Dear Seniors: It’s the Beginning of the End

By Adriana Roth

How does it feel to be a senior? To this, there is no exact answer. The school year has started and many seniors share conflicted emotions as they embark on their last year at EBHS.

Senior Anushka Shah said, “I don’t think I’ll ever be ready. It’s crazy to think senior year is my last year of high school but I’m excited to see what the year brings!” It’s a year to create final memories. From Senior Sunrise on September 6 to the long-anticipated homecoming on October 6, there are countless senior events to look forward to.

“Senior Sunrise was chilly but fun,” said senior Hanna Lee. “It was kind of emotional too, seeing everyone driving; I felt really old.”

Ziad Burgha, another senior at EBHS, also thought that it was enjoyable, “I got to catch up with a lot of my friends about what they’ve been up to, and I definitely got through a handful and have a lot to get through.”

Despite the stress and anxieties, senior year is one of the most exciting years of high school! There is more freedom and independence. This is a year for seniors to prepare for the future while bonding with the people around them for one last year.

Burgha said that for him, “College applications are going decently well but it’s very hard to motivate (himself) to do them. (He’s) only gotten through a handful and has a lot left to get through. (He’s) hoping for the best though and will definitely start focusing now that deadlines are coming up quickly.”

The college application process can be a very stressful time for students. They have to think about and prepare for the future regardless of if they are ready for it. Shah said that they’re “taking a lot of time and can be overwhelming at times. (She’s) just taking it slow and steady, little by little every day.”

Nevertheless, even with the freedom and fun activities that this year entails, there is visible pressure on students. This is the season to finish college applications, tackle exams, and balance the heavy responsibilities that senior year holds.

Senior Sunrise was just the start of school events, as seniors look forward to countless more. Lee said, “I’m on the Asian club executive board so I’m excited for all the events they have this year like ping pong, Baha House, possible movie night and Asian Night. Also any kind of band concerts! And of course, I’m excited to go to prom again.”

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Russo-Ukrainian Conflict: What Has Happened in the Last 200 Days?

by Ananya Pradhan

NATO is an intergovernmental military alliance established in April 1949. Originally, the organization was created to provide collective security against the Soviet Union after World War II. Despite the Soviet Union’s dissolution in 1991, NATO’s significance still stands today, especially as the peril of the Russo-Ukrainian conflict looms.

On February 24th, 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin launched a full-scale invasion on Ukraine. In response to Ukraine’s decision to join NATO, Putin viewed the alliance as a threat to Russian national security. Analyzing the importance of NATO, EBHS senior Srikar Srinivasan said the organization’s involvement “could have a crucial impact on the future as other nations could persuade Ukraine to lead in a certain way, different from Russia.”

Immediately following the war declaration, many countries in NATO offered aid to Ukraine and imposed sanctions on foreign activity involving Russia. This included the freezing of Russian central bank deposits, banning Russian aircraft from the European Union airspace, and the application for NATO membership by numerous countries.

In early March, Russian forces captured Ukraine’s Zaporizhzhia Power Plant. Highlighting the severity of the issue, EBHS environmental science teacher Mr. Gibo said, “The problem worsened when the Russians took over the plant since they got rid of most of the crew, diminishing the ability to keep the reactor cool. Because the reactor is self-sustaining, it means any unwanted nuclear reaction would continuously accelerate.”

Further anxiety stirred when both sides accused each other of shelving the plant. When the plant was temporarily cut off from Ukraine’s power grid in late April, Ukrainian President Volodmyr Zelensky said the world had narrowly avoided a large-scale radiation accident that could have spread to neighboring countries. As the war continues, the world has observed much from the victories and defeats involving the two countries. However, only time can tell how the conflict will end and dependence on Western aid, Ukrainian patriotism, and Russian confidence will be the deciding factors.
From the Editors-in-Chief:

Welcome back EBHS! With summer coming to an end and pumpkin spice lattes going back into season, we wanted to provide our readers with some words of encouragement:

To the seniors reading this, we wish you the best of luck in deciding precisely what you want to do with the next chapter of your life. No pressure.

To the juniors, also good luck. Remember, your GPA and standardized test scores define exactly who you are.

To the sophomores, start mapping out the entirety of your high school and career goals. You only have three years left of high school. Make them count.

And to everyone else, the hallways and rooms are no longer lettered. Kudos to you if you can name the room number you’re currently sitting in!

In all seriousness, it’s important to remember to enjoy your high school experiences to the fullest. Live in the moment. Although there is tangible pressure upon our shoulders, don’t forget to stop and smell the roses, or the seasonal fall items. We sincerely hope each and every one of you have happy and fulfilling school years!

-Shohini & Olivia
Editors-in-Chief, 2022-2023
**Senior Anagha Shankar Aced It**

by Huseina Basrai

Skill, resilience, and commitment, are all qualities any successful athlete possesses. Senior Anagha Shankar - who recently verbally committed to Quinnipiac for Di tennis - possesses all of these traits. She goes above and beyond both on and off the court, and motivates those on her team to do the same.

Shankar has always wanted to pursue tennis in college. She said, “the time and dedication put in made it seem possible.”

Though she looks forward to continuing her passion at the collegiate level, Shankar is aware her achievement has not come without sacrifices.

Anagha Shankar hits a return in her singles match

Shankar’s determination is unparalleled during a match

Shankar found it challenging to balance her love of the sport with the typical responsibilities of a teenager. This meant “giving up a lot of free time and spending time with friends.” Though it was difficult to manage the highs and lows of a high school athletic career, she said, “in the end, it was all worth it.”

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**A New Plan and A Promising Future**

by Olesya Naryshkina

On August 24, 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration announced its long-anticipated Loan Relief Plan. If successful, an estimated forty million Americans could shortly see their student loan debt either reduced or eliminated, according to Penn Today.

However, certain financial criteria must be met to experience this alleviation. According to the Relief Plan’s outline, $10,000 in federal student loan debt will be erased from individuals earning below $125,000 a year and households earning less than $250,000 a year.

Those eligible who are in debt can breathe a sigh of relief. EBHS senior Leo Fang said that the plan “will greatly improve the mental health of college graduates who are bogged down by student loans.”

However, opponents argue the plan puts some at a disadvantage. A study by the Brookings Institution found that “almost a third of all student debt is owed by the wealthiest 20 percent of households and only 5 percent by the bottom 20 percent.”

Senior Allison Yang said, “what percentage of minorities is benefiting from this? Should we really be basing this system on income rather than wealth? Are we just normalizing these huge price increases in post-secondary education which should really be the issue we need to consider?”

The implementation of the plan may allow graduate and postgraduate students to take a deep breath without the weight of debt on their shoulders, but undoubtedly leaves some marginalized. While an innovative way to tackle the drawbacks of the American education system, more must be done to ensure no graduate is left behind.

“Are we just normalizing these huge price increases in post-secondary education which should really be the issue we need to consider?”

-Senior Allison Yang

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**Is Harry Styles the “New King of Pop?”**

by Siena Baver

Since departing from the hit band One Direction to pursue his solo career, Harry Styles has quickly become one of the biggest names in the music industry. After the release of his latest album, Harry’s House in May of 2022, Styles has just begun to tap into his underlying talent. The album debuted atop the US and UK charts as the fastest-selling record of 2022 to date. With four singles simultaneously charting within the US top 10 of its release week, Styles made history as the first British solo artist to do so.

On August 22, Rolling Stone named Harry Styles the new “King of Pop.” Since its publication, there has been much controversy over whether Harry Styles truly deserves the title originally awarded to pop singer Michael Jackson.

“I think if anyone would be the new ‘King of Pop’ it would be Harry. He’s grown a lot within the past few years and the amount of love he spreads in the world is amazing,” said sophomore Kiara Cruz. Styles is known for experimenting and taking liberties with his music. His three albums, Harry Styles, Fine Line, and Harry’s House, contain a plethora of choices to choose from. “They are so diverse that there’s a song for every mood and feeling.”

Contributing to Harry’s rising fame is the continuation of his second world tour: “Love On Tour.” The pandemic’s emergence pushed his tour back as he had to postpone it from 2020 to 2021. After performing in the United States, Styles traveled across seas, where he performed for two nights at Wembley Stadium among various other shows in Europe and South America. He then came back in 2022 and began his fifteenth-night residency at Madison Square Garden. All fifteen nights sold out at almost record-breaking speed.

Junior Bella Mento said, “I’ve been to ‘Love On Tour’ on multiple occasions, eight times specifically. Just saying how many times I’ve been speaks louder than words, those shows are some of the best moments of my life. Harry just knows how to make you feel accepted and loved, you go into the arena getting the thrill of knowing you can be whoever you desire.”

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**Harry Styles’ “One Night Only In New York” Concert**

Due to popular demand Harry is set to cross the sea once again for Asian, South American, and European tour dates in 2023, where the massive tour is suspected to come to a close.

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**Icon Vs. Icon**

Harry Styles performing for BBC Radio 1

Harry Styles Love on Tour 2022

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**Students supporting the Loan Relief Plan**

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-Senior Allison Yang
The NASA Artemis Missions: Waste or Win?

by Shayan Chaudhury

NASA is making a long-awaited return to the Moon— the Artemis missions seek to have the first long-term occupation of the moon, giving NASA vital information concerning potential Mars exploration. Not only will these missions put the first female on the moon, but the first person of color as well.

Despite the prominence of the Artemis missions, headlines regarding space travel have recently been dominated by private companies such as SpaceX, Blue Origin, and Virgin Galactic. These corporations have contributed to new developments in space travel, ushering in a phenomenon that the Harvard Business Review deemed a "Commercial Space Age."

With the further privatization of space travel, controversy has arisen concerning its benefits.

Mr. Daus, an astronomy teacher at EBHS, said "I think that space travel is important in the short-term because it allows us to push the limits of human knowledge, endure, and abilities in a peaceful manner. It provides gainful employment opportunities for hundreds of thousands of people, economic and other benefits for millions more, and provides something positive to inspire people (especially young people)..."

The exploration of outer space has led to many of humanity’s greatest accomplishments. Despite this, the main benefits provided by space travel are not extraterrestrial at all. For example, space travel has been extremely advantageous to the development of terrestrial technologies. According to USA Today, products such as LED lights, various athletic shoes, invisible braces, and cell phone cameras were created thanks to inventions and innovations made for space.

Technology development is far from the only byproduct of space travel; according to NASA, the organization has supported 21,000 jobs nationwide. The list continues for the pros of space travel, but so do the cons.

Junior and former Science Olympiad member Kenneth Chan said, “Billionaire tech moguls can throw as much money at space travel as they want, but the act is that it’ll only benefit the wealthiest elites. The original space race served a national security purpose, a public good. This current space race serves only a commercial interest, one which caters only to the most fortunate of us while simultaneously siphoning resources from pressing terrestrial issues.”

The space industry is extremely lucrative - CNBC reported that in 2021, space infrastructure companies received about $45.5 billion of private investment. This value itself is comparable to the 23.5 billion dollars provided to NASA in 2020.

The large sums of money involved in these transactions and the rising commercialization of space could be better spent combating issues plaguing today’s society rather than the issues of space tomorrow. With the Artemis missions and the rise of commercial space travel, the question remains as to whether space travel is truly out of this world.
2022 US Open Tennis Highlights

by Daniel Koong

Held annually in Queens, New York, the US Open Tennis Championships is a highly anticipated and exciting event for many worldwide. With high stakes, fierce competition, and thrilling moments, thousands of tennis fans tune in to watch the world's best players compete for the biggest prize. Starting from the last Monday of August, the two-week event provides for moments that will long live in tennis history.

This year’s tournament has already crowned a new winner. 21-year-old, Iga Świątek, defeated veteran Ons Jabeur to win the US Open women’s final, making her the first Polish woman to win the tournament. As a tennis player, and her passion for the sport, Świątek is an extremely driven and huge inspiration. Świątek’s incredible win at such a young age is a testament to her hard work and dedication. According to Świątek’s incredible win, said, “as a tennis player myself, Świątek’s incredible win is a reminder that with hard work and dedication, anything is possible.”

The US Open also consists of a chance for players to display their skills. Part of the US Open, “Net Generation” program, young athletes take to the court before or between matches to play a game of tennis themselves.

East Brunswick's own local groups, the East Brunswick Youth Tennis and Brunswick Hills Tennis Clah, took part in the event this year giving the township's youth a chance to experience the sport. "All in all, this year’s rendition of the US Open Tennis Championships proved to be highly competitive, dramatic, and eye-catching. Athletes put their hearts on the line to be crowned as the best of the best, but to reach a stage this big is a great achievement nonetheless. As today’s athletes continue to inspire others, the future of the US Open Tennis Champions certainly looks bright."

The Wrath of “El Toro”: Should Amusement Parks Be Safer?

by Naomic Karki

A 76-degree-angle drop and a maximum speed of 70 miles per hour both sound intimidating. Yet some visitors are not startled by these kinds of roller coasters. "El Toro" is one of the most thrilling roller coasters in history. For over a decade, "El Toro" has been a part of Six Flags Great Adventure since its construction in 2006.

But on August 25, five people were hospitalized due to injuries sustained during the ride. The DCA, or Department of Community Affairs, instructed Six Flags to shut down "El Toro" after the incident, and it remains closed for inspection. Some people have relayed their safety concerns about other rides. Should amusement park reevaluate more of their attractions?

"[parks] should not be spending exorbitant amounts of money and time trying to eliminate thrill and innate danger entirely." -Senior Caroline Kelly

The Rise of the Gentleminions

by Navirith Suresh

Kicking off summer, the newest addition to the Despicable Me franchise was released in early July. Minions: The Rise of Gru made $48.2 million on its first day in theaters and quickly became a box office hit. While the film was directed towards young children and their parents, the masses of theatergoers were quite the contrary.

Junior Thomas Stein said, “we kind of raised the movie for kids.”

“it was nothing that I was expecting. That was what made the movie ten times better, was the fact that I could dress up with my friends,” said senior Alejandro Miel.

Though initially harmless, the trend ultimately led to mayhem, stemming primarily from the disruptions caused by the self-proclaimed Gentleminions. Some groups of teens defaced theaters, ripping screens and leaving garbage strewn around. Some TikToks even featured police cars clearing out sharply dressed crowds. In response, some theaters refused entry to any individual wearing a suit.

And as for the actual movie? Miel said, “I felt the hype for the movie was a lot better than the actual movie, but in the end, the experience is what counts.”

The US Open also offers moments that will long live in tennis history. In winning the two-week event provides for moments that will long live in tennis history. In winning the two-week event provides for moments that will long live in tennis history.

Iga Świątek celebrates her US Open win

New York Post

A view of the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center

TikTok

The Gentleminions trend on TikTok

Variety
Who are we? What do we do?

The Clarion is EBHS’s official school newspaper! Our articles are written by EBHS students and cover a wide range of local and global news topics. Throughout the year, we publish both monthly online issues (posted on Canvas) and print issues (like this one). If you have a passion for journalism, research, current events, or just writing in general, The Clarion is a great way to showcase your talents!

How do you sign up to write articles?

Join our Microsoft Teams and come to our general meetings to sign up for articles! We post new topics in the channels every month. ANYONE can join!

You can sign up to write as many articles as you want, and you can write individually or with a partner. Our October Issue general meeting is on Wednesday, 9/28 after school in the media center.

Got any questions? Feel free to contact us at ebhs.clarion@gmail.com for more information about the club.

Interested in submitting original drawings, cartoons, comics, and other artwork to be featured in our publications? Contact clarion.visual2023@gmail.com for more information!

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