT-IN CAMERAS)	PS CAMERA, LEDS, AND ACCELEROMETERS/ GYROSCOPES	INSIDE OUT TRACKING (X4 BUILT-IN CAMERAS)	STEAMVR BASE STATIONS 2.0 (X2)
EYE TRACKING?	YES	NO	NO	NO
FIELD OF VIEW (APPROXIMATE)	110°	100°	90°	130°
AUDIO	HEADPHONE JACK	HEADPHONE JACK	BUILT-IN SPEAKERS AND HEADPHONE JACK	BUILT-IN, ADJUSTABLE, OFF-EAR SPEAKERS
CORDED?	YES	YES	OPTIONAL	YES
ADDITIONAL HARDWARE REQUIRED?	YES (PS5)	YES (PS4/PS5 WITH ADAPTER) AND A PS CAMERA	OPTIONAL (GAMING PC)	YES (GAMING PC)
CONTROLLER(S)	SENSE CONTROLLERS (X2)	DUALSHOCK 4 AND PS MOVE (X2)	OCULUS TOUCH (X2)	VALVE INDEX CONTROLLERS (X2)

IGN VR Headset Comparison Chart. Photo Courtesy: IGN

There are games officially announced that will be playable on the PS VR2. Guerilla Games, creators of the well-known Killzone franchise and now popular game Horizon: Zero Dawn and upcoming Horizon: Forbidden West have announced a new game to the new series: Horizon: Call of the Mountain, an

original game that will be made only for the PS VR2. Sadly, any other information regarding what the headset will look like was not shown, and the same is said regarding the pricing and release date. Although other sources say that it will be released sometime late 2022- early 2023.

Fan concepts of what the PS VR2 could look like have been popping up all over the internet since its reveal, but nothing yet from Sony. Though this is all we know at the moment, Nishino assures that “this is only a taste of things to come”, and that he can’t wait to share more details about PS VR2.

Display method	OLED
Panel resolution	2000 x 2040 per eye
Panel refresh rate	90Hz, 120Hz
Lens separation	Adjustable
Field of View	Approx. 110 degrees
Sensors	Motion Sensor: Six-axis motion sensing system (three-axis gyroscope, three-axis accelerometer) Attachment Sensor: IR Proximity sensor
Cameras	4 cameras for headset and controller tracking IR camera for eye tracking per eye
Feedback	Vibration on headset
Communication with PS5	USB Type-C®
Audio	Input: Built-in microphone Output: Stereo headphone jack

PS VR2 specs: Upgrades people, upgrades.



VR2 Fan Art Concept: If only this was real. Photo Courtesy: VR4Player.fr

MICROSOFT BUYING ACTIVISION/BLIZZARD

IS MICROSOFT TAKING OVER THE GAMING INDUSTRY?

By Joe Barberi

For those who are avid gamers or someone who likes to keep up with current tech news in general, Microsoft, the multi-billion-dollar company, on Tuesday the 18th of January, announced that they were going to purchase Activision Blizzard for seventy billion dollars.

This means that Microsoft will be the sole owner of Activision Blizzard and all the smaller game studios that are a part of it. Studios like Treyarch, Infinity Ward, Toys for Bob, and others.

Some of the games that Microsoft will be acquiring are Call of Duty, Overwatch, Diablo, and Candy Crush, some of the biggest franchises in the gaming industry.

With this announcement, many questions have surfaced from the gaming community. Will Call of Duty become an Xbox exclusive game? How will this affect Microsoft's Game Pass? And how soon will these changes begin?

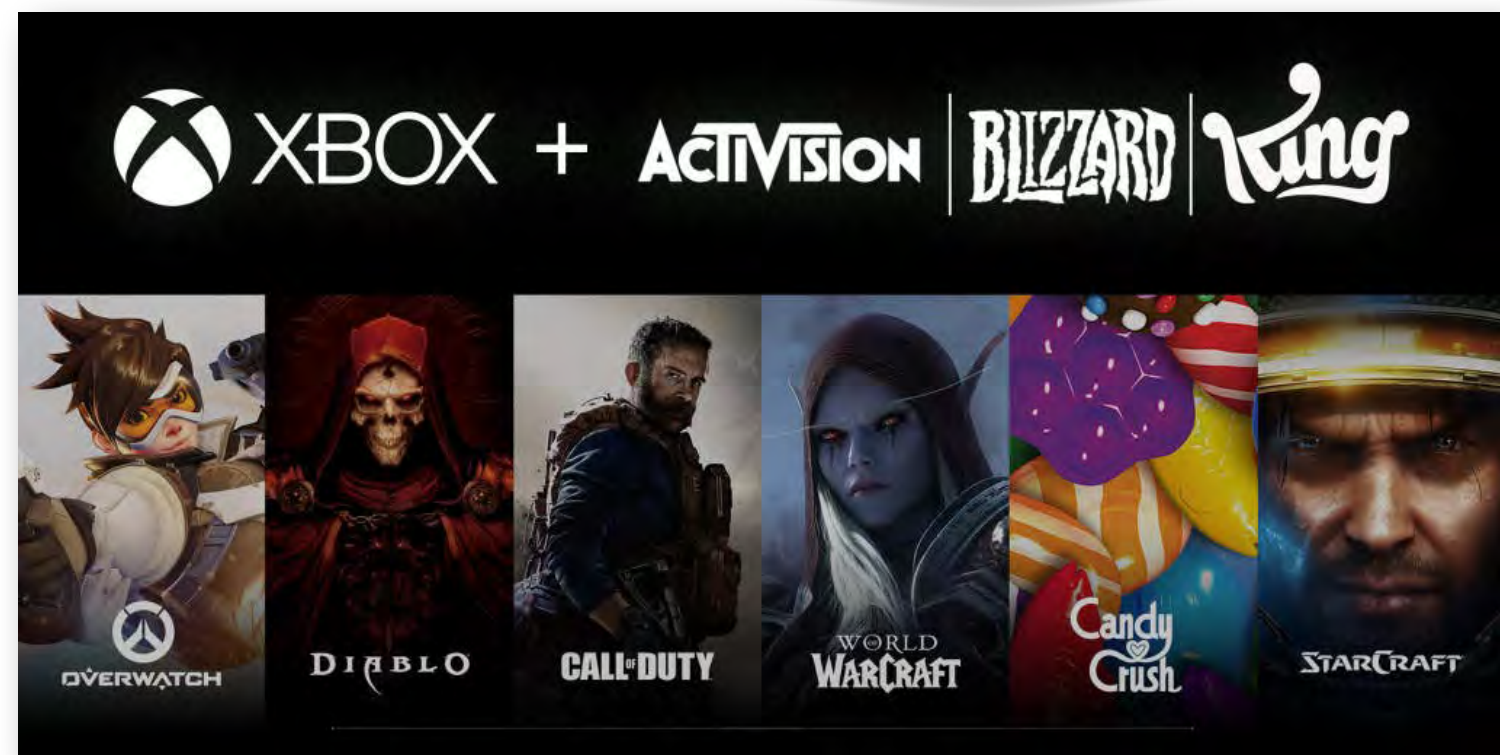
Many gamers have discussed Call of Duty becoming an Xbox exclusive game. Here's the problem that arises from this, PlayStation players would lose the ability to play any future Call of Duty games.

In a tweet, two days after the announcement, Phil Spencer, CEO of Microsoft Gaming has cleared the air, stating that Microsoft intends to "honor all agreements upon acquisition of Activision Blizzard and [their] desire to keep Call of Duty on PlayStation."

Reiterating that the gaming franchise will stay on all current gaming platforms.



Tweet from Phil Spencer at Microsoft.



Microsoft official graphic. Photo Courtesy: Microsoft

Microsoft's Game Pass has become an incredibly popular service that provides 100+ games for all Xbox and PC players at a reasonable price. The service gives gamers the ability to play games the first day they come out and the ability to play the same games across phones and tablets.

There isn't much information on what Activision Blizzard games will be on Game Pass, however, in the same press release from Microsoft, they have "plans to launch Activision Blizzard games into Game Pass."

The addition of games from Activision Blizzard will make Microsoft's Game Pass a gigantic contender to the rest of the gaming industry.

Perhaps the biggest question that many have with Microsoft's purchase is, when will any of these changes start to happen? Since the news is so recent, no one publicly knows an exact date to when changes will start to happen. However, in Microsoft's press release they state that, "The deal is expected to close in fiscal year 2023". For now, it's a waiting game for when big moves will be happening.

NEW PLANET, WHO'S THIS?

By Jaizier St.Hilaire

ELON MUSK HAS BIG PLANS HE WANTS
TO EXECUTE FOR THE RED PLANET

Ready to take a vacation trip to the red planet, Mars, itself? It seems like the dream of humanity being able to expand across the stars may become a reality sooner than we thought.

The SpaceX and Tesla CEO, Elon Musk, has plans to become the pioneer of this dream project. He believes that humans are capable of becoming a multi-planetary species, an idea that he presented at the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) back in 2016.

Earth and Mars always line up about every 2 years, and with this in mind, Musk's plan is to get people to live on the planet by 2050.

The first phase of Musk's plan will have cargo ships land on the planet by 2024, and finally, have humans land by 2026. Eventually, every two years, there would be people going to the planet, and the first city would start off as a series of bases. How exactly would it be possible for all

of this to happen? For a while now, Musk has been building and testing multiple ships. These ships, dubbed Starship, will be capable of not just getting out of the atmosphere, but also having the entire ship enter back in and land safely.

This will be done by having the ship enter the atmosphere in a belly-flop-like fashion and propel itself upwards and land vertically using its engines. This would be the key to being able to travel to Mars and back.

Its fuel will run on liquid oxygen and methane, which can also be found on the planet, making it reusable energy source. Starship is planned to be capable of launching 100 passengers off to space.

Of course, there is always another side of this galactic



Starship. Up, up, and away. Photo Courtesy: NASA

coin. There are those who don't see the plan of colonizing Mars as the greatest idea to be made. Jeff Bezos, founder and former CEO of Amazon and founder of Blue Origin as well as an aerospace manufacturer and sub-orbital spaceflight services company, had countered against this idea.

Using research cited from a physicist named Gerard K. O'Neill back in 2019, Bezos argued that, there is not enough room on the planet, too long of a trip to the planet and back, and that real-time communication between both planets is slow, with a signal of 20 minutes, plate to planet.

He believes that humans should live on floating colonies. Other people, like British astrophysicist Martin Rees and American astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, had both turned this idea down, believing that the dream of living there is a distraction to Earth's climate problems.

"I think that's a dangerous delusion because dealing with climate change in Earth is a doddle compared to making Mars habitable."

One of the most well-known people who has agreed with this idea was the late Stephen Hawking, who has also believed that humans should expand to the planet.

Living on Mars is quite different from turning it into

one that is like our blue marble. The ability to turn a planet into one that fits our standards is called terraforming. Long story short, terraforming the planet is almost impossible to make happen in our lifetime, but the plan itself could be possible with our descendants taking the ropes.

Perhaps in the next couple hundred years, we could see a planet unmistakable to Earth, but it all starts with getting there first.



Welcome to Dome City.
Photo Courtesy: NASA

CHINESE NEW YEAR

THE HISTORY OF CHINESE NEW YEAR

By Joe Barberi

Chinese New Year, also known as the Lunar New Year, is celebrated around the world according to the new moon, which occurs between January 21st and February 20th. The holiday, which is celebrated in China and other Asian countries for 15 days, normally ends with the Spring Lantern Festival, but is commonly celebrated on February 1st in many other countries.

For people who celebrate the holiday, the new year is a time to relax from work or school and celebrate. During this time people also like to clean as a way to get started on the right foot and to get rid of any bad luck.

As for the origins of the holiday, there isn't just one explanation as to why Chinese New Year is celebrated. However, there is one legend that gives an explanation that is known by most.

The legend that dates back thousands of years states that a monster named Nian attacked villagers annually at the beginning of each new year. To stop Nian, the villagers wore red and yellow clothing, would put out bright lights, and create loud noises such as shooting off fireworks. All methods thought to scare off the monster.

Chinese New Year is all about bringing good luck to the start of the new year, a time to visit family, and celebrate tradition. Many people have a big feast by making special dishes. Not every household makes the same traditional foods, but there are a few that are the most common. Such as dumplings, noodles, steamed fish or chicken, and Nian Gao, which is a rice cake that is made up of yellow or sticky rice.

In addition to visiting family and having big feasts, people also celebrate what is called the Lantern Festival. This festival is the last event that takes place during the holiday celebrations. During this event, people put up decorations and glowing lanterns or hold them by hand during a nighttime parade. There is also a dragon dance during the Lantern Festival which consists of a giant colorful dragon, symbolizing good fortune, that is carried by street performers.

Chinese New Year is a holiday that is known for its colorful decorations, customary dishes, and celebration events. For 2022, this year is known as the year of the tiger. A tiger was chosen because there is a 12-year cycle where 12 different animals are picked according to the year. For example, 2023 will be the year of the rabbit, 2024 will be the year of the dragon and so on. And every 12 years the cycle repeats.

HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR!

Background photo of street performers.
Photo Courtesy: Stephano Borghi

SPORTS BETTING

The New Addiction

By Davon Brown

IS SPORTS BETTING NEW? NO, BUT IS IT MORE DANGEROUS?

Gambling has been around since the stone ages, it's not a new concept for the nation and the same is said for sports betting, now a "new" variation of gambling, but not new if you're an avid sports watcher.

Betting within your friend groups has a different rush to it so to speak then gambling at a casino. Think of it this way, while poker can be fun at home with friends and family, the rush that can come from a poker table in the "natural" setting is a whole other set of endorphins.

Adding this concept to sports, which is already rowdy by itself, makes for a whole other rush in the hopes of winning big. Friends and family may bet between \$20-\$40 give or take for sports betting, but at the casino there may not be pressure to stay within that smaller budget.

College students are lumped in with this problem. In the state of Connecticut you can legally gamble at the age of 18, which is a freshman college student. At this age students are more impulsive and eager to try new things, especially to fit in.

Back before it became legal, The CT Mirror reported, "75% of college students gambled illegally or legally in 2020, with 67% of that being sports betting". Which

at the time was illegal. Now that this is legal, think of how many open doors this has created into having more college level students join in on the rage who were maybe a little too afraid to illegally gamble.

Bring everything stated above and add this next critical part to the story, it can all be done from the comfort of the dorm, home, car, doctors office, really anywhere you have a phone and internet connection. When Connecticut passed the sports betting law, they also passed the online gambling law, allowing gamblers to play from the comfort of wherever.

This in itself could present as a huge problem, just for the simple fact that gamblers may not even be of legal age. Think back to the time Facebook was new and

the user had to be 16 to join. Many preteens faked their age in the system just to have a profile, which is the foreseeable future for online gambling.

Backing this fact, The CT Mirror reported, "between 60-80% of high schoolers gambled," in 2020. While not at official establishments such as a casino, this is still a huge percentage and will only go up with the introduction of the online gambling network.

A business that already makes roughly 1.6 billion dollars almost yearly, grabs the attention of thousands more legal participants, or more jarring, illegal adolescence.

Background gambling photo
Photo Courtesy: gamblingsites.net

S

SUPER BOWL LVI

Preview

By Dustin Durham

WHEN? SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

WHO? CINCINNATI BENGALS & LOS ANGELES RAMS

WHERE? SOFI STADIUM IN INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA

The Super Bowl is finally here. After one of the most exciting post-seasons in a long time, we're down to two teams: the Bengals and the Rams. The Bengals and the Rams couldn't be more different on the surface, one defying all odds to reach this point and the other realizing when they look at each other, what they put on paper is a star-studded cast. Yet, they figure to make for must-see TV on the biggest stage in football.

As we gear up for Super Bowl LVI, here are 10 things ESPN says we should keep near and dear.

1. Super Bowl LVI will be played between the Bengals and Rams, marking the first time these teams have met in a championship.
2. This is the Bengals first Super Bowl appearance since 1988, when they lost to the 49ers, 20-16.
3. Before this season, the Bengals had not won a playoff game since 1990, when they beat the Oilers who are now known as the Titans, the longest drought in the four major North American sports.

4. The Bengals have appeared in three Super Bowls total, including this one. Their first two were in 1981 and 1988, both against the 49ers. They lost to San Francisco both times, and each time by one score.

5. The Rams, on the other hand, are making their fifth Super Bowl appearance, and their second in the last four years.

6. Los Angeles last appeared in the big game in 2018, when the Patriots defeated them, 13-3, in the lowest-scoring Super Bowl of all time.

7. The Rams last won the Super Bowl in 1999, when they beat the Titans, 23-16, in Super Bowl XXXIV to end a year many of us know as the "Greatest Show on Turf."

8. This matchup marks the first time in Super Bowl history that both teams entered the playoffs as No. 4 seeds.

9. Both teams' quarterbacks, Joe Burrow, for the Bengals, and Matthew Stafford, for the Rams are former No. 1 overall draft picks.

10. Burrow is finishing just his second NFL season. At 25, he's looking to become one of the youngest QBs to ever win a Super Bowl, behind just Ben Roethlisberger (23), Patrick Mahomes (24) and Tom Brady (24).



Statistics and images
courtesy of ESPN

VALENTINE'S DAY *Chex Mix*

By Jordan Leroy

Puppy chow. Muddy buddies. Whatever you call them, there's no denying this sweet confection is delicious, regardless of the occasion. If you're looking for a Valentine's Day treat to make for your kid's classroom, the office, or just for yourself, then look no further. I can guarantee this one will be a favorite.

PROCEED WITH CAUTION!

Although this is a fun recipe, it is a messy one! You'll be working with powdered sugar and melted chocolate, so be prepared for a bit of a mess! You will also be melting chocolate in the following process, be aware that bowls may be hot.



Valentine's Day Chex Mix ingredients.

INGREDIENTS

- 6 cups rice chex cereal (does not need to be name brand)
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup strawberry cake mix (powder only, unprepared)
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup powdered sugar
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup red or pink candy melts
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup white candy melts
- 1 cup Valentine M&Ms

OPTIONAL INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup strawberry banana Cheerios (heart-shaped)
- 2 tablespoons Valentine sprinkles

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Divide your chex cereal into two large bowls, three cups into each.
2. In a medium bowl, combine your cake mix and powdered sugar.
3. In a small, microwave safe bowl, microwave your red or pink candy melts following package instructions until stir smooth.
4. Pour the melted candy over one of the bowls of chex cereal, then stir to coat evenly.
5. Add candy coated cereal and some of your cake mix/sugar mixture to a ziplock bag, then shake until chex cereal is coated in mixture.
6. In a small, microwave safe bowl, microwave your white candy melts following package instructions until stir smooth.
7. Pour the melted candy over the other bowl of chex cereal, then stir to coat evenly.
8. Add candy coated cereal and the rest of your cake mix/sugar mixture to a ziplock bag, then shake until chex cereal is coated in mixture.
9. In a large bowl, combine both chex mixtures, Valentine M&Ms, and other optional ingredients.
10. Serve immediately or store in an airtight container for up to 2 days.

Personally, I could not find Valentine sprinkles, but I did find some heart-shaped Cheerios that worked nicely! I also found some cute little bags to scoop my mixture into, and gave them to my younger cousins and siblings. They enjoyed this Valentine's Day treat thoroughly!



Valentine's Day Chex Mix.



Valentine's Day Chex Mix in a bag.



Three Rivers
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

