

first edition of 2023

TOWER TIMES

whitefish bay high school

FEATURING...

Black Student Union Honors Black
History Month Throughout School

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Curriculum (pg 11)

Winter Formal Returns With Changes

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By: Anavi Prakash



Students work in Dr. Derose's AP US History course.

When students go see Ms. Gorlewski, the school psychologist, they seek help for stress and anxiety. Since the pandemic started, this has only increased.

"The pandemic definitely increased student stress," said Gorlewski. "Feeling like 'how do I keep up a level of rigor and expectation that I feel like I should?'"

This stress stems from seeing other students' success and striving to have the same.

"Some students talk about feeling like they're falling behind," Gorlewski said, "but they tend to compare themselves to what they perceive other students to be experiencing, not

an actual skill gap."

Junior Aby Truett agreed with this, saying she unintentionally compares herself to her peers and feels that her learning isn't what it used to be.

"I used to feel a lot more confident in school and my work, but now I feel less confident and I almost feel like I don't process information as well as I used to. I procrastinate now more than I ever had before," she said.

She believes these changes started when she had a hard time focusing in virtual classes, something that has stuck with her since then.

Feelings like these have also affected performance levels

across the state.

The 2022 National Assessment of Educational Progress in math reported that the average 8th grade score in Wisconsin decreased from 242 to 240 out of 500 points. The reading assessment had a drop from 219 to 216. Both these results put Wisconsin in the 'basic' range. 12th grade testing was not conducted in 2022, but Wisconsin's math score has consistently been between 150-153 out of 300 since 1990. Reading scores decreased in 2019 from 292 to 285 out of 500.

While these scores are not reflective of all of Wisconsin, a gap remains for all students, whether it be in knowledge or how they learn.

For freshman Ingrid Liddle, her struggles started when she moved to Whitefish Bay during the hybrid school year (2020-2021). She struggled with using technology for all her courses and had trouble understanding math.

"At my old school I hadn't learned some of the stuff expected of me in 7C [the advanced math course for seventh grade] and I feel like I've been behind ever since," Liddle said.

Outside of pure academics, students are also struggling with how to learn.

"I've noticed a difference in stamina, like how long students can have sustained focus, whether that's on readings or discussions, and it varies

from person to person, but it's a pattern I've seen across many students," Ms. Sibbernsen, an English teacher, said.

High school principal Amy Levek said new lessons have been implemented in classrooms, especially for the freshman.

"We've had to fill in how to take notes, how to study, how to be a student," she said. "I think we've had to learn to go slow to go fast in terms of reteaching school skills."

Ms. Sutherland, the instructional resource coordinator, believes these gaps in skills have affected students' performance once they get to the high school level.

"I think that because of the pandemic, some kids are less prepared for the rigor of high school than they were in the past," she said.

Liddle feels that she won't ever be able to make up for the learning she's lost.

"Being prepared for courses next year is something I don't think I'll ever be ready for," she said. "I haven't quite caught up in everything since Covid hit and since classes go so fast, it would be difficult."

This contrasts one of the main school improvement goals the administration has for the high school.

"We want all students to realize they have the skills to go after a rigorous course and that they know what's out there or didn't think they could go after it," Levek said.

Challenging students to have more rigor in their schedule is part of the Advancement

Via Individual Determination (AVID) framework implemented at the school five years ago. AVID elective courses, according to AVID's website, gives students "additional academic, social, and emotional support that will help them succeed in their school's most rigorous courses."

Students are chosen for AVID by the high school administration and their middle school counselors. They continue with the program for seven semesters, finishing in the first semester of senior year.

Previously, students have been required to take at least one Advanced Placement (AP) course in their junior and senior year. Now, "courses of rigor" go beyond just APs.

Mrs. Aussem, one of the school's guidance counselors, said, "We try to help define the course of rigor. AP is an easy go to, it is a course of rigor. But there's also other courses of rigor, so for some kids a course of rigor could be our Project Lead the Way, which is the engineering strand or the biomedical strand."

She said counselors encourage all students to take a "course of rigor", but there is a special emphasis on them for AVID students.

Since the pandemic started, the number of students who take an AVID course has increased. For the senior class there are 19 students, but for the freshman and sophomore classes, there are 26 students each.

Besides AVID, students have also been utilizing the learning

center more often. According to Sibbernsen, there are 70-80 students using the learning center's support, which is lower than at the peak of the pandemic.

"Our goal is more about growing the kid where they are, and that's always been the goal. Pre-pandemic as well, and getting them so that they can challenge themselves at the next level," said Sibbernsen.

Since and before the pandemic, teachers and administrators have looked for different ways to encourage and advance students' learning.

As Gorlewski put it, "We want to be a place of rigorous learning and a place that develops the whole child and teaches wellness. The purpose of education is to have students go out and be well-functioning citizens of society. That is a much broader range than what is felt like can be communicated in a high school like this."



The learning center has more resources to help students with their schoolwork.

Simple Crepes

By: Magnolia Judy

As second semester starts gaining steam, there’s nothing more needed than a sweet treat to energize our brains. These simple crepes are, well, simple and delicious! They take about a half hour to make and not only are they a perfect treat to give to a special someone, but they are a perfect way to get a break from the overwhelming stress of school. Baking is one of my favorite releases and maybe it can become one of yours too!

Crepe Ingredients

- 1 cup all purpose flour (spooned and leveled)
- 1 tablespoon of sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon coarse salt
- 1 1/2 cups whole milk
- 4 large eggs
- 3 tablespoons of unsalted butter, melted

Chocolate Drizzle Ingredients

- 1/3 cup nutella
- 1/4 cup heavy whipping cream



1. In a blender, combine the flour, sugar, salt, milk, eggs, and butter
2. Puree until mixture is smooth and bubbles form at the top (about 30 seconds). Let the batter sit at room temperature for at least 15 minutes or cover in an airtight container and refrigerate for up to one day.
3. Whisk the batter. Heat a 12-inch nonstick skillet over medium. Lightly coat with butter and add 1/3 cup batter. Carefully stir to cover the bottom of the skillet. Cook until underside is golden brown (about 2-3 minutes).
4. Loosen edges crepe with a rubber spatula and with your fingertips carefully flip. Let it cook for one more minute. Slide crepe out of skillet and repeat with remaining batter. As needed, coat the pan in butter.
5. Fill with toppings like nutella, jam, ham and cheese, or create your own!
6. Take the nutella and heavy whipping cream and microwave the mixture for 15 seconds.
7. Stir until desired consistency is reached and drizzle it on the crepes.
8. Enjoy!

Wild Fork: New North Shore Grocery Store

By: Carly Pence

Open seven days a week, a new grocery store, Wild Fork, has opened in Glendale.

Wild Fork sells a wide variety of meat and seafood. Their specialty meats include ostrich and alligator.

The grocery store prides itself on selling ethically sourced meat. It claims to work with husbandry professionals who have built relationships with the company.

Their meat is sourced from a total of 23 countries. Its chicken and beef are both sourced from the United States. Steak is sourced from the United States, Australia, and Japan. The majority of the other countries supply Wild Fork with seafood. This diverse range of sourcing allows shoppers to try types of meat they wouldn’t find otherwise, such as A5 Wagyu steak from Japan,

which is renowned by many as the best steak in the world.

Wild Fork also has a variety of other food options apart from meat. They offer a large selection of spices, fruits and vegetables, and desserts from different regions. The dessert options are classics in their countries of origin, such as French macarons from France, grilling cheese from Brazil, and apple pie from the US. Wild Fork also sells vegetarian options including such as Beyond Meat sausage and burger patties.

The selection of food offered at Wild Fork is frozen. Most of the frozen meat must be thawed and then cooked, while the pre-made meals they offer can be heated up in the oven or microwave.

One Wild Fork customer said, “I have really liked Wild Fork

so far. It isn’t just frozen meat and seafood. The ready-to-eat meals like mac and cheese, chicken and sausage jambalaya, and taglierini with bolognese sauce that I tried were all very good.”

One of the biggest appeals of Wild Fork is its delivery service. Wild Fork offers local and national delivery services with free shipping for orders over \$35. The delivery service is helpful because the store is not stocked with every item the company offers.

An anonymous Wild Fork employee said, “[Wild Fork] is a really good company with great benefits. Every week we receive free items and get to pick \$15 worth of products. When I was first hired, they paid for me to go to Chicago for a week to work and train at a store.”

The chain is owned by JBS, the largest meat processing company in the world. Based in Brazil, JBS entered the US market in 2007.

In the past, JBS has been at the center of foreign bribery charges, deforestation concerns, and allegations of selling rotten meat.

Wild Fork’s Glendale location will be its 32nd location in the United States. Wild Fork plans to expand to 200 locations in the US within the next 2 years.



The storefront of Wild Fork is near the Panera in Glendale, where the Jos A. Bank used to be.

made in milwaukee

(by bill lewis)

If you live in the Milwaukee area, you've probably seen a video your friend sent you that was produced by the Milwaukee Public Library. Their TikToks have garnered them national attention (they were featured in a segment of *The Today Show* in December for it); however, according to Fawn Siemsen-Fuchs and Derek Reilly, the duo behind (and in front of) the camera, seeing new faces in the library is pretty cool too. Unfortunately, Reilly wasn't able to interview, but Siemsen-Fuchs was able to give insight into what it's like making Milwaukee home to "TikTok's Favorite Library".

Start off by introducing yourself!

My name is Fawn Siemsen-Fuchs and I'm the Library Volunteer Coordinator. However, my job is housed in the Communications & Marketing Department so when I'm not doing volunteer coordinating I do a lot with social media.

You had this pretty large shift in social media presence in March when you started to post videos promoting the library by using meme culture, which is seemingly working well! Was this a planned out marketing scheme, or were you all "rolling with the punches"?

Derek and I wanted to try doing reels on Instagram (this was before we had a TikTok) and we actually made a couple in 2021. They were decently received but they weren't very engaging. We took a break and approached with a different strategy in 2022 (now pay-

ing attention moreso to trending sounds and memes and tying them in with the library) to completely different results. We advocated for starting a TikTok after we found our sense of style and felt confident going forward. We had a backlog of Instagram videos and our Admin said yes. I don't think people expect this sort of content from a library so I think that's been a big part of our success.

How do you come up with video ideas for your pages?

Derek and I each come up with ideas and then we talk about them with each other. We pick out the ones that we feel highlight library resources in the best way and are the most engaging. Some ideas end up on the cutting room floor because they simply weren't as strong as other ideas. It's great working with someone else to bounce ideas off of and to level up your own ideas. We also collaborate so much with our staff actors and they often contribute idea nuggets and props and things that really help us flesh things out as well. We couldn't do it without them and they're so talented and fun to work with.

Your videos are going super viral right now, leading to an increase in exposure for the MPL and libraries in general. Are you getting more people into the library because of this?

Yes absolutely! Our ultimate goal is to get people to use their libraries and take advantage of the resources they offer. We often see people comment on our

Fawn Siemsen-Fuchs and Derek Reilly *Social Media Managers for the Milwaukee Public Library*

videos or hear them talk in-person about how our videos encouraged them to visit so that's very rewarding. It feels like hard work is paying off.

Did you have any background in social media/marketing before this?

I don't have a background in social media prior to this. However, I was an art major and Derek has a film background and a BBA in marketing. Evan Szymkowski, one of the actors we use frequently in videos, has a dance and theater background. There are a lot of creative people at MPL and it's really a breeding ground for creative ideas. I think that's why we've been so successful without specific social media experience prior to the library.

What's the next step for your videos? Are you looking to start partnering with other individuals to produce content, do more in-depth projects, etc?

We're really passionate about this because we care about the library and the future of libraries. We're so happy to have contributed to positive messaging about libraries and (hopefully!) have inspired more people to use them. Even if people who watch our videos aren't in Milwaukee, we want to bring love to libraries in general. We want people to get library cards and use them.



This is so new to us and we're learning every day. I expect the content to just keep getting better and better. We like to partner on videos when we have the time to do it, and where it makes sense and there's a library message. We really enjoy doing the more high production videos (like Stephen King and Stranger Things) but with our bandwidth with our regular jobs we can only do them here and there because they take more time to coordinate and edit. However, keep an eye out for more spoofs in the future!

Finally, how has it felt for your videos to have such a positive reception? How has it felt to have national attention for your work?

Black Student Union Honors Black History Month Throughout School

By: Anavi Prakash

Posters around the school, hung by the Black Student Union (BSU), recognize an important aspect of February: Black History Month. **Tower Times** interviewed BSU president Gabby Graves about the BSU's plans for the month and what it is like to be a Black student at Whitefish Bay High School.

What does Black History Month mean to you?

What Black History Month means to me is honoring the Black people that fought for our rights, acknowledging the Black race as a whole and bringing awareness to everything. This Black History Month is about Black health and wellness, so the BSU will be working to showcase Black nurses, Black doctors, Black surgeons, which we don't really talk about in the medical field, so I think that's a good thing.

I just think it's really about showcasing who we are and what we do.

In the rotunda, we have a BSU bulletin board where we're going to put the 'forgotten ones'. Basically, we always talk about Martin Luther King Jr. and Harriet Tubman. We're going to put Black activists who have done big things in history but weren't talked about as much. We'll be having different posters of Black mathematicians in the math wing and writers in the English wing. Bringing a lot of awareness is our main thing.

What are your thoughts

on how the school, outside of the BSU, acknowledges Black History Month?

I think if we don't talk about it, it won't get talked about. It's something we like to brush past. That's kind of all of America. They just like to brush past it. I definitely think Bay has been trying more, by having a Black History class, which I think is important. I feel like if we don't talk about it, it won't get talked about. That's not something we really do. Veteran's Day is a big thing here, but Black History is not really talked about. That's where the BSU comes in. We bring awareness to it.

As president of the BSU, what is your message to the student body?

Don't be, in nice words, culturally ignorant. I think that's what goes on a lot here. They know Black people, but they don't know much about Black culture. They tend to do some things, say some things that they don't realize aren't nice. Our message is to show yes, there are Black nurses, yes there are Black doctors, yes there are Black surgeons. Blacks are capable of doing what you guys can do. We're capable.

Here, I feel like they look down on Black people. We want to show we're the same as everyone else and we can do things just like everyone else.

Do you have any personal

examples of cultural ignorance that you're willing to share?

Yes; a prime example is my hair. People will be like "take that wig off". First of all, it's not a wig, it's a sew-in, which they don't know about. They don't know much about Black culture. They say things like "oh, why do you have extensions? What the heck is wrong with you?" Just things like that.

Another example is I want to be a pediatrician. I was talking to my counselor about taking college courses next year and she's like, "oh, you want to be a CNA?" I don't want to be a CNA (**Note:** CNA stands for Certified Nursing Assistant). I want to be a pediatrician. Things like that, where they underestimate you. It's just those kinds of things that I don't think don't get talked about or they don't even realize what they're doing and do it.

What are the BSU's plans for the rest of the year?

I know we're going to be having an assembly. All of the BSU kids, we get up and have a student panel. BSU is more so a safe space for the Black kids to go to talk about their problems, to learn different things because I feel like they aren't able to do that here. It's for the Black kids to feel included because they feel like they don't have any group where they can be themselves and have their voices heard. So that's what the BSU is for.

Administration Debates New Math Curriculum

By: Bill Lewis

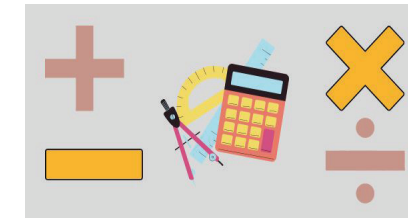
A large-scale "Math Renewal and Design" project across the district to address glaring issues within the math curriculum that the District wished to improve on was debated at the November 16, 2022 school board meeting.

The general consensus from the meeting was that more equitable options for students and "greater levels of choice" were necessary, especially during a student's high school career. The project was first unveiled in June, 2021.

The biggest change is the replacement of the Big Ideas curriculum with Illustrative Math, or IM, in an attempt to emphasize foundational skills taught in K4-8th-grade math.

Dr. Jamie Foeckler, Director of Teaching and Learning Services, pointed to IM's "unit dependency" throughout elementary and middle school as its strength, allowing for greater mastery of key concepts and the ability to build on them over time. Dr. Foeckler also mentioned that parents' initial reaction has been largely positive across the board, as it provided grade-level-specific material that helped parents better understand the changes in place.

One of the more polarizing issues brought forth was the dissolution of the Math 7C course at the middle school and the implementation of a new Math 7 course for all 7th graders. For eighth graders, new criteria has been developed to be enrolled in 8th Grade Algebra,



including a placement test.

Middle School Principal Mike O'Connor supported this change greatly. As a former high school math teacher, he noted that the conceptual basis for calculus is now being taught in middle school; therefore, liberally accelerating students could be dangerous as it may not be "developmentally appropriate". Additionally, 8th Grade Algebra has been altered to briefly cover concepts within the Math 8 curriculum that had been skipped over by the original course.

At the high school level, the math curriculum will now provide what Dr. Foeckler called an ability to "de-track" and provide more options for students. The consolidation of Geometry and Advanced Geometry, creation of a semester-long Accelerated Algebra 2 course, dissolution of Precalculus and Advanced Precalculus, and implementation of the AP Precalculus curriculum were the major changes stated at the meeting.

This, Dr. Foeckler claims, means that "calculus will be accessible to all", marking a large departure from the "track" system that Whitefish Bay has used through the district since the implementation of Big Ideas ten years ago.

The high school curriculum alterations were met with contention by school board members. Dr. Kristin Bencik-Boudreau, while acknowledging the benefits of opening calculus to more students, noted that she is "deeply opposed" to the changes, as it does little to accommodate high-performing students.

"Equity does not mean providing opportunities for some at the expense of others," she said.

She also noted the absence of honors classes in the high school, claiming that it hurt students during the college application process. She believes providing opportunities, such as honors courses, for high achievers is necessary.

Dr. Foeckler added the implementation of AP Precalculus added more rigor than previously offered by the existing precalculus classes and students should be well prepared for the class after the completion of Algebra 2.

High school principal Amy Levek also acknowledged Dr. Bencik-Boudreau's concerns, but stated that the implementation of IM-based courses in Geometry and Algebra was "better" than the preexisting curriculum and was not comparable to any advanced math courses currently in place.

"Courses don't carry honors designations, they're just well designed," Levek said.

The new curriculum is being phased into the schools within the next two school years.

Club Column: Blue Crew

By: Emma K Dickinson



Blue Crew's logo when the name was used for student council during the 2018-2019 school year.

Are you interested in making an impact on the school community? With school spirit weeks and Prom approaching, Blue Crew might be the club for you!

Something you may have noticed about Whitefish Bay is that we do not have an official student council. That is exactly where Blue Crew comes in. The club was previously named the Student Council and took on the responsibilities of that title. With the approach of combining previous student council duties with community involvement, Blue Crew was born.

"Members wanted to tweak the club to allow for flexibility

and allow us to take on new events to focus on school spirit", said Mrs. Millard, co-advisor of Blue Crew.

Blue Crew organizes a majority of events that represent the Whitefish Bay community.

This year, they have planned spirit weeks, coordinated Secret Snowman, and planned Homecoming and the Winter Formal.

All members of the club exist on the same playing field as well with Blue Crew having no official officer positions. This makes the barrier to entry easy and the club welcomes any interested individuals.

"Blue Crew is for all students, especially those who want to

change spirit week themes or participate in events at WFB," said Blue Crew member Annmarie Murphy.

Murphy's favorite Blue Crew activity so far has been Secret Snowman.

"I really enjoyed planning gifts and clues for Mr. Stiedeman," she said.

With all of the success of the club, it would not be what it is without the participation of its members. Interested students are always welcome and are encouraged to contact Mrs. Millard at sarah.millard@wfb-schools.com or Ms. Cattey at christina.cattey@wfb-schools.com for more information!

Winter Formal Return Comes With Changes

By: Emma K Dickinson

With over half of the school not ever having a winter dance to attend, this dance was momentous for many students.

Winter Formal, prior to this year, has gone through periods of being called the Sadie Hawkins dance and Winter Ball.

The timing of the dance, however, has always been within the first few weeks of second semester. This year, the dance took place on Saturday, January 28.

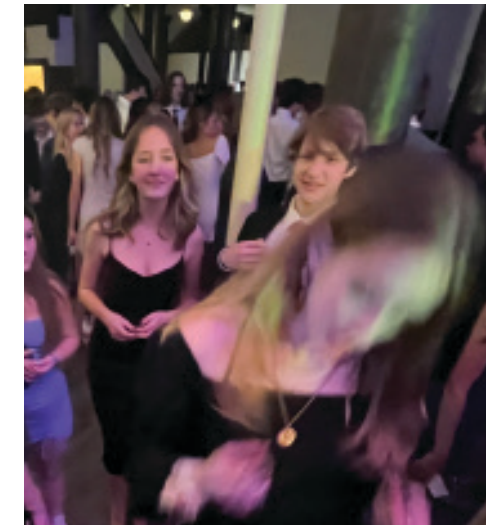
The tradition associated with the dance is the girls ask their dates to the dance. Using the name "Sadie's" first represented the tradition. Even with the name change, the practices

associated with a typical "Sadie's" remain.

Changing the name to "Winter Formal" attempts to "be more inclusive and invitation-al for all students," according to Principal Amy Levek.

With some students no longer identifying as male or female, the more inclusive title attempts to open the door for all students to attend the dance.

Another new aspect to the dance was that tickets were sold online instead of in-person. Students needed their school ID numbers to purchase them. All this information was sent out to students in an email.



Students dance in a circle.

"The instructions in the email didn't exactly correspond to the interface," said junior Yana Fuhrman. "Nonetheless, it was pretty intuitive.

The dance itself, conducted at a venue outside of the school, provides an opportunity for the school to come together in an environment not focused on academics. With the offsite location, students must find their own transportation. This year's Winter Formal, at the Pritzlaff Building, had a semi formal dress code, another similarity to the years prior.



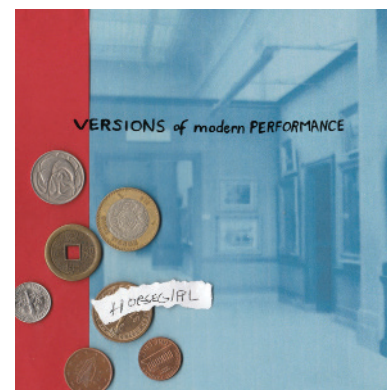
Students stand in a crowd, waiting for the beat to drop.

Best Albums of 2023

By: Bill Lewis and Ella Smullen

**5. Blue Rev -- Alvveys**

Alvveys's third studio album *Blue Rev* isn't anything new or unexpected from the shoegaze band, but it does provide the most consistent album on this list. Their songs are bombastic and fun with hints of twee and jangle pop, characterized by bright guitars and a post-punk structure. Molly Rankin, the band's vocalist, has a voice perfectly tailored for the band's sound as well. The band manages to set itself apart from the rest of the indie scene as the standard. For fans of bands like The Smiths, R.E.M or My Bloody Valentine, I would recommend you give this a listen.

**4. Versions of Modern Performance -- Horsegirl**

Horsegirl's debut album presents a world filled with surreal lyrics and cryptic tales. The teenage Chicago-based trio's sound is most heavily inspired by 80's shoegaze and alt-rock, mimicking music that was released years before they were born. While their instrumentals might have historical roots, their lyrics are unique and border on the absurd.

**3. Dragon New Warm Mountain I Believe in You -- Big Thief**

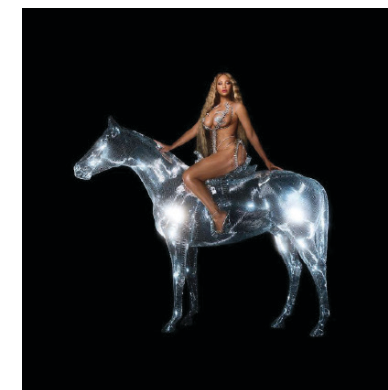
While I write this and listen to the album at the same time, I find it hard to encapsulate the feelings this album draws out in words. There is something comforting about Big Thief's folk rock sound. I feel like I'm sitting around a fire pit in the woods, estranged from the rest of civilization. The band's instrumental cohesion complements Adrienne Lenker's vocals perfectly; it is eclectic and subtly chaotic but also

calm and composed, like wind whipping off the lake. However, I believe that this album is different to everyone. Big Thief's ability to derive from nostalgia invites the listener to project themselves into the sound that they create, forming a world that is unique to each individual. This album is nothing short of an adventure.

**2. Dance Fever -- Florence and the Machine**

Florence Welch continues to establish herself as both a talented vocalist and songwriter, and the release of *Dance Fever* in May 2022 has done nothing but deepen my personal appreciation of her work. High as Hope, the album that preceded her most recent album, attempted to delve into her personal life, but ultimately fell short for many of her fans due to weaker production and songwriting than previous albums. *Dance Fever* continues the mission of *High as Hope*, but extremely suc-

cessfully. Florence returns to her trademark sound with powerful instrumentals and belting vocals while expertly navigating personal themes of anxiety, addiction, and joy. The result is a concept album rich with duality, in which the horrific ("Choreomania" being the most obvious example, inspired by the medieval dancing plague) is celebrated along with the beautiful.

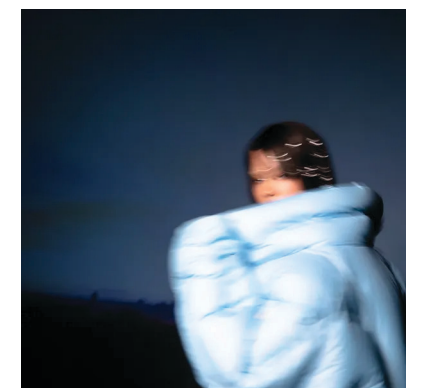
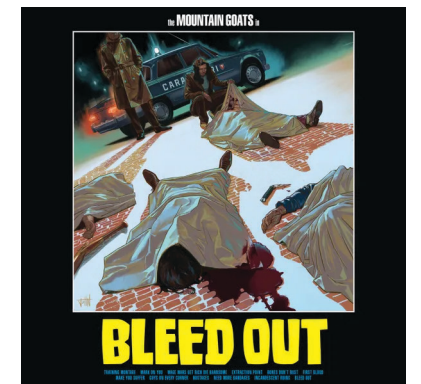
**1. Renaissance -- Beyoncé**

Beyoncé is one of the most influential figureheads in 21st-Century pop, hands down. You cannot help but acknowledge her immense chokehold over the music industry. This album proves not only her competence once again but ushers in a new era of music in the mainstream world. This record derives from several genres, but most notably puts a spotlight on Black dance music, the catalyst for American club and LGBT culture. Her collaborations with pioneers of these movements (most notably Grace Jones) and embracing such a varied sound gives this album a cohesive

and clear sound that makes you want to get up and dance. Her album has also led to a resurgence of these genres and increased visibility for ballroom culture. In terms of the music itself, each song is produced beautifully and embodies its own conglomerate of sounds. "Virgo's Groove" serves a masterfully crafted disco track, while "All Up in Your Mind" pays homage to more recent queer music scenes with its deconstructed club influence. The album's biggest achievement is that each song is so different in style yet so uniform in sound.

Honorable Mentions:

(first four pictured)

No Thank You -- Little Simz**Bleed Out -- The Mountain Goats****Hellfire -- Black Midi****Nymph -- Shygirl****Neon White: Part 1 - "The Wicked Heart" -- Machine Girl****Preacher's Daughter -- Ethel Cain****Ice, Death, Planets, Lungs, Mushrooms and Lava -- King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard****Mr. Morale and the Big Steppers -- Kendrick Lamar****Natural Brown Prom Queen -- Sudan Archives**

PROMINENT BLACK FIGURES

to watch

At 25 years old, US Representative **MAXWELL FROST** (D-FL) is the first Gen Z member of Congress. Before becoming a representative, Frost was a national director for March For Our Lives, an organization advocating for gun control. Along with gun control, his main focuses include LGBTQ+ rights, climate change and reshaping the criminal justice system. In Congress, Frost is part of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. He is also the vice chair of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force.

Poet **AMANDA GORMAN** writes about the Black identity, feminism and marginalization. She was the first Los Angeles Youth Poet Laureate and later became the first National Youth Poet Laureate. Gorman has since performed her works at a presidential inauguration and the Super Bowl. Most recently, she published a poetry collection titled "Call Us What We Carry".

A correspondent at MSNBC, **SHAQUILLE BREWSTER** primarily reports on social justice issues and police reform. He was one of the first reporters to cover the murder of George Floyd in 2020. In 2022, he also covered election results. Brewster majored in broadcast journalism at Howard University, where he was also the executive producer of the WHUT Spotlight Network, the only public TV station in America that is African American run. Most recently, Brewster was named to the Forbes 30 under 30 list for media leaders in 2022.

Gymnast **SIMONE BILES**, who has won more awards than any other American gymnast and is the first woman to have three consecutive World All-Around titles, is also a huge advocate for mental health. After the Tokyo Olympics, Biles began speaking out about athletes' mental health, raising awareness about the unglamorous lives athletes live. She emphasizes the importance of not dehumanizing athletes and how athletes of all ages feel pressure that affects their mental health.



Valentine's Day is a holiday celebrated globally. It was originally called Saint Valentine's Day, after multiple martyred Catholic Saints named Valentine. Universally, this is a day of romance, but some of the traditions differ from country to country.

United States of America

In the United States, Valentine's Day traditions consist of couples giving each other gifts of chocolate and flowers. Adults will go out to eat at fancy restaurants and give each other gifts of fine wine and jewelry. In schools, children will make Valentine's

Day cards and exchange them, along with candy, with their classmates. Cards are decorated with roses, hearts, Cupids, and cheesy poems. Valentine's Day also offers couples the perfect opportunity to propose marriage to their significant other.

France

In France, Valentine's Day traditions are similar to the USA. Gifts include chocolate, flowers and roses. Jewels are given as gifts in wealthier families. A romantic evening usually rounds off the day.



Morocco

In Morocco, Valentine's Day traditions revolve around restaurants, families and hotels. Couples will often take walks along the coast. They will also eat a romantic dinner under candlelight and exchange gifts while in a car.

Tower Times asked several teachers to write a random sentence that isn't related to the subjects they teach. Now, it's your job to figure out which teacher wrote what.

The answers are on the back! Good luck!

1.
2.
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9.

The organization Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) has filed multiple lawsuits against Harvard and the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill at the Supreme Court. SFFA, led by Edward Blum, is an organization that represents over 20,000 students and parents, the majority of which are Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, who allege they have been rejected by selective universities due to their race. They claimed affirmative action violates the equal protection clause in the US Constitution, which prohibits states from denying anyone equal protection of the law.

Affirmative Action Defined

In the early 1960s, the Kennedy administration put forward the idea of affirmative action in the midst of the civil rights movement. The argument was that racism existed in all aspects of society, especially education. The purpose behind the creation of affirmative action at universities was to eliminate discrimination and enhance diversity within the classroom.

However, even though the purpose of affirmative action is to reduce structural violence, there are instances where in efforts to help a particular minority group, another group is discriminated against as a result.

According to research from Princeton University, students who identify as Asian must score 140 points higher on the SAT than whites and

450 points higher than Black students to have the same chance of admission to private colleges. Statistics show that Asian American students have higher average test scores but lower Ivy League admissions rates than many of their peers. In a 2013 study conducted internally, Harvard admitted that, if it were judging applicants on the sole basis of academic merit, its share of Asian American students would go from 19% to 43%. This essentially means that an Asian doesn't have the same chance at admission to a person of another race with the exact same grades, test scores, and extra-curriculars. In fact, the chance is substantially smaller.

The question is, is this fair? As an Asian American, I believe affirmative action is driven by assumptions that certain minorities receive different opportunities. The underlying generalization is that all Asian parents spend thousands of dollars on college prep courses while other minorities come from less privileged backgrounds. A school's average GPA could be a 3.5, but as an Asian, you need a 4.0. Or, the average SAT is 1350, you need a 1500+. So no, it's not fair how an Asian is held to higher standards because of their race. Unfortunately though, I also believe that without Affirmative Action, there will inevitably be a decrease in diversity. It's definitely a more nuanced issue.

The Liberal/Conservative Divide

In October, members of the court's conservative majority questioned the legal rationale of affirmative action.

"What do you learn from the mere checking of the box?" Justice Samuel Alito asked UNC lawyer Ryan Park.

On the other hand, liberal justices, who are in the minority, defended the use of race in admissions .

Justice Sonia Sotomayor said, "Race alone doesn't account for why someone is admitted or not admitted: There's always a confluence of reasons. There are any number of Hispanics, Blacks, Native Americans who are not chosen by schools."

A ruling will most likely be announced in May or June of this year.

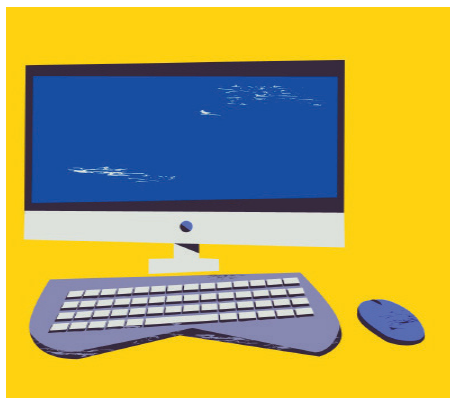
For Wisconsin High School Students

If SFFA wins, the SCOTUS's decision would make it unconstitutional for universities across the country to consider a student's race in a holistic admissions review process.

Currently, only some states ban affirmative action. Wisconsin is not one of them.

SFFA also has a branch that focuses on affirmative action at UW-Madison, implying that UW-Madison has strong affirmative action policies to a point where it is more substantial than other colleges in the nation. There is no lawsuit against Madison thus far; however, that doesn't mean there won't be in the future.

By: Jack McCauley



With the start of a new semester upon us, the archive team looked for articles about the new semester. The following articles, from 1984 and 1994, exhibit how real world events affected the school's inner workings.

Curriculum to Have Three New Classes Next Semester

New classes which will be added to next semester's curriculum are electronics, office practice, and senior mathematics.

Mr. J. Harold Rose, principal announced that increased interest in electronics and senior mathematics have enlarged these classes. He attributes this to the recent war scare.

Mr. Alvin Anderson, science instructor, will teach electronics, while Mr. Paul Humke, head of the mathematics department, will teach senior mathematics and Miss Mary Swarthout, commercial teacher, will teach office practice.

Computer Lab feeling the crunch of heavy demand (By Sean Marlaire, 1994)

No matter what students feel about computers in their lives, whether it be frustration or adoration, there is no doubting the fact that computers serve a vital function in this school. Writing labs, library organization, record keeping, and technical drawing are just some of the many ways in which this relatively new technology becomes out-of-date quickly. The problem, however, is that any modern equipment must be constantly updated to keep up with further advances. To avoid such problems of obsolescence, several computer teachers at our school have formed a group with the common goal of modernizing our computer labs.

This committee, made up of faculty from the schools throughout the Whitefish Bay educational system, formulated the Strategic Action Plan for Technology, a comprehensive request which detailed the budget and time frame of an update of the current Whitefish Bay computer labs, including the installation of an administrative computer at the middle school and replacement of the current Apple IIe's here at the high school. The plan, due to budget restraints

or a lack of need, was rejected. "Many advancements were proposed under this plan," said Mr. Gill, a computer teacher here at the high school, "But nothing will occur until the state legislature changes."

According to Mr. Schmitz, a speech teacher greatly enamored of the utility of new technologies, says "Primarily, we've underestimated the demand." He feels that the faculty has successfully convinced the student body of the usefulness of computers, so now the students have grown reliant on the advanced capabilities that this technology offers. Unfortunately, as more students realize the wonders of computer technology, the current facilities fall short of the demand, necessitating a sign-up sheet and assignment of class time for the computer labs. Now, the only choice seems to be to either expand and develop current systems or to be content with aging technology, ignoring the possibilities of growth.

Our school and its faculty have integrated modern information technology into our education, thus posing a question, "Should we be happy with where we are technologically, or should we try to keep up as computer systems and their demand increase?" For now, the answer is the former, but as budgets loosen and administrators realize the importance of computers, the question will resurface.

By: Maya Gordon



1. My ideal weekend is spent

- a. *Crushing my friends in video games*
- b. *Going out on the town*
- c. *Alone in my room, listening to music*
- d. *Watching movies/series and reading*

2. My favorite class at WFB is

- a. *Phy Ed*
- b. *History/Social Studies*
- c. *Math/Science*
- d. *Art*

3. Choose an artist:

- a. *Doja Cat*
- b. *Harry Styles*
- c. *Coldplay*
- d. *The Beatles*

4. My biggest pet peeve is

- a. *Slackers*
- b. *Quitters*
- c. *Cheaters*
- d. *Gossipers*

5. My favorite WFB tradition is

- a. *The student section*
- b. *Prom*
- c. *The Fine Arts Assembly*
- d. *Best of the Bay*

6. My favorite season is

- a. *Summer*
- b. *Fall*
- c. *Winter*
- d. *Spring*

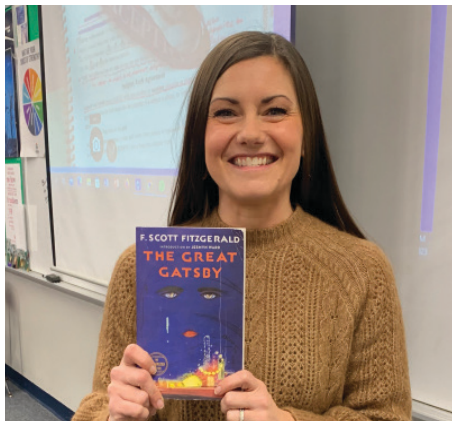
7. Choose a Netflix series to binge:

- a. *Outer Banks*
- b. *Bridgerton*
- c. *Wednesday*
- d. *Emily in Paris*

Answers on the next page

Mostly A's: Lord of the Flies

You are a very ambitious and competitive person. You work well with others as long as they support you and your goals. However, you may withdraw your friendship quickly if you feel your position or goals are threatened by others. While this can build a team around you, too much competitiveness can also isolate you. Remember that sometimes the best way forward is together.



Mostly B's: The Great Gatsby

You are a very driven person. Once you have your mind set on a goal you will not give up until you see it through. Sometimes, however, this can lead you to have tunnel vision and not appreciate the world around you. Remember to take breaks and, from time to time, pause to reflect on where you are right now rather than where you want to go.



Mostly C's: Hamlet

You are a very reflective person. You have strong values that you live by and a deep sense of right and wrong. When someone crosses you, it is very hard for them to get back on your good side. Remember not to get too trapped in a polarized view of the world and allow yourself to spend time enjoying the gray areas of life.



Mostly D's: Slaughterhouse-Five

You are a very easygoing person. You like to go with the flow and see where life takes you rather than fight the current. This allows you to find comfort in most situations. On the other hand, this may cause you to become disorganized or withdrawn from the world. Don't be afraid to take risks and push yourself toward a goal, no matter how ambitious it may seem.



Happy 2023!

This year feels like it's going by extremely fast, but there's still a lot more to do and read-- we have two more issues and a surprise coming near you!

The issue you have in your hands came together under three main ideas: the start of a new semester, celebrating Black History Month and looking forward to Valentine's Day. Our team worked tirelessly, even over winter break, to put together the quality content you get to read.

Our journalists are finding their beats, adding to the high

standard we hold ourselves to. We have consistent columns that are continuing or just beginning and our graphics game has risen exponentially.

If you are passionate about a specific topic you want to write about, we would love for you to be part of our team. Stay on the lookout for announcements about our next pitch meeting.

The rest of our year includes a spring issue, a [REDACTED] and our coveted end of year issue.

Stay strong Blue Dukes, we're almost at the finish line!

If you have questions/comments/concerns about any-

thing, feel free to contact any of the editors.

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Join Our Team!

Listen for announcements about our next pitch meeting and/or contact an editor for more information

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