

THE PRIDE

**Northwest PA
Collegiate
Academy's
Student Magazine**

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Letter from the Editor



Dear Readers,

For many years, The Pride magazine has enlightened the Erie community as the voice of students at Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy. I would like to sincerely thank Ms. Parthenakis, Language Arts teacher and advisor of the news magazine class, the administration of Collegiate, and all previous editor-in-chiefs of this school treasure.

As an eighth grader, I joined the 2022-2023 news magazine staff, during which I became familiar with the style required for writing news articles and how to realize a suitable topic for a story. The first conversation I remember having in the class was when Ms. Parthenakis asked me a metamorphic question: "What are you passionate about?" This question is precisely what our student magazine aims to capture.

Last year, amidst bathroom bans, growing dress-code concerns, and a new cell-phone policy, the The Pride was gone. Currently, The Pride is back, and the new staff has evolved into about 20 ambitious members, all new to the style of Journalistic writing but eager to have their voices heard. I truly hope readers will find interesting points of discussion within this publication and the many to come.

Sincerely,

Editor-in-Chief

Silvia Kang

The Pride Northwest PA Collegiate Academy Student Magazine



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I'M AN UNASHAMED SWIFTIE, COULD YOU BE TOO?

By Isabella Oosterkamp

Many people, even you reading this may dislike Taylor Swift for multiple reasons. If you think; "all she writes about is her ex-boyfriends", "she cries a lot", or "she's ruining football." Many people still love her because she is a great role model who empowers women, who also boosts the economy and donate money and food to people globally.

She shows that not all great women have to be married and have kids to be influential, but be generous, compassionate, strong, and vulnerable.

Additionally, one cannot deny her songwriting ability. Her vulnerability in her lyrics lets lots of people, especially women relate and feel understood and be seen. Her songs can make someone feel powerful, sad, jump up and down-happy, angry, and any other emotion one could think of.

Her music versatility also helps curate those emotions. One can hate their ex boyfriend with Swift's ragey country twang or rock styles of music, or cry by listening to her folk and sad songs, be happy and in love when listening to her pop songs, or escape while her ballads unfold while listening to her music.

Personally, I have done all of the above, just listening to one of her 11 albums.

She also brings up many difficult topics in her songs. Such as LGBTQIA+ rights, gender equality, women's oppression in workplaces, and several different mental health struggles, whether it be about her own experiences or about the people close to her. Not only can she write about her own experiences but, in doing so, gives the listeners a chance to interpret her lyrics in their own way and have a sense of relatability.



Photo from The New Yorker



Photo from CNN



Photo from X



Photo from Rolling Stone

A song that comes to mind, that I think many of us can relate to, but isn't necessarily about what we interpret it, is "long story short" on Evermore, her 9th studio album. This song is a reflection of Taylor Swift's described "lowest time in her life" which was after the feud between her and Kanye West in 2009.



Photo from Pinterest



Photo from X

After many public demonizations and much hatred towards her, she had a very emotional journey; During which she struggled through the pain of the backlash and legitimate death threats towards her.

Through these tough times, she had to relearn how to love herself and grow as a person. In the bridge of the song she describes she has set her priorities straight by being over the petty things of the past and focusing on her relationships with those who are important to her.

She reflects that even though all of these horrible things happened, she survived, and even better, she saw the greatness of life and how worth it is to live. In the final verse of the song there is a message to her past self stating, "to not get lost in these petty things," in that everything will be okay. Swift also reminds us that there's no reason to worry because "your nemeses will defeat themselves before you get a chance to swing." The song comes to an end with the lines "long story short it was a bad time/long story short I survived." This is where I think many of us can relate.



Photo from DeviantArt



Photo from Yahoo



Photo from New York Times

I know that we can become easily involved with the teenage drama of highschool or face different obstacles due to family matters, friendship, or significant other breakups, or we may just be having a bad and unlucky couple of weeks.

These may feel like they are the hardest times of our lives and could result in depression. This may involve thoughts of not wanting to live through it. But in the end, we survived, are still here, and have or hopefully will learn about the great parts of life and the great people who are in it with us.

Taylor Swift wrote this song vulnerably and wanted to share her story and give a song to which her listeners could relate to and feel encouraged to keep pushing through the hard times and in the end they will be okay.

I hope non-swifties are now convinced to listen to a Taylor Swift song and understand, respect, and possibly relate to what she is saying. And hopefully my fellow swifties have an excuse to relisten or to learn something new.

VISITING A BYGONE ERA AND THE HOUSEWIFE AESTHETIC

By SERENITY CROSBY

The 1950's was a time of pastel flowy feelings of fresh air and soft cotton upon one's skin is all I can think about when looking back at the outfits of housewives of this time, the shorter dresses so they don't get ruined on possible spills and the aprons for wiping hands while cooking was truly genius for the time. The soft clothing and overall soft feeling of women wearing these dresses was simply eye-catching, the smooth feel of the cotton and the pretty patterns evokes a feel of warmth and a smell of cinnamon apple pie.

The 1970's was a time of experimentation, it was fun and I feel like the fashion was more personalized and had more pizzazz with the bold patterns and wonderful colors. The bold patterns and big hairstyles worked well for the time. This was a time of fun and personality. I feel like this was a time where women were breaking free from the mold, like a caterpillar turning into a beautiful butterfly in their own way.

The 1980's was a very simple time with easy outfits for housewives, I personally feel as if the housewife outfits glowed down from what we had before, the warm feeling or pop of personality had left and everything from my research is effortless pattern and elementary design. It feels so much less homey than before. The plain look and blank feel of this time is honestly disappointing to say the least.

My conclusion is that times and themes have changed the way we see housewives and their fashion choices. From the immediate thought of an apple pie, or the feeling you've seen it on tv, to a simple pattern and dress design. Our fashion choices have changed with the times, but it doesn't make looking back any less enjoyable



Photo by: Recollections.biz



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Photo by: Samantha Sutton

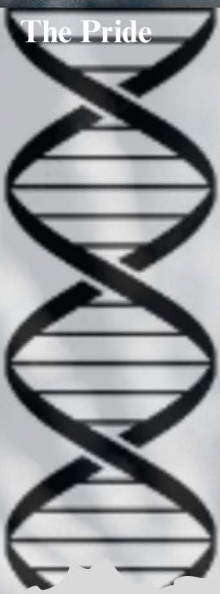
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Genetics and myself

By Lor Brisson

photo by Atlantic Eye Institute



Ever looked at yourself and noticed a feature, maybe even an accent/lisp or deformity? It seems simple until you look closer and realize, "Well where did that come from?" The short answer is to look at your family, as most of it comes directly from your genetics. If your family has a constant inherited trait, it has a large chance of carrying over to you.

Unless your genes are overtaken by your partner's when you have children, which happens often. That starts a new genetic cycle until it is ended. Genetics can have an effect on aspects of yourself that you probably wouldn't expect from your family.

Hitchhikers' thumb is a result of your family, same as attached or hanging earlobes, and teeth. Some traits are common, and others not so much. Dark hair is naturally a dominant trait, and because of that, over 80% of the world has dark hair.

If we're taking brown hair into consideration, it's over 90%, and that just seems crazy.

Only around 5.5% of the population, at least in America, has blonde hair. Obviously, there are outliers, such as grey or red hair, but still, that's a lot of people. 333.3 million people live in the U.S, and out of all those everyone, almost 300 million people have dark hair.

Eye color has a differing ratio, but similar chance. Close to 80% of people have brown eyes, with blue making up around 9%, hazel being 5%, gray being 3%, and green being 2%. All traits that correspond to hair and eye color usually go hand in hand, but not always.

You can only have certain traits due to the predetermined genetics present in your family.

If almost everyone in your family has dark hair and eyes, you probably will too. Though, if you have a half-dark and half-light ratio, it could be either.

If you combine those chances, you can have either a very large or a very, very small number. A tiny chance that you could have any combination of those traits. Though, it also depends on your family.

photo by paradyses



Recessive Eye Colour

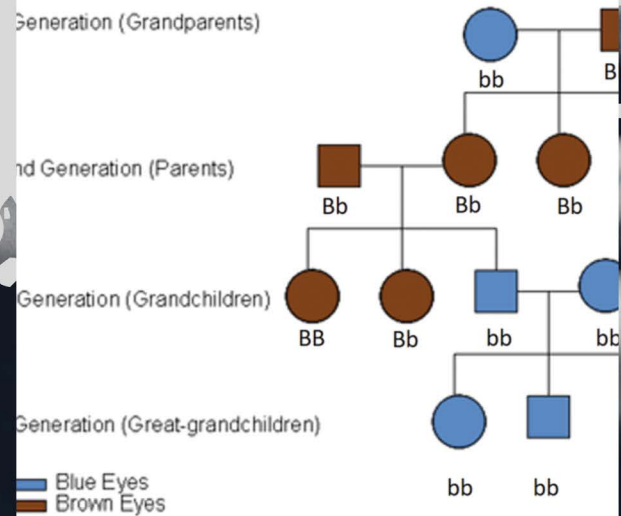


photo by Nature

Photo from
VisitErie

FALL

By Jaydin Sheets

As the months fly by,
And the days become short,
Our souls intertwine,
And my love starts to contort.

Torn is my heart,
For I cannot choose,
Between one love, and another,
And I'm not one for ruse.

Because the two very beings,
Which I seem to crave,
Conflict each other,
Right down to the grave.

One calls himself "Death,"
And he dresses in black,
His shoulders are hunched,
And there's a weight on his back.

He showed up one day,
Carrying my spine,
And he told me to wait,
When I asked him to be mine.

The other is "Autumn,"
And her presence is warm,
Her eyes are like copper,
A rose with no thorn.

I found her on my window,
Sipping hot tea,
And she said to have patience,
When I asked her to come with me.

I love them both,
I love all their flaws,
Their simple, and complex,
Their soft skin, and sharp claws.

But as the wind grows cold,
And brown floods the earth,
I begin to wonder,
About each of their worth.

When Death takes a stroll,
The leaves start to wilt,
And the apples, they rot,
And the ground turns to silt.

He waits outside,
With dead roses from a bush,
And although he's intimidating,
My heart turns to mush.

And Autumn, my love,
She carries the leaves,
With apples, she makes pie,
And she sways with the trees.

She dances in fields,
And wears sweaters, and gloves,
She's patient, and kind,
And she never, ever shoves.

Autumn likes cinnamon,
And wearing warm hats,
Death likes crows,
And ghosts, and dark bats.

Death likes the rain,
And everything cold,
Autumn likes books,
And animals to hold.

Their conflicts are blaring,
Like a moth to a stone,
But there's something about them,
To each their very own.

But one day I think,
And I begin to realize,
Something I didn't see,
Although it was right before my eyes.

In the space between the two,
From Autumn to Death,
There lies one factor,
That was right under my breath.

The two beings are one,
They are the same,
The same person, the same presence,
Regardless of name.

Yes, they contrast,
And barely compare,
But I see the love,
In which they both share.

Death and Autumn,
They've helped me learn,
That no matter the person,
There's two sides to an urn.

There's some of Death in Autumn,
For all of the trees,
They're dead, and rotten,
But there's beauty in that breeze.

And in Death, there's Autumn,
In the dark pumpkin patch,
There's children, and laughter,
Which darkness can't match.

So yes, I love them,
In their beautiful weird way,
Between the turkey dinners,
And big bales of hay.

They are everything to me,
But in reality, Nothing at all,
They're not even a person,
Yet they call themselves, "Fall."



Photo from VisitErie



Photo from Erie Times-News

Fahrenheit 451: Can the 1953 Classic Be Relevant to 2024?



Photo by WSFU News

By: Cassie Geiger-Herman

The summer reading book assigned to sophomores, *Fahrenheit 451* is widely appreciated and understood throughout the Collegiate student body. It addresses many different themes that are still relevant today. I don't usually read or enjoy reading, but this book really interested me. I enjoyed the topics of censorship and apathy and the issues with technology it addressed. Moreover the fact that Ray Bradbury predicted the future technology and its impact on humanity added to the appeal of reading the book.

However, sophomore Xiomaira Rosario thought of the book, she didn't like it saying "No, I thought it was boring".

Sophomore Madeline Eckendorf also enjoys the book. She says, "I think that Ray Bradbury was really ahead of his time for writing this book in 1953." Even though she had trouble with really delving into this book in the beginning she eventually grew to like it.

Another Sophomore who read the book, Jasmine Cruz said that the book was "Weird, but explained the government really well."

Ms. Parthenakis is the teacher who assigned the book along with the summer reading assignment which forced me to put my thoughts onto paper and think of the book and its themes in more depth.

Ms. Parthenakis's view of the book is similar to mine. "I do. I like all of its relevance, I like all of its symbolism." "I don't think it's a very long read. It's relatively easy to understand, I think every student can find something in it to relate to."

In short, this book *Fahrenheit 451* relates a lot to today and I believe a possibility of what our world could look like. With the banning of books in schools, such as this one comes a lack of freedom of speech and understanding of the danger censorship poses. This book is one that should be read by everyone at least once, especially when books like this are getting banned in some parts of the U.S.



Photo by Pinterest

Survive the Night

Book Review

A'Naja Barney

The setting for *Survive the Night* by Riley Sager takes place in 1991 and starts with a girl named Charlie. Charlie's best friend and roommate, Maddy, was unfortunately murdered by a serial killer on their college campus. Charlie is overwhelmed with grief, and the only thing she wants to do is get off the campus. Charlie chooses not to wait for her boyfriend to drive her home, and instead signs up for a ride-share program on campus.

There, she meets Josh, who agrees to drive her in exchange for company and gas money. In the beginning, Josh seems trustworthy enough, but slowly into the car ride Josh's story doesn't add up. Was Josh really leaving campus to help his sick father or will Charlie bear the same fate Maddy did just a few months prior?

Due to throwing out her hallucination pills, Charlie couldn't trust herself or the person she was sitting next to. Was Josh an innocent man turned into a monster by Charlie's imagination or someone waiting for the perfect moment to put Charlie out of her grief-filled misery?

The plot twists of this book were so unpredictable and had me second guessing myself just as much as Charlie. It took around 100 pages to pop off but certain moments made me not want to put the book down.

This story is an easy read for anyone who loves thrillers. Most of the story is only dialogue, which makes it a vivid and real read. Since I could imagine myself in the scenes of the story, I rate the book a 4.4/5.

The book isn't a perfect 5/5, because the ending wasn't as good as I'd expected but that doesn't take away from the fact that everything leading up to it was amazing. The author gives the reader a different point of view of each character, luring you into the story even more. We get to see the thoughts of Josh and other characters along the way.

When the action gets more intense the chapters get shorter and shorter and have readers flipping page after page wondering what will happen next. I recommend this book to anyone who loves thrillers and even to people who don't.

Riley Sager is a New York Times best selling author and has written 8 novels. Sager's most recent books are: *The Only One Left* and *The House Across the Lake*, which will soon be adapted into a Netflix movie.



Photo from IMCDB.org



Photo: Ricardolr/Getty Images

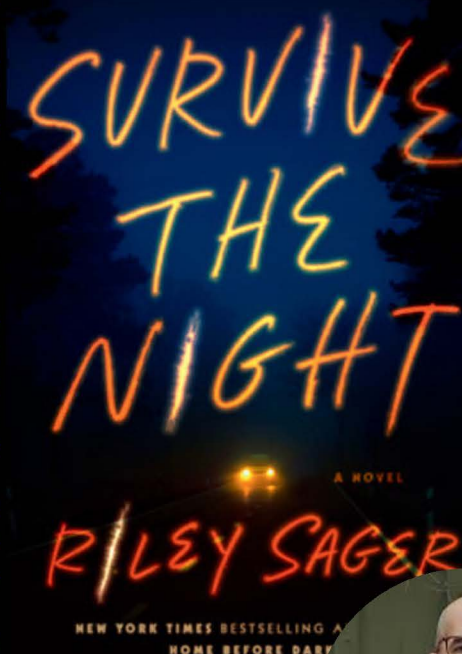


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Grocery Store Madness

By Mirela Saracevic

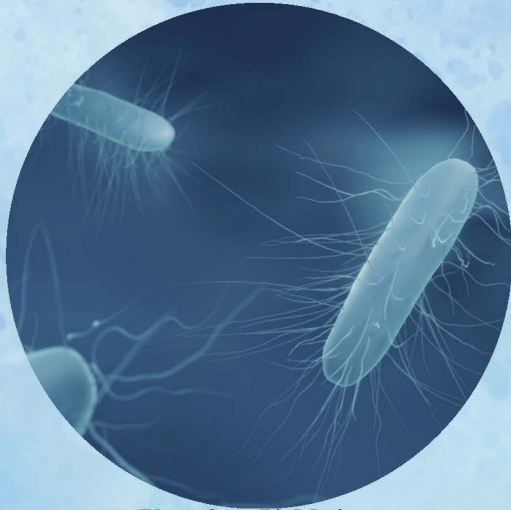


Photo from BioMerieux

Listeria is not a common disease, but is still a well known bacteria that fits in the class Bacilli in produce and dairy grocery, Listeria is rare but a serious case for grocery stores to deal with. Pregnant women, infants, elderly, and having an immune system that puts people at risk and there has been an increase in 2024 each year, Listeria outbreaks which have become increasingly serious and common in grocery stores.

Listeria infection is a bacterial food borne illness that primarily affects pregnant women since it is fatal to newborns. One main issue is that Listeria cannot freeze but you can avoid certain food and keep fruits and vegetables washed. The disease can be deadly if the immune system is not healthy, It's estimated about 260 die from Listeriosis and 1,600 people get sick. Since the bacteria can easily spread to other fruits under a short period of time, there have been an abundance of outbreaks around.

Around 20 different vegetables have had the bacteria infection. The stores that suffered backlash were Walmart, Casco, Aldi and Kroger. States that delivered these packages of infected fruits and vegetables were Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. Between July 5 and July 12, 2024 packages have been shipped to these states.

The symptoms one receives from Listeriosis varies for each person since each person has a different immune system. Symptoms can include fever, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Some severe symptoms are headache, stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance, and convulsions. Unfortunately Listeria since it is fatal but survival chances are 20 to 30 percent out of 90. Listeria is the third most continuous death by foodborne illness in the US.

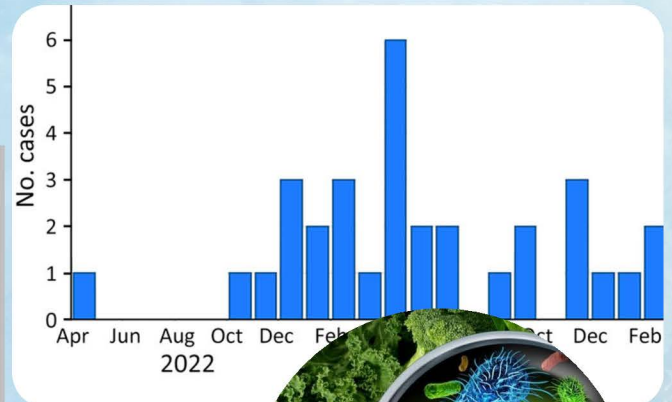


Photo from CDC

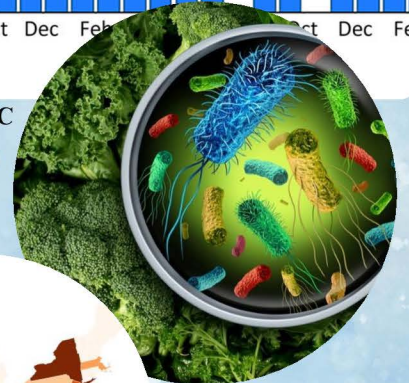


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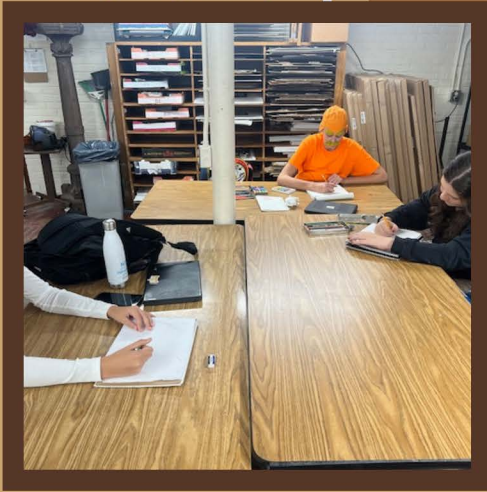
Foods that are plant based are more likely to have Listeria since it comes from soil, water, vegetation, and animal feces. Some products that have been recalled were silk milk, ChipWich, Hershey's, Friendly's and Jeni's which are all ice cream brands that came from Totally Cool, Inc and Sargento. Mainly milk products like cheese and ice cream, milk itself too are at risk. Additionally, slicing meats at a deli can also transfer bacteria to even more meats, which is another common way to get listeria. Luckily there are many ways to prevent Listeria. Some ways are staying clean by thoroughly washing hands with soap after preparing or handling food, cooking food properly and thoroughly, washing and scrubbing vegetables, and keeping meals in a fridge. However these methods are not likely to work but they are still worth a try.

Why is it important to have a hobby?

Photo by A’Naja Barney

By Kennedy Hildebrand

photo by A’Naja Barney



Based on data from aytm.com, about 85% of the population has a hobby and believes it is important.

Hobbies aren't just limited to sports played after school, on weekends, or during the summer. Having a hobby means finding an extra activity that you find enjoyable. Although, everyone's idea of enjoyable is different. A source from self.com says, "Because humanity is a rich tapestry, we all have different ideas of what constitutes a hobby. For example, I would rather sit on a hill of ants than go for a jog".

I interviewed two tenth graders here at Collegiate about what their favorite hobby is and why. Larissa Komisariski says "My favorite hobby is water coloring and it gives me something creative to devote my time to".

photo by Larissa Komisariski



A’Naja Barney told me, "I have many hobbies like reading, drawing, playing basketball, and skateboarding and I love to do all of them in my free time to keep me active and I never get bored".

My final interview is from a senior here, Lindsey Meyer. She has told me her favorite hobby is fishing. "I've been doing it since I was 7. My dad has been taking me out on Lake Erie for years now and even though we don't always get good catches, I value the experience. I love being out on the water as well".