

Can you find
the 8 elves
hidden in
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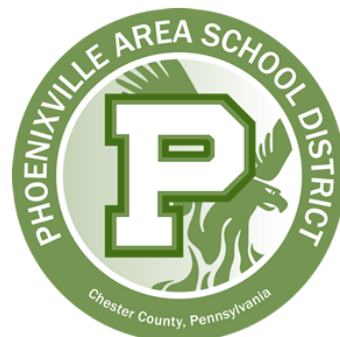
The Purple Press

PHOENIXVILLE AREA HIGH SCHOOL

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20TH ANNIVERSARY



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Jackson



Caitlin & Maddie



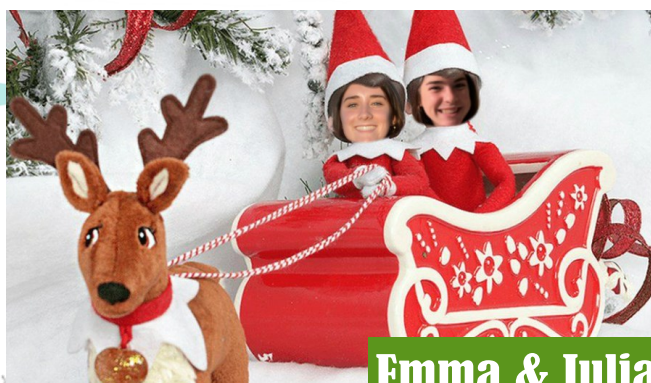
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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

From The Purple Press!



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PEOPLE

Bowen Collet: Continuing the Collet dynasty



Written by:

Cat Baxter

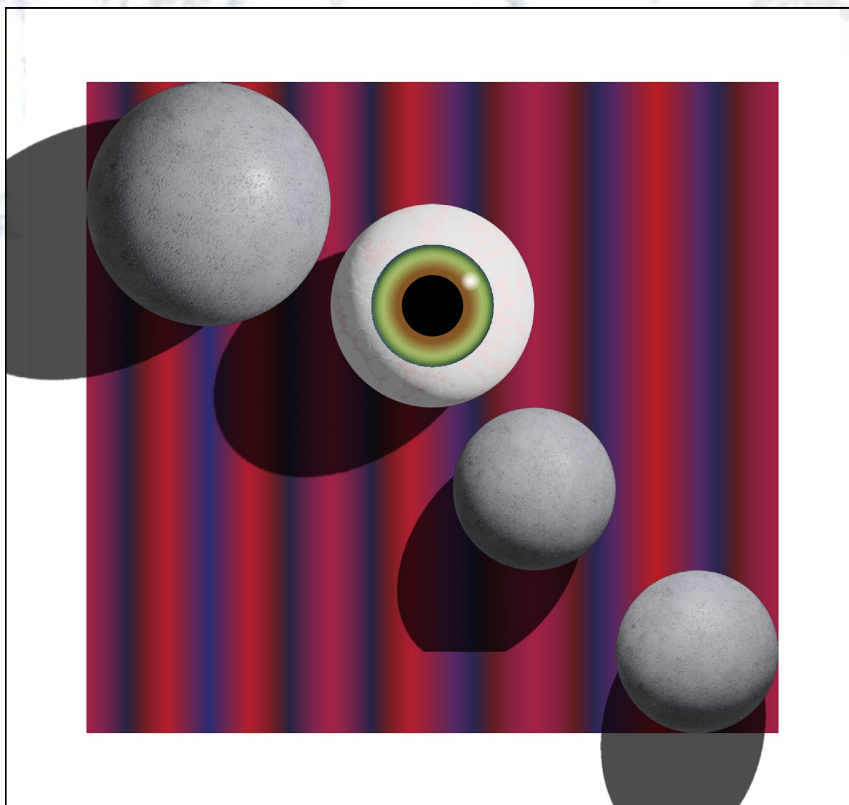
Navigating high school while maintaining artistic hobbies and pursuits can be difficult, but junior Bowen Collet makes it work! Bowen is a friendly and outgoing junior at Phoenixville Area who spends his free time creating digital art and music to share with friends and classmates alike.

Beginning to take an interest in art during elementary school, Bowen revisited his passion for art by taking Graphics in freshman year which gave him the tools and skills to begin getting into digital art based on his own personal interests, working on Adobe Suite during school hours and figuring out other digital art programs in his free time. He now provides a vast majority of the computer artwork and graphic design for PAHS' Gazebo Literary Magazine.

Also a creator of music, he began with just entertaining little chiptunes on various free websites that help one produce music. Bowen said that he took inspiration from and modeled music off of other producers who he enjoyed the sound of in order to "learn some techniques with synthesis, but also just how to make a song." Since then, Bowen has been working on FL Studio, a digital audio workstation which aids in music production.

He said, "From there I've just been making things with a lot of samples like breakbeat-inspired stuff. It's just something that I really enjoy doing."

Well-known by the Gazebo staff as part of the "Collet Dynasty," Bowen and his siblings have paved the way for the poetry club in differing ways for nearly ten years.



One of Bowen's most recent digital art creations, titled "17 by 16" features his experimentation of creating shadows within the art.

With two siblings already passing through PAHS and serving as heads for the club, Bowen was originally hesitant to join along with them, but found himself enjoying the creative environment of Mr. LaLuna's room which Bowen describes as "a blast" and sparking his interest in poetry. As Bowen was already making digital art, he chose to combine the two interests into the club.

He said, "I just felt like I needed an outlet to make digital art and to get it out there." The past Spring issue of Gazebo featured both his digital art and written works alike.

Besides Gazebo and marching band, where he serves as section leader and center marimba, Bowen is also in the school band, remaining continuous in his striving to make and play music, although he mourns the loss of the seniors who graduated last year.

Some of Bowen's favorite classes are with Mr. LaLuna, Mr. Jennings, and Mr. Chiofolo, citing himself as a "big math guy." He believes that "every teacher in this school is such a character. There isn't a normal teacher, but that keeps it interesting."

Outside of enjoying art and music, Bowen spends time with his siblings Sophie (21), Noelle (18), and George (11). Lately, he's been enjoying video games and what he called "normal teenage person stuff, but mainly just music." He also enjoys spending summers in New York and his family's cottage in Massachusetts.

Bowen hopes to go to college for music production and find a career within the music industry, although he likes math enough to consider becoming an architect as well. Without sweating the future too much, Bowen is enjoying his time in high school, making art that he enjoys, music that he loves, and spending good time with friends and family.



Bowen alongside his siblings, left to right, Bowen (16), Noelle (18), George (11), and Sophie (21), while dropping off Noelle at Bennington College this past summer. Photos courtesy of Bowen Collet

Christine Amalraj: Passion driven



Written by:

Elle McNamee

The best part about leading a club is watching it grow and become successful. Junior Christine Amalraj is a leader of multiple organizations at PAHS, and even created a club called Project: Inspiring STEM that she runs here in the Phoenixville community. Christine is a very impactful and involved student at PAHS, as she juggles many AP classes while also volunteering her time to many other clubs and activities including marching band, FBLA, NHS, Educators Rising, and her favorite - Project: Inspiring STEM.

Christine began the STEM program last summer at the Phoenixville Library to represent women and minority groups in STEM. She said, "Women in STEM is a very underrepresented group and that needs to change." She said that she wants to teach children that ALL people are able to live out their dreams and do what they want. The activities of this club consist of teaching young children about the world of space, medicine, and much more. There are experiments, labs, Kahoots, videos, and hands-on learning that make the children's experiences fun and meaningful.

"This really speaks to me. This is my brain child," Christine said while explaining her program she created, and watching it grow over time.

The kids who participate in the club are from local elementary schools ranging from grades one to five. The average number of children in the session vary in the summer and during the school year. During the summer, the average number of children is fifteen. During the winter, the number of children is about six to nine. Christine holds weekly sessions in the summer, but only does monthly sessions during the school year.

Christine is also treasurer of a club here at PAHS called Educators Rising that started up in the spring of last year. This



Christine, smiling before her NHS induction ceremony in front of the school.

is a club for students who are interested in working with children, or being an educator when they grow up. They collectively plan field trips and fun activities for children to participate in. Christine expressed that she is not interested in becoming an educator, but she is very interested in working with children.

"Working with them is just so fun and rewarding," she said, which is perfect because her goal for the future is to go into pediatric medicine.

Additionally, Christine leads groups such as FBLA, Book Club, and plays in the marching band. In FBLA, she is the Vice president. In the marching band, she plays the piccolo. Being that one of Christine's favorite hobbies is to read, she started Book Club recently for her and her friends to converse about their favorite reads. Outside of school, she's a part of Junior Achievement where she is President of Supply Chain and is currently working with a group of students to create a journal that addresses mental health issues for a younger audience.

While juggling classes like AP Government and AP Psychology, along with her many clubs and extracurriculars, Christine says that it's hard to find free time. She explains that although she has a super busy schedule, she is incredibly passionate and driven, which makes it easy to handle.

Christine has had many people guiding her throughout the years, but she said Ms. Davies has been her GIEP mentor at Phoenixville ever since her freshman year. Ms. Davies has helped Christine with career seminars and given her the motivation to want to create programs and use her voice as a leader.



Christine Amalraj, leading the piccolo and flute section in this year's marching band show "Adventure is Out There!" Photos courtesy of Christine Amalraj

Christine Amalraj is a very hard-working student here at Phoenixville who has made, and will continue to make an impact for our future students. She has a great passion for success and a drive to be the best version of herself. She will inspire many to create their own image and become a leader.

Christine explains that her motivation for continuing on with her packed schedule is, "If it's passion driven, it's easy to do!"

PEOPLE

Aiden Roche: Chasing his dream



Written by:
Reed Gleba

According to senior Aiden Roche, performing is defined as, "The act of bringing out one's inner child for others to see." Besides being a student at PAHS, Aiden Roche is an actor who has starred in theater productions since sixth grade. He has been in 11 shows, and by the time he graduates he will have been in 13. Aiden takes great pride in acting and sees it as his passion, hoping to pursue it as a career.

For the past two weekends, Aiden played the dad in "A Christmas Story, The Musical" at Springer Studios. One of the hardships of performing is the schedule, which is draining just before a show. After a grueling final week of rehearsals, he had four shows he had to perform, one on

Friday, two on Saturday, and one more on Sunday. Then he had to repeat that again, coming to eight shows over two weekends! Truly a draining two weeks for Aiden!

Aiden said of the show: "It was amazing. I think it's my best role yet. I've never gotten more compliments than I have with this one."

After high school, Aiden hopes to attend college for acting. In the acting business, a lot of connections are made during college, and these can set him up for the rest of his career. Aiden is planning on using college to strengthen these connections, then afterwards move to New York City.

"A lot of people say it's a good place to break into the film industry without the risk of LA," Aiden said about why he wants to move to New York and not LA, which has many more film opportunities.

Despite the fun of performing, sometimes mishaps occur. One of his funniest on stage slip ups was in his first-ever show when he played the cop in "James and the Giant Peach." Aiden said, "I had one job,



Aiden Roche playing his role of the dad in "A Christmas Story," at Springer Studios. This would go on to be Aiden's favorite show of his career, and it's also his favorite holiday movie.



Aiden (in rear) at a Penguins game over Thanksgiving with his Dad and siblings. The Penguins lost 1-0 to the Rangers. Photos courtesy of Aiden Roche.

to display a telegram. And one night I forgot the telegram. It was my one job, and I was supposed to show it off to the audience. I went up to the audience and REALLY showed I had nothing in my hand." However, instead of making his mistake embarrass him, he used it to get a laugh out of the crowd.

In addition to acting and doing theater, Aiden enjoys screenwriting and directing. He also participates in track and field, where his primary event is discus, which he has been doing since ninth grade. He compares it to acting, saying he just wanted to just give it a shot and see if he liked it. He's been dedicated to the sport ever since, alongside his acting ambitions.

At home, Aiden has two cats, Ginger

and Sidney. He also is the youngest of three, with his older sister (Emily) and brother (Connor), who are twins, being in college.

Right now, his favorite teachers here at PAHS are Mr. LaLuna and Ms. Coulter, with his favorite class of all time being Intro to Film Studies with Mrs. Johnson.

Ms. Coulter said of Aiden, "His creative interpretation of assignments leaves no question that he would do well in an industry that is always looking for something new."

Overall, Aiden takes extreme pride in everything he's accomplished, and he plans on spending the rest of his career performing in the film industry. He is truly an inspirational person, wise and brave

Farewell Frau Tavani



Written by:
Leah C. Garofalo

After 17.5 years in the Phoenixville Area School District, German and Theatre Arts teacher, Mrs. Christine Tavani will be retiring in January. Frau Tavani grew up in Germany and studied abroad in both England and France. When she later moved to the States, she lived in Maryland, Virginia, and the Finger Lakes region of New York while her husband was in the military. After, her family moved to Springfield, Missouri, and lastly Phoenixville in 1996.

Initially in her studies, Frau Tavani hoped to become a doctor. After taking an internship, she realized that medicine was not her calling, and decided to study English and French instead. After raising her three children (Vincent, Marcus, and Sonia), she began teaching German at Phoenixville full-time in 2007. Prior to her job at Phoenixville, she taught a bit of German on the side, and raised all three of her children speaking the language. Through learning languages at a young age, children are able to gain many cognitive benefits. Frau Tavani encourages, "Everybody who knows another language, keep it up, and if you go someplace else, try to keep your language as strong as you can."

Upon her arrival to PAHS, Frau began to support many clubs, contributing to



Mr. and Mrs. Tavani (center), surrounded by their family of Vincent, Rachel, Marcus, and Sonia. Photo courtesy of Mrs. Tavani

them immensely. Her husband had been working in the theatre department prior, so she joined in, supporting both the Theatre Guild and the Cappies, a club that travels to watch other schools' shows and write reviews on them. During her time at PAHS, she also supported other clubs including German Club and the Sounds of Learning program, which brings students to opera dress rehearsals.

Also, Frau Tavani helped sponsor several successful German Exchange programs that allowed students to experience the country first-hand. Through all of these experiences, Frau helped inspire countless students to engage with culture and the

arts.

In the Phoenixville district, Frau Tavani has taught students ranging from elementary to high school. The past couple of years, she has gone between the PAMS and PAHS buildings each day to teach several grade levels. While this created time constraints, watching her students grow from middle schoolers to young adults has been a very rewarding process.

Frau Tavani's students have always been likely to see her out and about in town. Her favorite thing about Phoenixville is the many events that are always available. She loves the street festivals, the Firebird, and the Farmer's Market. If you are enjoy-

ing a day downtown you are bound to run into her, and she always encourages students to say hello!

While Frau Tavani notes cultural differences between the U.S. and Germany such as the presences of dialects, modes of transportation, and street width, she hopes more people understand the strong influence that German culture has had on this country. With such a large number of Americans claiming to have German heritage, she hopes more people will take time to study the language and customs of Germany.

During her retirement, Frau Tavani intends to help babysit her six-month-old grandson, as well as work on projects such as a vegetable garden. She also hopes to travel throughout the year, rather than just in the summertime.

All in all, Frau Tavani's time in the Phoenixville district has been well spent, exposing students to the beauty of art and German culture. Her deep involvement and personal connection to the school have made her a vital part of many students' education. Complete with a couch open between class times and blankets in case her students get cold, Frau has always ensured her classroom is a welcoming environment for all students. She has always supported her students so that they may become the best versions of themselves, and her teaching will certainly be missed by many.

Bis bald, Frau Tavani!

Which is better: Christmas Eve or Christmas Day?



Written by:
Maddie
Witcoski

Believe in the Eve

You know that somber, almost dreary feeling that presents itself on Sunday nights? The ending of the weekend, and the acknowledgment of having to go back to your monotonous daily routine? These feelings are also felt by some on Christmas; for me, Christmas feels like a Sunday. Knowing the holiday season is generally coming to an end, signifying the start of the endless months of January and February, leads to a melancholy feeling that only gets stronger as Christmas day progresses. In contrast, Christmas Eve doesn't feel this way, as it's full of anticipation for the following day and the

often much better than on Christmas Day. For example, the French have a huge Christmas feast called le Réveillon de Noël on Christmas Eve, not Christmas day. Italians also have a large Christmas Eve dinner known as "The Dinner of 7 Fishes". Coinciding with Christmas Eve meals, many countries generally prioritize Christmas Eve over the day, and have a much larger celebration for it as they deem it more important. Countries like the Czech Republic, Austria, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, Argentina, Brazil, and Colombia celebrate Christmas mostly on Christmas Eve. I know personally that my Christmas Eve dinner tops Christmas Day dramatically, and the same goes for many of my peers.

As for the excitement surrounding the days themselves, Christmas Eve tops Christmas Day by a long shot. Throughout Christmas Eve, you feel the amazing anticipation for the day to come. You can still enjoy the day without the impending feeling of doom that tends to percolate through Christmas Day, knowing the season is coming to an end.

Furthermore, Christmas Day seems to be the most fun in the morning, with a quick rush of dopamine that comes with opening gifts, and then it's over. Sure opening gifts is fun, but the high expectations set on Christmas Day for it to be a day of joy and perpetual fun also tend to result in inevitable disappointment. Christmas Eve has far fewer expectations, and is way easier to enjoy without the worry of making it "magical."

Caroline seems to be confused in her argument. She paints Christmas Eve as a day simply full of anticipation, and all the good things come on Christmas day. This is simply not true. As I highlighted before, it is traditionally Christmas Eve that's filled with food and family, not the day. Furthermore, that anticipation is not a bad thing; in reality, it makes the holiday. Caroline also emphasizes how on Christmas Day everyone gathers with their family and practices their own traditions. However, as I stated, this may not be true. A lot of people don't have a family to celebrate with, so it's impossible to characterize this holiday as the best using facts that simply aren't a reality for everyone.

Obviously, the crux of the Christmas Eve vs. Christmas Day argument probably lies in your personal traditions and what you do on each day. However, generally, Christmas Eve seems to take the cake on the best emotions, food, and vibes. I mean, it has a book written solely dedicated to the day! Christmas Day is by no means a bad day, but doesn't hold a candle to the anticipation and warmth felt on Christmas Eve. So please, believe in the Eve.



The iconic "The Night Before Christmas" book cover. An accurate representation of the magic felt on Christmas Eve, this book was a rite of passage for many growing up. Photo: scottgustafson.com

Christmas spirit is still very much in full swing.

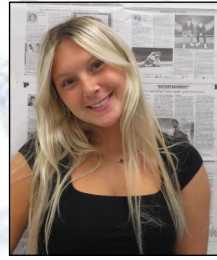
Christmas Day is painted as a day of joy and excitement. From the presents to the food, the romanticization of Christmas through the media and society is a recurring phenomenon. However, this isn't always the reality. The reality for some people is that Christmas Day is the hardest day of the year. Those who have lost people, or are alone, often find the day to be dreary and downright depressing. Unless you're a kid, Christmas Day never seems to live up to the high expectations associated with it.

However, Christmas Eve seems to avoid these unpleasant feelings. It has fewer expectations, an unmatched anticipation, and doesn't feel like a Sunday in comparison to its counterpart.

Let's start with the food. It obviously depends on personal, cultural, or familial traditions, but the Christmas Eve feast is



Pictured above is an Italian Christmas Eve dinner tradition known as "The Feast of Seven Fishes". First brought to America by Italian immigrants in the 1900s, this delicious meal includes dishes with a variety of seafoods. Photo: seriouseats.com



Written by:
Caroline
Hallman

Christmas Day reigns superior to Christmas Eve

In her article, Maddie also talks about traditions in other countries that take place on Christmas Eve, but we are in America! The US has hundreds of other traditions that vary from family to family. Although some families may have different traditions that focus on Christmas Eve, many families here celebrate and hold traditions on Christmas Day. And while, yes, there is a book about Christmas Eve, the book talks about and focuses on the anticipation and excitement leading up to Christmas Day itself. Have a happy Christmas Eve, but Christmas DAY is the better holiday!

As mentioned in the famous holiday song, "The Christmas Song" by Nat King Cole, "And so I'm offering this simple phrase to kids 1 to 92. Although it's been said many times, many ways: Merry Christmas to you."

The holiday season has activities like no other, like baking cookies, hanging lights, giving gifts, and making gingerbread houses! Who doesn't love those things? All the Christmas spirit is built up, waiting for Christmas Day! While many people enjoy Christmas Eve, nothing beats the feeling of Christmas Day. Christmas Day is a packed day of presents, food, and family. After all, it is known as the happiest day of the year! This is the day you get to see your family and people you love. It is a day where we reflect on all that we are grateful for and are full of love.

On Christmas Eve, all your anticipation is built up. You will try to go to sleep, but you just can't because you are WAY too excited for Christmas Day! The thought of your family gathering in the family room by the tree, the presents, and the amazing breakfast prepared makes you feel overjoyed.

The magic begins by waking up and quite literally jumping out of bed in excitement. Your family may be one that wakes up early and rushes to open gifts, or you may have a family where your parents make you wait till 11 until everything is ready. Either way, all around there is excitement and joy. Then, after



VOTE HERE



From the famous Christmas movie, National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation, the whole Griswold family gathers around the table, showcasing one of the best parts of Christmas Day. Photo: housebeautiful.com

you open the stockings you eat a delicious breakfast. After that, you get to give and receive presents. Later, you get to spend time doing family traditions with your extended family.

While Christmas Eve is fun with anticipation, Christmas Day is full of festivities and family. Christmas Day has the holiday spirit high no matter what your age. While you may grow to be a parent and give the gifts, there will always be joy from being all together and seeing your kids' faces light up as the holiday spirit is raised even more.

Unlike Maddie, I believe that even though Christmas Day seems to be the end of the fun, it ultimately is the better day because you soak up all the fun on Christmas Day, whereas Christmas Eve is just a preview for most people. Maddie also said in her article that Christmas Day can be extremely depressing for some. While this may be true, it wouldn't just be Christmas, but rather the whole holiday season including Christmas Eve. For most people, Christmas Day involves family and friends gathering to focus on the good. Besides, most businesses close for Christmas Day, not Christmas Eve.



What the anticipation is all about- the giving and receiving of presents. When you wake up, you'll jump out of bed in excitement for what's to come. Photo: hadleycourt.com

OPINION

Activities to make this holiday season merry and bright!



Written by:

Caroline
Hallman

Looking for something creative, unusual, or fun to do with your family or friends this holiday season? Look no further! Other than the common gift giving and Christmas activities, here are some different traditions and interesting activities to spread some cheer this year. Get ready to make some plans, because you'll want to try these!

Make a Christmas Wreath

For all of our arts and craft friends, making a festive decoration is a great way to get in the holiday spirit. Make it with ornaments, ribbon, glitter or all of the above. You can give it as a gift, or keep it as decor. Get your DIY gloves on and start getting creative! Follow this website: <https://www.firstdayofhome.com/christmas-wreath-knock-off-frontgate-inspired/>

Take a Quick Trip to Philadelphia

In Philly, you can visit Dickens Village,



Check out Dilworth Park in Philadelphia, a fan favorite where hundreds come to skate during the holiday season. You will even be able to see the City Hall Light show while skating.
Photo: centercityphila.org

Macy's annual Christmas light show, as well as ice skating at Dilworth Village. For kids ages 10 and under, ice skating costs \$5 and for adults it is \$8. Also, don't forget to stop at Christmas Village at LOVE Park on your way back! There are so many different fun things you can do, and it will be a great time!

Tinseltown

Who doesn't want to go to walk around and see the extravagant Christmas lights? Check out Tinseltown, located at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, features hot chocolate, ice skating, and the main attraction, the lights! Altogether, they display a grand total of over one million lights. This grand spectacular starts on November 17th and continues through December. The cost for ages (4-17) is \$23.99 and for adults \$29.99. Children three and under are free.

Host a Christmas cookie making party

Let's be real, we all have an extreme sweet tooth around the holiday season. Get some cookie cutters and chocolate chips or any toppings. You can make chocolate chip cookies, sugar cookies, and gingerbread cookies! Host a cookie day get together with your friends or family and try this sugar cookie recipe: <https://sallysbakingaddiction.com/christmas-sugar-cookies/>

Yeager's Christmas tree farm

A Christmas tree is an essential during

the holiday season. Gather your family, and head to Yeager's to pick the perfect Christmas tree for you and your family. Yeager's grand opening for Christmas trees is scheduled for November 19th. They will sell trees from 9am-5pm. Prices depend on your type and size of tree. After you get it, you can head home, turn on your Christmas music, and decorate it! Find more information at

<https://yeagersfarm.com/>

Longwood's Christmas

Longwood Gardens is known for beautiful and exciting attractions. They have it all- from fountains to the beautiful plants they grow. Their Christmas show runs through November 17th-January 7th. This year's theme is "A Very Retro Christmas." Allow three and a half to four hours for your visit. There's tons of activities on the grounds and you will be amazed by the creative displays of lights and music. To get in, you can buy a timed ticket or make a membership reservation through their website:

<https://longwoodgardens.org/>



TinselTown, located at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks. The beautiful light displays showcase all your favorite sports teams, including the Phillies, Flyers, Eagles, and 76ers!
Photo: readingeagle.com

The most underrated holiday films that you just can't miss



Written by:

Kieran Lange

Everyone loves an underdog. Whether it's the iconic 2018 Eagles team, or the cult classic "Rocky" (1976), underdogs are truly the people's champ. In a similar fashion, underrated films are masterpieces that for one reason or another, fall under the radar. The criteria for this list could be forgotten classics, a movie few people happened to see, or a source of a debate as long as time itself, but one thing is for certain: there are way too many Christmas movies. Without further ado, and with a proper amount of merriment, here are three of the most underrated holiday films that need to be on your watchlist this holiday season.

#1: It's a Wonderful Life (1946)

"It's a Wonderful Life" is an absolute CLASSIC. Dramatic holiday films are often hit or miss, but this one sticks the landing smoother than eggnog on Christmas Eve. The performances, setting, and the overall story is some of the best I've seen in any film from the 1900's, let alone a holiday one! Not to mention, it's in black and white. Paired with the winter setting, this movie has a certain warmth that modern holiday movies often lack, allowing the viewer to form a genuine connection with George Bailey and his relationships with those that mean the most to him. I genu-

inely think that if you don't well up towards the end of this movie you may be a distant relative of the Terminator. Please please please culture yourself and watch this film for free on Sling TV and The Roku Channel over holiday break and remember, "every time a bell rings an angel gets his wings!"

son being an absolute standout. Simultaneously a pathetic and loveable protagonist, Jesper is a tragically relatable mailman who finds the true meaning of kindness and compassion. As he traverses through a town called Smeerensburg, we meet some truly surly inhabitants who provide a brief but necessary break to the more depress-

"Miracle on 34th Street" checks off a surprising number of genre boxes. The guy responsible for creating Macy's played by Harry Antrim? Check. A bearded man who's quite convinced that he's the real Santa Claus? Check. A court battle over the sanity of said Santa Claus? Also check. In a time where most films feel so formulaic and contrived, this classic is sure to keep you off your phone for the short one hour and forty-one minute run time. Plus, Edmund Gwenn provides one of the most convincing Santa Claus portrayals ever put to screen; leaving me no other choice than to accept that, as permitted by Mrs. Claus, Santa enjoys filming movies in the off-season. A recipient of three Academy Awards and two Golden Globes, this movie can be found on several streaming services including Hulu, Disney +, and Amazon Prime Video.

Of course, there are always some movies that don't make the list, such as "The Muppets Christmas Carol" (1992) and the classic "Die Hard" (1999). Yes, it's grossed over a hundred million dollars all-time, but the long-running debate on whether or not it's a Christmas movie is just too juicy to exclude. Other honorable mentions include: "Tokyo Godfathers" (2003), "Scrooged" (1998), and "The Holdovers" (2023) which you can still catch in theaters if you're quick!

At the end of the day, what you decide to watch this holiday season is completely up to you. That does not, however, mean that you can be trusted to choose. SO, I hope you utilize this masterfully crafted list and make sure that the rest of December is one to remember!



George Bailey (James Stewart) takes a seat at the bar with Clarence Odbody (Henry Travers) in "It's a Wonderful Life," unaware that he's in the presence of an angel!
Photo: msureporter.com

#2: Klaus (2019)

Although "Klaus" is the only film on this list made in the twenty-first century, it's a modern masterpiece and deserves to be on this list. "Klaus" at its core is a Santa origin story, but has so much more to it than that. The strengths of this movie really lie in the characters, with Jesper Johans-

ing subject matter of the film, which I really enjoy. Plus, it features the voices of Jason Schwartzman, Norm Macdonald, and J. K. Simmons so you really need to just go watch it on Netflix.

#3: Miracle on 34th Street (1947)

What an interesting ride this movie is. Another black and white holiday movie,

OPINION

Senioritis is real: Why you need to be worried

The Purple Press is written, edited, produced and distributed monthly by the Phoenixville Area High School Journalism class (Period 3).

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Written by:
Lilly Sivco

Twelve years is an extensive amount of time to live through the same routine. Wars have begun and ended within the last dozen years, presidents have been appointed and left, and the Earth orbited the sun twelve times. After performing the same tasks for years and years, individuals are bound to get sick of life's mundane activities. Each of the twelve grades between Kindergarten and senior year come with challenges, but experiencing your last year of high school is like running a marathon where the finish line keeps inching farther away. No matter how hard seniors try to resist, they are bound to burn out after years of memorizing information, taking tests, and rising before the sun.

Common symptoms of senioritis include but are not limited to: Sleeping past your alarm, arriving late to class, skipping school, failing tests, procrastination, short-term memory loss, and general carelessness or lethargy. This disease is not deadly, but it can have detrimental impacts on a senior's life. Sufferers of senioritis may notice their energy draining quicker than it has in previous years, leading to behaviors that impact grades, work, and relationships.

Senioritis is also a transmissible disease. If one senior notices that their friends have been skipping class and caring less about grades,

they are more likely to obtain the same attitude because "if they don't care, then I don't care!" As a result, senioritis is commonly observed in friend groups ranging from four to ten individuals.

Whether you are a concerned teacher with dwindling attendance in your classes, an underclassman who relies on your older sibling for rides, or an individual who is months away from graduating, it is vital for you to be concerned about the severe impacts of senioritis. At worst, contracting this illness can lead to failed classes, ruined relationships, and loss of the ability to walk at graduation. At best, senioritis will cause a few missing assignments and unexcused absences. However, the impacts lead to a domino effect around the school.

In one case study, a senior decided to take a mental health day every once in a while. This was not an issue on its own, but this action caused his brother to be abandoned without a ride home from middle school, his lab partner had to dissect a fetal pig alone, and his English group had to perform "Frankenstein" without Dr. Frankenstein. The senioritis victim felt so guilty about the work that he missed, so he continued to skip school while avoiding his inevitable responsibilities. By allowing the disease to conquer his mind and body, this individual was diagnosed with Stage 3 Senioritis (see graphic for more information).

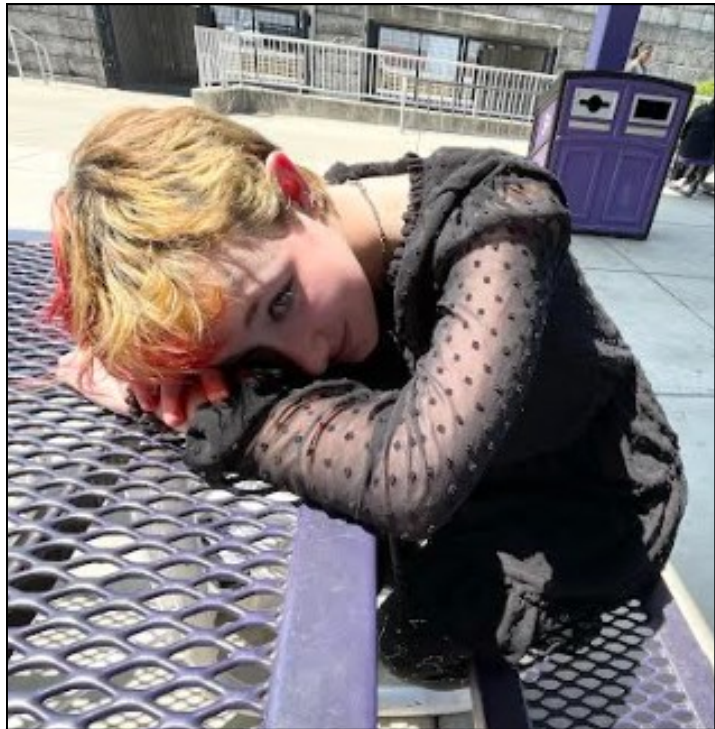
What actions should be taken if you believe you have contracted senioritis? The first step must be to accept that you are sick, rather than denying that anything is wrong. Almost every twelfth grader experiences some form of senioritis dur-

ing their last year of high school. Therefore, you must set academic goals for yourself. Do you want to be exempt from final exams and keep up your GPA to prevent colleges from withdrawing your acceptance, or do you want to simply pass each class? Take your assignments one at a time, and ensure that you have positive elements of life to look forward to.

If your classmates have been dropping like flies and texting you "I'm skipping today," don't be afraid to motivate them to attend class. If all else fails, remind the senioritis

victim that 90% attendance is necessary to gain credit for a course without a valid excuse! This means that a maximum of about 18 absences can occur in a core class, or nine absences in an elective that meets every other day.

The only cure for senioritis is graduation. Although this illness may seem life-altering and profound, it is not permanent, and you will finish high school eventually (whether it takes four years or six).



A typical day for a senioritis victim may include sleeping, eating junk food, and scrolling on their phone for hours. This senior, **Elise Frasch**, passed out after skipping her fifteenth day of school. Photo courtesy of Lilly Sivco

Allow free use of ChatGPT at PAHS!



Written by:
Elle McDonnell

Have you ever written a paper at 12am but no one was available to help you edit? The website called ChatGPT is an AI (Artificial Intelligence) site that can help many students through their school work hurdles. As the fairly new site grows, we learn more and more about the benefits and disadvantages that it brings to our school and life. In PAHS, ChatGPT is perceived for more of the disadvantages and downsides, so it is banned school-wide. Diving deeper into the practicality of the website, there are way more advantages than disadvantages that could help students produce work and solve problems without resorting to plagiarism or cheating.

Some of the Phoenixville faculty argue that ChatGPT creates an easy temptation for students to use it to do their writing for them. The biggest argument is that the site creates a sense of dependency. Teachers believe that if students use it once, we will continue to use it as a free pass for every assignment.. Along with alleged codependency on AI, teachers think students will lose initiative to do their work on their own. Many fear that it will overrule students to ever accomplish things on their own again. The overall consensus is that students take advantage of the purpose of ChatGPT and use it to

plagiarize writing instead of creating their own. While this can be true for some students, others use it for assistance rather than cheating.

ChatGPT can help in many positive and ethical ways. For example, it can be a great editor for essays and assignments. You can copy and paste your already written paper into the spacebar and it will generate feedback and edit your errors within the essay. It can check to make sure you have academic vocabulary throughout your work. It also helps with the format of an email, essay, etc. by providing fully reliable answers to your possible questions. ChatGPT gives excellent feedback on submitted assignments to help you through mistakes and errors that you may have.

Along with that, ChatGPT fully encourages you to receive guidance when you need it, no matter what day or time. The



site includes the user by engaging in their questions and speaking as someone would when having a conversation face to face. For example, when typing your question into the space bar, the AI generates a friendly response, as if they were right in front of you!

When writing my college essay a few months back, ChatGPT was a huge help.

Personally, I struggle with constructing conclusion paragraphs. After completing the introduction and body paragraphs, I was stuck. Luckily, ChatGPT helped me through this rut. I went to the space bar and copied and pasted my unfinished essay, following with the question 'how do I write a conclusion paragraph.' It generated an example conclusion paragraph with my topic embedded, using my ideas to give me a base for writing my own. After receiving this example of how I should structure my paragraph, I wrote a paragraph with great grammar and flow. ChatGPT helped me finish one of the best essays I've ever written.

Despite its potential to be used to plagiarize assignments, I would argue that ChatGPT has way more advantages than disadvantages. If ChatGPT is properly taught how to be used within our school, I believe that the majority of the students at our school would use the site appropriately. They would use it to gather ideas when writing an essay, and take advantage of the power of the editing it provides. Therefore, PAHS should unban ChatGPT and allow students to actively learn from a great source of information.

Examples	Capabilities
"Explain quantum computing in simple terms" →	Remembers what user said earlier in the conversation
"Got any creative ideas for a 10 year old's birthday?" →	Allows user to provide follow-up corrections
"How do I make an HTTP request in Javascript?" →	Trained to decline inappropriate requests

Photo: curated-digital.com

Phantom Foundations: Developing confidence and community



Written by:
Julia
McNamee

PAHS offers many opportunities for growth to many types of students. While there are many programs to learn about, one that is very important is the Phantom Foundations program.

The Phantom Foundations program is essentially a class in PAHS where students who are around eighteen with low-incidence disabilities, such as autism, work with other students in similar situations

on a number of activities aimed at building independent living skills. The class also participates in countless volunteer programs, which help to secure students jobs when they finish the class at age twenty one.

Ms. Heinz, a teacher in the classroom, said her favorite part of the program is that, "we're able to go out into the community, like Bridge Street Chocolates, the YMCA, Gateway, and ReStore to volunteer so the students can get employed after high school."

On a typical day, students cook lunch, do chores, make beds, clean, wash dishes, work out at the YMCA, and more. Every week, they go grocery shopping at Giant for lunch ingredients, since they do not buy cafeteria food and opt to make their



Ms. Heinz, Izzy Hyson, Paige Brophy, and Dashaun Parler pose for a photo in Gateway Pharmacy while buying supplies for class.



Ms. Heinz and Izzy Hyson work out together at the YMCA, an everyday trip for the students in Life Skills. Photos courtesy of Ms. Heinz

own meal. They get the funding for these groceries through the vending machines in the teacher's lounge, which they stock themselves, as well as selling greeting cards for \$1 which can be bought at any time in room H-15.

For the holidays, the Phantom Foundations class plans on Christmas shopping for their families at the Limerick outlets, as well as watching a holiday movie every Friday in replacement of their normal Friday movie. The class will organize a faculty lunch for the PAHS teachers the week before break, and will also bake Christmas cookies with the rest of the class.

It is clear that the Phantom Foundations students greatly benefit from the experiences taught in this class, but not only are they reaching their own individual goals, Ms. Heinz says the students' growth is clear from their growing confidence and self-advocacy skills. As a matter of fact, a student in the program has recently been

offered a job by one of the volunteer programs the class consistently visits. Through this program, the organizations are able to see the student's skills and needs, so they can determine who would be a good fit for a job.

The students genuinely enjoy their time in this program, which was apparent when multiple students, including Izzy, Dashaun, and Lila said they love "being with friends."

Many everyday-skills that seem basic to us are not as simple of tasks for others. The Phantom Foundations program is a great way to ensure that more students are able to complete these tasks, so that they can easily function in society. The communal and school programs the Phantom Foundations class is able to participate in is truly admirable, as well as important to serve the diverse needs of students at PAHS and specifically their confidence, but more importantly, friendships.

PAHS Marching Band: An adventure under the stars



Written by:
Emma Ward

As halftime of the football game arrives, you watch as the PAHS Marching Band takes the field; extensive props and outfits catch your eye. Marching to the tune of the instrumentals, the story conveyed by the Color Guard and musicians is inspiring, and did you know, even competitive?

Football games aren't the only time the marching band performs. They prepare the entire summer with the hopes of a successful competition season that takes place in November. This year's theme was "Adventure Is Out There," and the hard work from every member contributed to the triumphs achieved this season.

Entering his first year as marching band director, Mr. Aaron Sobel has been working with the band for 10 seasons with Mr. McAdams. Previously the music instructor, Mr. Sobel went from handling more of the teaching and developing aspects, to doing the more logistical aspects- making sure equipment is set and instructors are prepared. The hard work from the members of marching band and the dedication from Mr. Sobel resulted in quite a successful competitive season.

"Adventure is Out There" featured a storyline of camping. Many well known songs were included, such as "Adventure is Out There" by AJR, "Send Me On My Way" by Rusted Root, "Trashin' the Camp" from Tarzan, and "Sky Full of Stars" by Coldplay. As the show progressed, the troubles people may encounter on a camping trip were explored. For example, the "campers" got lost in the



The Phoenixville Marching Band executing their incredible show at halftime of a football game. The fire in the center illustrates the camping trip setting. Photo courtesy of Mr. Sobel

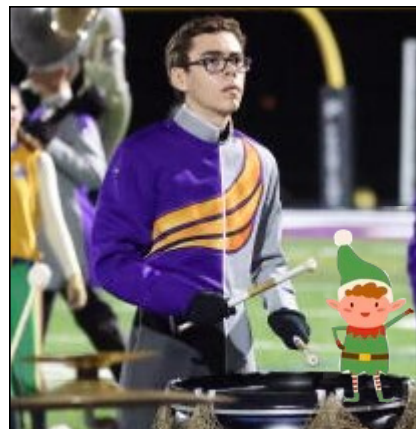
middle of the trip, with creepy sounds and darker props enhancing the eerie mood. Demonstrating resilience to eventually reach the campsite and set up camp, the campers were rewarded with a gorgeous night under the stars.

Preparing for this exceptional show was no easy feat. Rehearsals took place over the summer with band camp in August. During the school year, Saturdays were the big practice days. There were unfortunately six Saturdays in which rain hampered the practice schedule for the marching band. As a result, they were unable to conclude their show the way they had initially hoped. Despite this hindrance, Mr. Sobel was exceptionally proud of his students for the extra work they put in to make up for this inconvenience.

He stated, "I'm really proud of the camaraderie. That is something I had wanted- making sure everyone felt like they belonged. In this case, we're a family. You need to love everyone in some way."

Attending three competitions and hosting a fourth, the PAHS Marching Band was

able to prepare adequately for the Championships. The competitions took place at Boyertown, Spring-Ford, and Wilson High School. With each new performance, more music, visuals, and props were added, in turn making every show better than the previous one.



Senior drum major Jack Markert plays the drums to help maintain a consistent beat for their performance. Photo: Lifetouch

On November 4th, the Marching Phantoms scored 89.125 out of 100 at the Cavalcade of Bands Championships at New Oxford High School. Although it was a slight drop from the third place finish last year, placing fifth out of eight groups is an amazing accomplishment every member is proud of.

Many aspects of the marching band contributed to its success when performing. The Color Guard served as the visual representation for the audience, being the faces audiences can relate to when following the storyline. The emotional connection was emphasized through dance, flags, weapons, and facial expressions.

The drum majors also played a large role in the show. Senior Jack Markert filled the role of the field drum major, whereas junior Anjali Emani took on the role of conducting drum major. Jack played the mellophone on the field with the remainder of the band. On the other hand, Anjali did not play the saxophone as she had last year. She instead stood on a platform and conducted the band. Both played very influential roles and have been in band since their freshman year.

Anjali said, "One of the things we get to do as drum major is get candy grams and throw them on the buses, which was very fun. It was a nice thing to do because my freshman year there were people doing that for me, and now I did it."

Speaking on what he will miss most about being in the marching band, Jack stated, "I'll miss all my friends. It's a great experience and you spend a lot of time with them through all the rehearsals and competitions, so I'll miss them the most."

The 2023 season of marching band was filled with commitment from every member. Paying off in performances at football games and at the Championships, Mr. Sobel is eager to see the marching band continue to excel in years to come.



What Christmas/holiday song do you NEVER want to hear again?



Emily Hacker (12):
"Blue Christmas" by Elvis Presley because it's sad and not very Christmasey.



Maggie Rost and Talia Rosenfeld (11):
"Snowman" by Sia because it's so annoying.



Tom Lockner (12):
"All I Want for Christmas Is You" by Mariah Carey because I can't stand her voice.



Simon Lange (9):
"Mistletoe" by Justin Bieber because Max Goudie overplays it.



Kailey Hudy and Stella Camarda (10):
"I'll be home for QUISMOIS" by Camilla Cabello.



Julia Slanker (10):
"God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman" by Pentatonix because they just keep repeating the same lyric faster and faster.



Mr. Morrow (Lab rat):
"Last Christmas" by Wham because it's overplayed and gets stuck in my head.



Matthew Malinowski (10):
"8 Days of Christmas" by Destiny's Child because there's 12 days of Christmas, not 8.



Laiana Karine (11):
"Jingle Bells" because it repeats the same lyric and is for kids.



Ms. Lees (Potter extraordinaire):
"I want a Hippopotamus for Christmas" by Gayla Peevey because it's a little kid's voice.



Mr. Gumby:
"The Christmas Song" by Nat King Cole because it's overplayed.

What gift do you NOT want to receive for Christmas?



Drew Raudenbush (12):
"British Christmas pudding."



Jehoash Leo (11) and Wiley O'Meacham (10):
"A bag of coal."



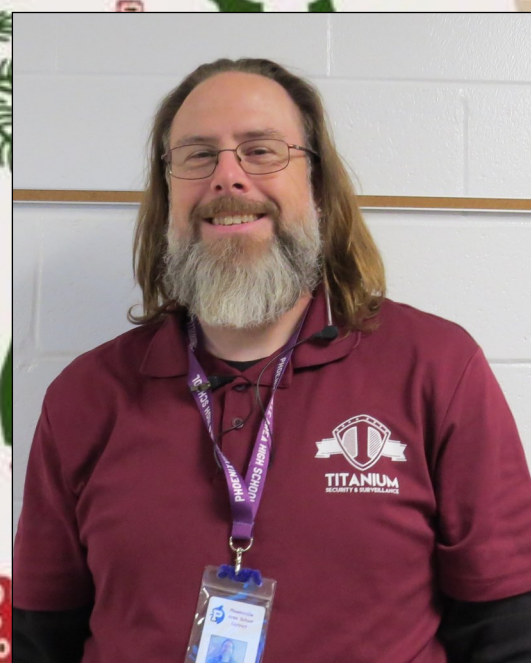
Natalie Murray (11):
"Reindeer food because I think it would smell."



Sofia Cesarski and Davi Sampaio (9):
"A mug or a candle because they're boring."



Hayden Bray (10):
"Men's Cedar Deodorant."



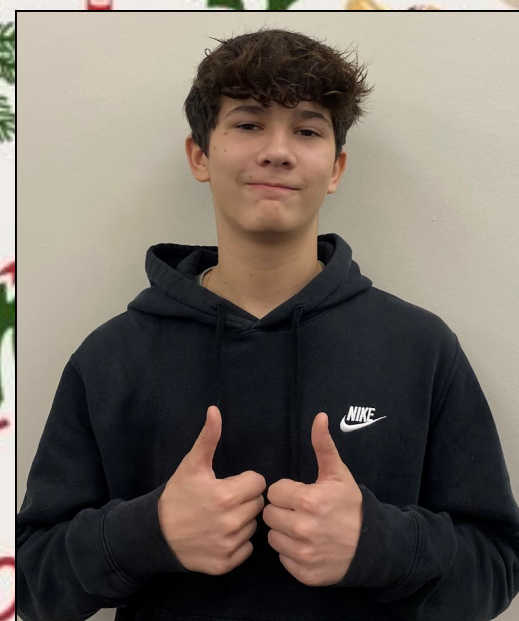
Bill (school security):
"Fruit cake, because it's terrible and it keeps getting regifted. "



Addison Roth (9):
"Silver earrings because I like gold hoops. "



Rosie (school security):
"No dollar store lotions or perfumes."



Angelo Mastrocola (10):
"A really really itchy sweater."

ENTERTAINMENT

Playboi Carti: Leading the game



Written by:
Reed Gleba

Being one of the most influential modern-day rappers, you would think Playboi Carti would be backed up with support instead of soiled by controversy. Many people believe he doesn't deserve his place in the rap game due to his mumbling, sometimes incomprehensible style. Others believe his unique delivery is intentional, and has pioneered a sub-genre of experimental mumble. Despite the haters, I am here to persuade you that PlayBoi Carti is a talented artist and you should check out his music.

To begin, Carti has tremendous experience in the rap game, initially making mu-



PlayBoi Carti performing his hit song "Magnolia" live at Rolling Loud in Miami in front of 40,000 fans. This song went on to garner over 700 million streams on Spotify. Photo: creativeloafing.com

sic in 2011 under the name "Sir Cartier" on SoundCloud. By 2013, he had changed his name to PlayBoi Carti and continued

to upload to SoundCloud until 2014 when he was signed to Awful Records. Since then, Carti has strengthened his style and garnered many fans as a leader of punk-rap.

Playboi Carti garnered mainstream attention on April 14th, 2017, when he dropped his self-titled album "PlayBoi Carti" under AWGE records. The mixtape features fan favorites such as Lil Uzi Vert and ASAP Rocky. This is when we first saw Carti's ability to smartly grow in a thriving marketplace by getting signed by a popular studio and featuring famous rappers.

By far the most popular song from the album is called "Magnolia" and has over 700 million plays on Spotify. The song opens with Pi'erre Bourne's iconic producer tag, which instantly garners hype. Carti would go on to use this producer tag in many more songs, and went on to produce two more albums, "Die Lit" (2018) and "Whole Lotta Red," (2020) which both became very popular, with "Whole Lotta Red" hitting #1 on the US Billboard 200.

His unique mumbling style leaves the

lyrics up to the listener's perspective and allows for all different levels of interpretation. A good example of this is the song "I Love U/Hate U" featured in "Whole Lotta Red." In this song Carti mumbles many of the lyrics, leaving it up to the beat to let the song flow.

Beyond his studio work, PlayBoi Carti is a great artist due to his ability to perform live. During concerts, Carti is notorious for being able to hype and maintain a crowd. During the Wireless Festival in 2022, Carti was performing his hit song "Sky" from "Whole Lotta Red" when he apparently got so wrapped up in the performance that he fell off the stage. He didn't stop singing; he instead kept going and gave the crowd a whole different kind of energy.

Although Carti does not have too many produced songs and albums (at the moment 15 singles, six of which are featured, and three mixtapes), he plans to make more music in the future. He is currently working on the album "Music" under his own record label, "Opium," so keep your eyes peeled.

Additionally, Carti is working on a clothing line named Narcissist, for he plans to leap into the world of fashion to broaden his creative hub and support his son Onyx Carter, whom he had with his ex-girlfriend and fellow rapper Iggy Azalea.

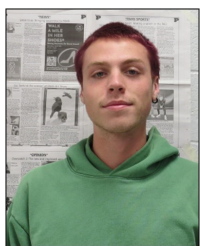
Despite peoples' mixed opinions and some controversy surrounding his career and rap style, I strongly believe PlayBoi Carti is an amazing rapper with a lot of potential in the future. Thankfully we won't have to wait much longer, for the release of "Music" could be coming any moment now.

Grade: A-
Artist: Playboi Carti
Genre: Hip-Hop/Rap
Record Label: Opium



Lil Uzi Vert and **PlayBoi Carti** posing before the 2017 Staples Center Concert. This was a key moment leading up to the release of his debut album, "PlayBoi Carti". Photo: billboard.com

PinkPantheress "Heaven Knows": The pop sensation plays it safe



Written by:
Jackson Deets

Dark organ blares sounding straight out of a haunted house... slowly the bubbly drum, bass and smooth melodies that PinkPantheress fans know and love return. Her smooth and glitchy vocals sound like a perfectly broken record on "Another life (feat. Rema)" the opening track to "Heaven Knows," the first studio album from the ambitious 22 year old UK native.

The highly-anticipated album comes around two years after her short but sweet breakout mixtape, "To Hell with It." Vicky Beverly Walker (PinkPantheress) capitalized on the idea of growing her social and musical presence using TikTok, uploading her first video in December 2020. She used a snippet of one of her first songs which quickly went viral and captured an audience that was eager to hear more.

"Heaven Knows" is as simple as it is complex with the angsty, lovey dovey/heartbreak lyrics you can expect from PinkPantheress, but with more layers to pull back, with themes of anxiety, anticipation, desire, and even some superiority. The album feels like a new step in her songwriting that keeps the music refreshing.

"True Romance" describes a superfan crushing over a more famous celebrity with scratchy guitar and crowd cheering

to open up the song. "Mosquito" and "Feel Complete" sound almost like something that could have been made by a girls pop group in the early 2000s. "Nice to Meet You" (feat. Central Cee), the hit off the album, is a jittery track with complex production and fun vocals. Central Cee delivers a smooth and laid back verse with more heartfelt and genuine lyrics that you don't always get to hear from the rapper.

"Bury me" (feat. Kelela) is a perfectly atmospheric song that stands out, but still fits the theme of the album. The production comes from BNYX giving the track an almost drill style drum and bass feel, while still being able to fit with PinkPantheress and Kelela's soft and high vocal mixes. It also includes samples of birds chirping and cloudy chords that float in the background of the rumbling 808's. This track became one of my personal

favorites and a standout for me since it feels unique and new for PinkPantheress.

"Internet Baby," which serves as the interlude to the album, is a quick song that seems to flip the script, describing a possible guy obsessing and crushing over PinkPantheress. Songs after this one like "Ophelia," "Blue," and "The Aisle" feel like filler. They provide some of the newer sounds this album has to offer, but don't exactly blow me away.

The album wraps up with the anxious and scattered lyrics on "Feelings," the grand "Capable of Love," and the hit single released prior to the albums release, "Boy's a liar Pt. 2" featuring Ice Spice with lyrics like, "The boy's a liar, the boy's a liar/He doesn't see ya, You're not looking at me, boy" that have been burnt into the heads of anyone who has heard this song, making it a perfect song for a playlist on a



PinkPantheress on the front of the abstract yet simple cover of her most recent album, "Heaven Knows." The new installment and first Studio Album from the TikTok sensation turned Pink Pantheress into a mainstream celebrity. Photo: Pitchfork.com

long car ride or a party with your friends.

This album comes as a good stepping stone for PinkPantheress and her music career. Even if there were not many risks taken and she isn't completely flipping the material, the music still sounds refreshing and focused, which makes this an easy and fun listen.

You can stream "Heaven Knows" on *Apple Music, Spotify, Soundcloud, YouTube Music* and more.

Grade: B-
Artist: PinkPantheress
Album: Heaven Knows
Genre: jungle Beats, pop, alternative, hyperpop, bedroom pop, drum and bass
Record Label: Warner Music UK
Release Date: November 10th, 2023



Rapper Central Cee and **PinkPantheress** on the set of the hit "Nice to Meet You" music video, which is a fun Y2K inspired video that looks almost like something you would see on Disney Channel as a kid. Photo: theguardian.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Beautifully unapologetic: Lana Del Rey



Written by:
Caitlin
O'Meacham

Do you feel hurt by criticism? Who doesn't? In "Did you know that there's a tunnel under Ocean Blvd," the title of Lana Del Rey's ninth studio album, she explores the criticism she has received in life in a beautifully unapologetic way. Themes of love and family dance amongst each other throughout each song (and interludes). Every song and every lyric within this album has a meaning behind it, and demonstrates Lana's talent as a singer and lyricist. Although not one of her best albums in my opinion, I think everyone should still give it a listen.

Lana Del Rey is a stage name created by Elizabeth Woolridge Grant, born on June 21st, 1985 in Manhattan, New York. Lana first discovered her love for singing in her

church choir, and has been creating music ever since. Her first album titled "Sirens" was released in 2006 under her first stage name, May Jailer. After going by May Jailer, she switched to the name Lizzy Grant. "Born to Die" was the first album she released in 2012 under her current name we all know and love as Lana Del Rey. Since "Born to Die," Lana has won six Grammys, along with numerous nominations and other awards for her music.

"Did You Know That There's a Tunnel Under Ocean Blvd" was released on March 24th of 2023 and produced by Lana Del Rey alongside Jack Antonoff, Mike Hermosa, Drew Erickson, Zach Dawes, and Benji. Jack Antonoff is a rather famous producer who works with many artists including Taylor Swift, Lorde, Troye Sivan and more. The album has 16 songs and runs for a total of 78 minutes.

Lana starts off the album with "The Grants," which she commemorates to her loved ones, and her family members that have passed away. The song is a contribution to her real family, as it is named after them. In the beginning of the song



Lana Del Rey closed out night four of Lollapalooza at Grant Park, Chicago 2023. She performed in front of tens of thousands of people who had camped out to see Lana take the stage.

Lana recalls a time when her pastor talked about loved ones dying, and how our memories we share with them is all we can hold on to. She sings, "My pastor told me / When you leave, all you take / Oh, is your memory." It is one of her more personal songs on the album, as she rarely ever opens up about her family.

A fan favorite of the album is her song "Let The Light In (Feat. Father John Misty)." It circulates the complexities that come along in relationships, like how you can care and love for someone and seem to hate them all at the same time. She sings, "Cause I like to love, to love, to love, to love you / I hate to hate, to hate, to hate, to hate you." We can see how Lana struggles to really articulate her true feelings and does not want her love to die out. Although it seems repetitive, I think it's done in an authentically relatable way.

Lana concludes the album with her song

"Taco Truck x VB." The song is divided into two parts, "Taco Truck" and "VB." It is a remix of her song "Venice B****" from her last album "Norman F****ing Rockwell." She sings, "Before you talk let me stop what you say / I know, I know, I know that you hate me." Stating that she is aware of the criticism she receives, she ultimately does not care and will continue to make music no matter the controversy it brings. The criticism of this song in particular is surrounding the first segment of the song "Taco Truck" as some found it disrespectful that she portrays herself as a completely different race in the song. Although I do not think Lana creates music with the intention of hurting people, she seems to have a hard time leaving controversial subjects out of her music.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed this album, even if some songs are a little forgettable like "Fingertips," and "Grandfather please stand..." (sorry if those are your favorites). The only thing I did not like on the album was the inclusion of Judah Smith, on "Judah Smith Interlude." Smith has received backlash for his anti-LGBTQ+ remarks. Having him featured on the album was a little disappointing, considering Lana Del Rey has a large demographic within the LGBTQ+ community.

On "Did you Know..." we hear Lana Del Rey present her raw emotions into each song, and I thoroughly appreciate her art. It's a reminder to all of us, to do what makes us happy no matter what the critics say.

Grade: A-
Artist: Lana Del Rey
Album: "Did you know that there's a tunnel under Ocean Blvd"
Genre: Alternative/Indie, Pop
Record Label: Polydor Records/Interscope Records



Lana Del Rey as she accepts "The Visionary Award" presented to her at Billboard Women In Music. As she states "I feel like being happy is the ultimate goal, so I did it." Photos: billboard.com

Peter McPoland: Columbia Records' best kept secret



Written by:
Leah C.
Garofalo

With new records being produced at an exceedingly rapid rate, how can an artist gain a dedicated following? Peter McPoland, an emerging alternative artist from Vermont, employs a unique strategy to solve this pressing question: authentic range. Peter's sound has evolved from folk to a gritty, alternative sound, proving that art can grow with its creator.

I was initially drawn to McPoland's ballad-like tracks such as "i love you too" and "News At 9." The young artist, who has gained a significant social media presence, released his first EP in the spring of 2022 under Columbia Records. The project featured these melodic, emotional pieces at its core, while also including some peppy tracks. Following successful touring, Peter returned with new music this summer, unlike anything he has released before.

His new album, "Piggy," predominantly features distorted, almost uncomfortable instrumentation that is entirely different from his original folksy tone. Despite this stark difference, somehow it feels like an understandable progression in his music. McPoland steps out of his typical introspective space and presents a critique of society that has been well-received by fans like myself.

My favorite track is "Blue." The track combines Peter's new sound with references to his previous works. This combination proves to be the perfect segue for a long-time fan like myself, as well as a

perfect culmination of his work for a new fan to taste. In a close second is the track, "Find Me Out," a song that ebbs and flows in a way I find truly satisfying. While this particular album is not lyrically driven, certain lines stand out, such as "Underneath tomorrow/ Caught in the seams / Between me and sorrow / Something starts to gleam / Way out in the lamplight / Lay beside my bed / Someone from a past life / Is praying that I'm dead." Peter often uses strong imagery to convey the messages in his songs, such as seen here.

My biggest critique of the album would be its repetitive nature, evident in tracks such as "Turn Off The Noise." While this repetition deters my listening, it is also understandable in the context of Peter's critique of the constant buzz of society. McPoland argues that the digitalization of society is leading to the death of originality.



Peter McPoland preparing to perform on his first official tour. Following the release of his latest album his touring resumed, including a performance in Philadelphia on October 13th. Photo: reditionmagazine.com



Peter posing with the inspiration of his latest album, Piggy, in a promotional photo. The majority of Peter's advertising is done through his social media presence, particularly his TikTok (@petermcpoland). Photo: ticketmaster.com

To say Peter McPoland's new release, "Piggy," surprised me would be an understatement. Despite this, his work remains as potent and fascinating as always. In my opinion, his artistic range is a true testament to his talent and a key factor that sets him apart in an infinite pool of singers. Peter himself said that he expects his work to naturally sway across styles as he himself evolves, creating a sense of uniquely thrilling sense of unpredictability. His songs are available on all music streaming platforms, as well as his YouTube channel featuring videos for nearly every song.

Grade: A
Title: "Piggy"
Release Date: August 11th, 2023
Genre: Alternative

The Philadelphia Eagles: No sign of a hangover



Written by:
Carter Smith

A Super Bowl loss is tough, but coming off that Super Bowl loss to start the season 10-3 is even tougher. The term "Super Bowl Hangover" is commonly used when a team performs poorly after playing in the Super Bowl just the year prior. Super Bowl Hangover doesn't apply to the Eagles, as they have shown very little sign of regression after their unfortunate loss to the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl LVII. The Philadelphia Eagles are defined by their tenacity, resilience, and determination, and are undeniably the one of the better teams in all of football. Let's recap how the Eagles have been doing so far through week 14.

The Eagles had quite the stellar off-season. Both the offensive and defensive coordinator slots were vacant after their former coordinators, Shane Steichen and Jonathan Gannon, left for head coaching jobs in Indianapolis and Arizona respectively. Brian Johnson was promoted from QBs coach to OC, and Sean Desai was named the Defensive Coordinator, moving from his job in Seattle as the Seahawks' associate head coach on defense. Through 14 weeks, Eagles fans are very skeptical about their ability, but even with the questionable play-calling, the Eagles have enough talent to power through adversity (most of the time).

The Eagles also were tasked with replacing their former star players, primarily on defense. Defensive tackle Javon Hargrave was replaced with their 1st-round pick and Defensive Rookie of the Year front-runner, Jalen Carter. Cornerback C

Gardner-Johnson was replaced with safety Terrell Edmunds, who they acquired from the Pittsburgh Steelers. Linebackers TJ Edwards and Kyzir White also left, but Nicholas Morrow and Zach Cunningham took their place. Perhaps their biggest loss was running back Miles Sanders, but the Eagles picked up Rashaad Penny and D'Andre Swift, who have been vital to the Eagles' success. The Eagles also extended many other players, such as Defensive tackle Fletcher Cox, Defensive End Brandon Graham, Center Jason Kelce, and Quarterback Jalen Hurts, who signed a \$255 million dollar contract with the Eagles.

The season started off strong, as the Eagles defeated the New England Patriots, 25-20. They only had three days of rest, as they took on the Minnesota Vikings on Thursday, as the defense forced four fumbles, and the Eagles defeated them 34-28. The Eagles would travel to the sunshine state, taking on the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Monday night, and another defensive showcase helped the Eagles cruise to a 25-11 victory, as well as a "Scorigami" (a score that has never happened before). A 34-31 overtime victory would follow against the Washington



QB Jalen Hurts runs with the ball as he looks for a defender downfield against the Buccaneers. Despite a knee injury, Hurts has done a good job running the ball. Photo: The Philadelphia Inquirer



QB Jalen Hurts lines up for the iconic "Brotherly Shove" play against the Miami Dolphins. He uses the core strength of his offensive line to score an easy touchdown. Photo: sportingnews.com

Commanders, and it was certainly a stressful game. The Los Angeles Rams were next, and a good defensive showcase helped the Eagles win 23-14.

Week 6 is where the Eagles would lose their first of three games (so far), and it was to the New York Jets following a three-interception game from Jalen Hurts. But the Eagles kept their heads up, and defeated the Miami Dolphins 31-17, which happened to be the debut of their Kelly Green jerseys, by far the best throwback jerseys in all of football. A rematch with the Commanders would follow, and the Eagles marched their way to a 38-31 victory. The Eagles had their first of two matchups against their most hated rival, the Dallas Cowboys, and despite a messy performance, the Eagles prevailed, and won 28-23.

After a week of rest, they visited the Kansas City Chiefs, the same team that took away their Lombardi Trophy in February. However, the Eagles took revenge, and won 21-17, not allowing a single point in the second half. Next up were the Buffalo Bills, and the Eagles won 37-34 after a

59-yard field goal by Jake Elliott forced overtime.

Following a devastating blowout loss to the 49ers, the Eagles set their sights on the Cowboys once more, and coaching ineptitude alongside a poor defensive showcase allowed the Cowboys to easily claim victory, 33-13. The Eagles lost the #1 seed after this loss, and San Fran moved up a spot. It's tough to watch the Eagles lose two in a row, and I hope the Eagles make much-needed adjustments on both offense and defense.

Looking into the current playoff picture, the Eagles hold the #5 seed, but can reclaim the top spot with their easy schedule ahead. The six other spots (as of the end of Week 14) belong to the 49ers, Lions, Bucs, Cowboys, Packers, and Vikings. The birds are currently on a two-game losing streak, and many people are calling our coaches' ability into question. Can the Eagles fix their defensive problems? Can we compete with juggernauts like San Fran? All we can do now is wait and see, but let's cheer on the birds as they make another playoff push!

Can the Flyers end their playoff drought?



Written by:
Cam Clark

Coming off of a near disastrous season last year, ESPN had ranked the Flyers at 20 in their pre-season power ranking predictions. However, the Flyers currently sit at a comfortable rank of 15 on the list, with a current record of 15-10-3. The Philadelphia Flyers are an above average team this year, which is a feat considering the final standings of the 22-23 season, finishing 31-38-13. The Flyers are not a championship caliber team right now, and the odds of them becoming one by the end of the season are slim. What does the team need to do for a chance at a deep playoff run? Let's have a look at their



Samuel Ersson, Scott Laughton and Morgan Frost celebrate an exciting shootout win over the Washington Capitals on Dec 14. Photos: ESPN

strengths and weaknesses.

The team's strengths stem from defense. The Flyers have already shut out two teams this season. Only three other teams have more shutouts than Philadelphia. They are also in the top 10 of goals scored against, averaging only 2.80 let up

per game, just half a goal behind the stat leader and defending Stanley Cup champs, the Las Vegas Golden Knights. Flyers starting goalie, Carter Hart, has been exceptional in net, despite missing some time due to injury. He is the 9th best in the league in save percentage, at .919. In 480 shots against him, he has saved 441. Also, in seven shootout attempts, Flyers secondary goaltender Sameul Ersson has not let in a goal. This makes Philadelphia one of two teams with a perfect save percentage in multiple shootouts.

On defense, Travis Sanheim is on a hot streak. In his ninth year on the team, Sanheim has contributed to scores with 17 assists and 4 goals of his own. He may just be heating up, however. With 8 points each in the months of October and November, Sanheim already has 5 points in the first 5 competitions of December. Sean Walker has been an impact defensively as well. With 4 goals and 11 total points, Walker adds an obvious positive to the team with a plus-minus of 8.

One of Philadelphia's main offensive

contributors has been right wing Travis Konecny. He leads the team in goals and points with sixteen goals and eight assists in the first twenty eight games of the season.

On the offensive side of the ice as well, left wing Joel Farabee affects the team's uprising greatly. He and right wing Owen Trippet pair greatly. Both with 8 assists on the season, Trippet has just recently reached 100 shots on goal this season. Trippet keeps pressure on the goal at all times, leaving opportunities for a sneaky goal or two from Farabee, who has scored 11 this season.

Finally, Center Sean Couturier is also gaining momentum in game. With 6 points already in the month of December after having 7 and 8 in the previous months, Couturier proves as a weapon, able to score himself or through another man with 14 assists and 7 goals on the season.

On the downside amongst all of the excitement and defensive success, the Flyers still only rank 23rd in goals scored per game. Luckily, the problem may be easier to solve than it may seem. The weakness here is not a lack of shot opportunities. The Flyers rank 4th in shot attempts this season, behind three of the leading teams (Carolina, Florida, Vegas). When it comes to finishing, however, Philadelphia is 27th in the league in shot percentage, at 8.8%.

Looking into the future, the Philadelphia Flyers certainly have potential. I believe it's too early in the season to make a sure call. But if they can keep up their defensive dominance, and improve upon their already functional offense, there lies a chance for a deep run in the playoffs, which they have been excluded from since 2020.



Samuel Ersson (33) blocks a shot during the third period against the Detroit Red Wings to complete a shutout in a 1-0 victory on Dec 16.



Girls' Cross Country: Leading the PAC one step at a time



Written by:

Caitlin
O'Meacham

Following the success of a third place finish in States in 2022, the Girls' Cross Country team entered this fall season with high hopes, but not any unattainable standards that may negatively affect them. Their goal was to enjoy their time together and foster a positive team environment, while running their best races they could. This year's lineup had a large senior presence, with each runner ready to give their last season all they had. Their continued hard work, dedication, and team support led to the continued success that took the girls back to States.

The girls had the help of their well-loved head coach, Eric Sprenkle, returning for his ninth year coaching at Phoenixville and sixth year as the head coach for the team. This year, the team welcomed new faces with new Assistant Coach Georganne Watson, and volunteer Assistant Coach Emily Zipay. Returning volunteer Assistant Coach Kelsey Sprenkle also greatly helped them in their season as well.

The girls had an outstanding PAC record this year, finishing their season undefeated 5-0 for their Frontier conference dual meets, making the 2023 season the third year in a row the PAHS Girls' Cross Country team ended their season undefeated. Wrapping up their conference meets at the Championship, both Varsity and JV were able to get second place overall.

The team was led by the whole senior



Kenzie Padilla, Liza Barbash, Anna Carruthers, Maddie Witcoski, Caitlin O'Meacham and Josie Reed, all holding flowers on their Senior Night after a victory against Pottsgrove.

Photo: phoenixvilleathletics.com

class as their captains: Anna Carruthers, Kenzie Padilla, Josie Reed, Liza Barbash, Caitlin O'Meacham and Maddie Witcoski.

Coach Sprenkle commented on the effectiveness of the seniors to take on this responsibility: "Our senior leadership has been incredible this year, not just this year, but throughout all four of their years here. Each of them brings a unique leadership style and element to the team and it's really exciting."

The girls started off their season strong by winning the DeSales Invitational and crushing their opponents along with the JV team placing second there. Some other remarkable accomplishments included placing third at the Foundation Meet in Hershey, and fifth at Paul Short Lehigh Invite. Taking fifth place at Districts qualified the team for States, where they finished in sixth. Making top ten in States for the third year in a row is very hard to do, and yet this group of girls has showcased their resilience through a long season, continuing a legacy for the team that will help guide the later seasons to come.

The team is built from an incredibly smart and hardworking group of girls. Zoe Cimo (junior) and Ella Brennfleck (sophomore) are two very strong runners who competed on the varsity team this year. Delaney Horner (junior) and senior Maddie Witcoski both medaled at the JV conference championship. Anna Carruthers and Liza Barbash are two senior varsity runners that have already committed to schools to further their education and running careers. Anna recently com-

mitted to Bucknell University, and Liza committed to Dickinson College back in September. Kenzie Padilla, another valued runner on the girls team, is an extremely skilled swimmer who has committed to Harvard to join the swim team. Whether they are running or not, there is no doubt the possibilities are endless for this group of girls.

"The people on the team have incredibly high personal character, and it just makes it so practice is fun and enjoyable to go to. People are always going to try their hardest even if you're having a hard day...and that allows us to train really effectively and embrace a lot of the challenges and struggles of racing and training," stated Coach Sprenkle.

Senior Co-Captain Josie Reed said, "I think one thing about cross country that's so special is that everyone is so supportive, and definitely so welcoming. I'm really going to miss having that to look forward to every day."

Even though a lot of the varsity runners are seniors and are graduating this year, their impact on the team will not be forgotten. They have showcased what the meaning of true leadership is, and there is little doubt the underclassmen will be able to showcase their own strengths in leadership and continue to guide the pro-



Coach Sprenkle and the team are smiling after finishing fifth at the Paul Short Invitational.

Photo courtesy of Mr. Sprenkle

Phantoms Football: A brotherhood of success



Written by:

Erik Groff

The 2023 Phantoms Football season will be viewed in reverence when remembered by coaches and future teams. The team had a great season, finishing with a record of 8-4 overall and 4-1 in the PAC. The Phantoms also won their first District playoff game in 11 years when they defeated West Chester East High School. The success of this season was due to great conditioning and a strong bond throughout the members of the team.

The Phantoms had a strong support system in their coaches and team captains. Head Coach Anthony Ciarllo has been coaching at Phoenixville for six years, being the head coach for four. The team also has many assistant coaches who

helped the players throughout the season, including Courtenay Williams, Travis Ford-Bey, Jamie "Bubba" Gray, Steve Watson, Mike Sfikas, Jack Shannon, Mark Ferko, and Billy Thronton. The team captains were Jamie Gray, Sam Moore, Darius Watson, Danny Aselton, and Ty Romance.

Coach C said of the team captains: "They are a great mix of vocal leaders and young men who lead by example. They can meet with me and let me know what we are doing right, and they have ownership of this team to tell me when the coaches or players need to do better." This group of coaches and captains helped transform the team into the quality product they were this year.

The whole team played their roles, but some players were especially good for the Phantoms. Particularly, this senior class was exemplary and were the first in a long while never to have a losing season. These seniors included Ty Romance (QB), Danny Aselton (OL/DL), Sam Moore (RB/DB), Darius Watson (FB/LB), Jamie



Senior Sam Moore takes a big run all the way to the end zone against PJP. Despite the great touchdown, the Phantoms went on to lose 38-21.

Gray (OL/DL), Shane Callen (TE/DL), Issac Sampaio (Special Teams), Carlton Wing (RB/LB), and Hayden Tenbroeck (WR/DB). Many of these seniors have been contacted and visited by schools to look into playing football at the next level.

Coach C said this team's conditioning, speed, and strength are the best he's seen at our school. Some of the key players on this year's Phantoms squad were senior wide receiver/ defensive back Hayden Tenbroeck, who averaged 40 receiving yards per game and caught five touchdowns; junior Deacon Williams, who rushed for over 100 yards a game and had 13 touchdowns; and senior Ty Romance, who threw 14 touchdowns and completed 65% of his passes under center.

A major highlight of the season was beating Norristown to start a five-game win streak at home, with wins against Pottstown and division rival Pottsgrove. Some other key wins for the Phantoms were big wins over Great Valley and Bish-

op Shanahan to start the season, and a blowout win over division rival Upper Merion. This team was the first in 11 years to beat Great Valley, and first in 11 years to win a District playoff game.

Coach C also attributes a lot of the team's success to their strong bond, saying: "We all get along; we have the same goal and purpose. Our WHY is the same. Yes, we fight with one another, but so do most families. At the end of each day there is more laughter than tears, more successes than frustrations, and never any blame being thrown around."

Jamie Gray said, "We are really like a family. We go to dinners once a week and have grown a real bond as a team."

Danny Aselton added, "We really became like brothers."

The team also takes pride in their bond and accomplishments off the field, with many players helping clean up a new location for the Mom's House organization. Mom's House helps raise children while single parents pursue secondary education. The team also assisted the PACS (Phoenixville Area Community Services) with delivering food and backpacks for elementary school students in the fall.

Despite all the seniors leaving Phantoms Football, some underclassmen have begun to shine. This includes players like Deacon Williams who was already one of the starting running backs this year, Trey Lear, who led the team in interceptions this year, and Talon Romance, who has already taken snaps under center for the team. These players will continue to uphold the Phantom values and hopefully can continue to prosper like the seniors before them.

This Phantoms team is one with a special bond that will be looked back upon with triumph. They are like a family and had a season that will be remembered in Phoenixville for years to come.



Senior Ty Romance at quarterback calls an audible under center against PJP.

Photo: phoenixvilleathletics.com



Horoscopes

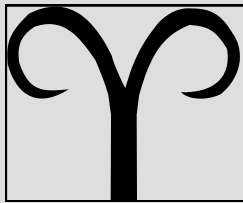


Written by: Leah C. Garofalo and Julia McNamee

ARIES: (March 21 - April 19)

Hooray! As Mercury leaves your star chart, luck is upon you! Not only will your stocking be full, but your heart will be as well. You will find newfound friends that will gift you that ugly sweater you've been eyeing. Finally, someone understands your knack for styling knits! However, do beware! Your sweater may be new, but those ancient lights on your tree have a tendency to burn out, and we don't need any fires...

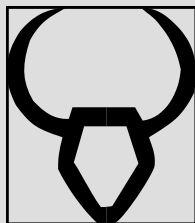
This Month: Set your alarm to blast "All I Want for Christmas Is You."



TAURUS: (April 20 - May 20)

As Pluto approaches closer to your star chart, you may start to notice some paranormal activity. Alas, the Ghost of Christmas Past has come to haunt you. While taking your science test, you won't be able to stop thinking about the time you tripped in front of your crush. Never fear! Your thoughtfully planned gift will save the day! Your teacher will even give you a candy cane to cheer you up. Just make sure to study up on biology and balance!

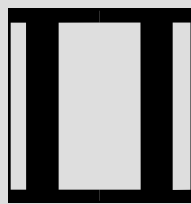
This Month: Perform your own interpretation of *The Nutcracker* on your roof.



GEMINI: (May 21 - June 20)

Geminis, you are sure are in for a roller coaster of a month! As Mars enters your star chart, you will discover your passion for ice skating. After spending too much time on the ice, however, you will catch a nasty cold. After sneezing all over your Christmas dinner, you will find that the reindeer chewed up your brand new skates. Thankfully, you will develop a new hobby: skiing! Make sure not to overdo it this time...

This Month: Send out Halloween themed greeting cards to all of your family.



CANCER: (June 21 - July 22)

Wow! As Saturn's moon Titan approaches your star chart, a season of relaxation and joy is upon you! This time will be best used to build some snowmen and wind down by the fireplace. Just make sure to clean that chimney when you are done! You may be taking a rest, but Santa's busy season is upon us! While Old Saint Nick is able to rock a beard better than anyone else, coal stains are certainly not his finest look.

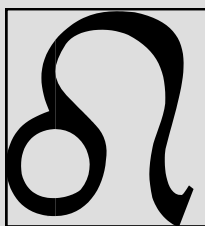
This Month: Dye your hair red and green using the leftover frosting from your cookies.



LEO: (July 23 - August 22)

Behold! As Mercury enters retrograde, you may find yourself struggling to leave your cozy bed. While the morning frost may nip at your nose, don't stress for long! Soon you will receive nearly all of the gifts on your list! Santa may even bring you some mittens to make those mornings a tad easier. Don't get too excited, however. Santa left your top gift off of your list: summer break. Have patience, Leo! The sun will return soon.

This Month: Go around your neighborhood asking people to sing carols for you.



VIRGO: (August 23 - September 22)

Virgos, this month will bring an important lesson. As Mars enters your star chart, you will find yourself with a heart full of yuletide cheer. Unfortunately, as you eagerly decorate the tree, your favorite ornament will slip from your hands. What a mess! Luckily, your parents just gifted you a new broom! While the gift upset you at first, you will be grateful. Just make sure not to break anything else, or your future gifts may be even more disappointing!

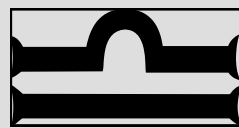
This Month: Make a snow angel out of your homework assignments.



LIBRA: (September 23 - October 22)

Oh no! Libras, as Venus is leaving your star chart, your Christmas cheer will start to decrease. Your Christmas season may not be so merry, but your grades will be! If you study for that next test, you pass with red and green flying colors. But, make sure to do all your homework assignments just to be sure. In order to prevent turning into a Scrooge, keep your Christmas cheer up by spontaneously singing Christmas Carols in the middle of class.

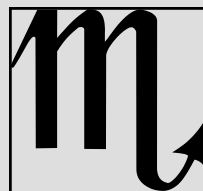
This Month: Eat a whole pint of eggnog ice cream while watching *The Grinch*.



SCORPIO: (October 23 - November 21)

Scorpios, fantastic news! Saturn has entered into your star chart, so your Christmas season will be very merry. The elf on your living room shelf sent an excellent report back to Santa, and you are top on the nice list. This means you should finally ask for that one expensive gift you've been waiting for. You have a high chance of getting it this Christmas! But watch out, there may be a grinch slipping new socks and underwear into your stocking.

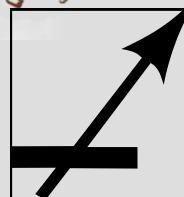
This Month: Put a pickle ornament on your Christmas tree.



SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 - December 21)

Neptune is slowly entering your star chart, so be warned, your month is going to be filled with lots of ups and downs. Study extra hard, because you might just fail that upcoming science test, and possibly the math quiz next week. On the bright side, your crush will finally text you first, and maybe even ask you out! You've been working very hard, but be careful, the elves are looking for new recruits and you seem like the perfect candidate to make the children's harmonicas.

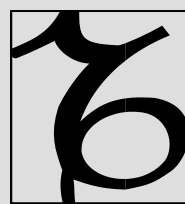
This Month: Eat the icicles from underneath your parents' car.



CAPRICORN: (December 22 - January 19)

Due to Jupiter exiting your star chart, your luck is turning around! Be prepared for a very festive month, as you will be enjoying all the Christmas activities. Your favorite person will ask you to build a gingerbread house with them, but you will end up eating all the candy before the house is even built. However, be sure to leave some gumdrops for Santa; if you eat them all he will definitely not be bringing you any gifts this year. You are already on thin ice.

This Month: Fill your enemy's stocking with coal and some Almond Joys.



AQUARIUS: (January 20 - February 18)

Good news! The most familiar planet, Earth, is creeping into your star chart. This means your month will be very fortunate. You will get out of most household chores, and the rest you may be able to convince your siblings or friends to do for you. While walking your cat, you will find \$100 on the sidewalk. It may or may not be a trap, so pick it up if you dare. Your parents are going to let you choose where your family will go on vacation over winter break, but choose wisely; last time it didn't end so well.

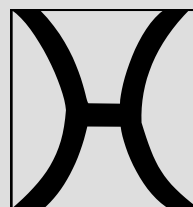
This Month: For Christmas, give your third cousin a mug that says, "#1 Grandpa."



PISCES: (February 19 - March 20)

Rut-ro! Your holiday season isn't looking too joyful, due to Uranus leaving your star chart. You are going to burn all of your Christmas cookies, and you will get salmonella from eating the raw dough. Only a few light bulbs on your string lights will go out, but enough to make you take them all down and buy a new strand. Your only hope is gift giving... all your friends will love your presents so much that they will get you something amazing in return.

This Month: Get a job in KOP as a mall Santa, then scare passing adults.



For entertainment purposes only!



WHICH HOLIDAY MOVIE VILLAIN ARE YOU?



The holidays are meant to be spent with family and friends, relishing the time that you are able to spend with loved ones and expressing appreciation for them through giving them gifts. Well, if you're a holiday movie villain, who really cares about that?! No sane person wants relaxation and quality time!! They want to know which holiday movie villain they are, so take this quiz to find out!

Written by: Cat Baxter

1. You're taking a midnight walk on the evening of December 24th and see a suspiciously jolly looking man dressed in red about to dive headfirst into your chimney. What is your first thought?
A) This man is obviously trying to enter my home and take all of my special little trinkets that I worked so hard for. I need to call the police!
B) I'm literally on my way from doing the same thing at my neighbors' house where I stole their presents and ate all of their cookies.
C) I have several elaborate booby traps that should help me capture him (I will fall victim to them first).
D) Clearly, I need to devise a plan to trick this scoundrel into helping me steal \$640 million from Nakatomi Plaza.
E) I'm more of a Halloween guy myself, so he can take whatever decorations he wants.

2. You're visiting your hometown as a big-city lawyer and see your high school enemy at a tree farm trying to teach people the meaning of Christmas. What do you do?
A) I call up a health inspector after letting cockroaches loose in their establishment and make sure that everything gets shut down.
B) I'm going to steal every single tree he has so that the entire town is tree-less.
C) I hate that guy so I think I'll just sneak in to burn the place down, only to accidentally create a forest fire throughout my entire town and the neighboring area.
D) I have no business with real trees, so I reuse the plastic one in my garage and hang pine-scented air fresheners from it.
E) Why would I want a tree in my house? I'm literally a burlap sack filled with bugs.

3. You are reluctantly attending a holiday party hosted at your place of work and you get your boss for White Elephant. What gift are you getting them?
A) Actually, I'm the boss, and there is absolutely no gift-giving at my office under any circumstances. I hate unadulterated joy, especially within the merry variety.
B) I'll just show up empty handed and wait for someone to leave their gift unattended so that I can swipe it for myself and head out unnoticed.
C) I had no clue what this person wanted, so I settled for a peppermint candle.
D) Something expensive with absolutely no sentimentality behind it.
E) Socks, and they better be happy about it.

4. When grabbing a mug of hot cocoa in the middle of the night, you hear a noise downstairs. What do you first think it is?
A) Probably just one of the three ghosts that visit me in order to force me to acknowledge and atone for my visceral selfishness and innate greed.
B) My loyal dog who helps me scheme and steal, of course.
C) It's safe to assume that it is probably one of my mortal enemies who also happen to be children.
D) Most likely one of my unnamed German accomplices.
E) One of my friends attempting to prank me in the middle of the night.

5. You're shopping for groceries and notice some of the holiday-themed drinks. Which ones do you grab?
A) I'll stick with extra black coffee because I'm the worst.
B) I'm going to choose to play it safe and do my usual: the liquid in the 2-month expired can of tuna that I found in my neighbor's trash a few years ago.
C) I get my specialty drinks from the local coffee shop, but the barista is my nemesis so everything I order is wrong and approximately 240° F.
D) An iced cinnamon soy latte with two-and-a-half pumps of pecan syrup and a heavy drizzle of caramel on top. It might not be on-brand, but it's what I like.
E) A hot cocoa with EVERY SINGLE MINI-MARSHMALLOW ANYONE'S EVER SEEN AND MORE.

6. For once, you find yourself in the holiday spirit and craving a sweet treat. What cookie are you making?
A) I've said it before and I'll say it again: Plain, dry shortbread is the way to go!
B) I'm not a fan of the baking process, so I'll just eat the raw dough until the salmonella kicks in.
C) Those soft cookies from the grocery store with the thick icing and sprinkles on top, you know, THOSE ones.
D) I'll settle for something with a complicated name from an expensive bakery.
E) I'm not eating a single cookie unless it's a Girl Scouts cookie and its hand delivered to me by a little girl in a beret.

7. It's getting colder out and the wind is starting to pick up. What are you grabbing first to keep away from the chill?
A) I'm wearing the same coat that I've had for years. I'm not buying a new one in this economy.
B) Unfortunately, my plan to fast-track global warming isn't panning out, so just a regular winter coat for me.
C) I'd rather be frozen into a block of ice than give up my shorts and t-shirts.
D) I have a large collection of windbreakers, jackets, sweaters, and coats to choose from, so it depends on the day.
E) I don't need a coat. I'm already in a burlap sack.

8. You're writing a letter to Santa: what's the first thing on your list?
A) Recognition for my own success and how great and smart I am.
B) I'm getting coal and everyone knows it.
C) I want a video game console, but it's no sweat if I don't get it. I'll just break into someone's house and take it from them.
D) A very-high end sports car that I will NOT be receiving.
E) All of the elements of my next Halloween costume that I've been planning since November 1st.

Scoring: Add up the number of times you chose each letter, then check your results below.

If you got...

Mostly As - Bah Humbug, You're Ebenezer Scrooge. The holiday season is NOT your time to shine, as you much prefer spending the break on your own, probably working. You keep your circle small and find yourself more introverted, which might come off as rude, but really, you're just focused on maintaining the important relationships in your life. Despite being on the quiet side, you're very witty and have a dry and sarcastic sense of humor which may put some people off, but the right people are sticking by your side!

Mostly Bs - To you, the holiday season is all about giving and receiving gifts! You may not be impassioned by the spirit of quality time with loved ones or good food, but there's nothing wrong with being a little materialistic. In fact, people often fail to realize just how thoughtful and sensitive you are. You may try to play it off, but you're really a sentimental softie on the inside, just like The Grinch!

Mostly Cs - Yippie!!! You're the robbers from Home Alone. Known by your family and within your friend group as clumsy but loveable, you have a very creative mind and enjoy spending time with people that you care about, especially over the holidays. There is no shortage of those who find you funny, as you may find that you're a little more extroverted than some of your friends, so people love being in your company. At the end of the day, you're a kind and true person even if you break a few rules sometimes.

Mostly Ds - You're a pretty complicated and argumentative character, similar to Hans Gruber from "Die Hard" (understandably a debatable "holiday" villain), but that doesn't stop you from voicing your opinions. Although admittedly you may not be a German thief and criminal mastermind, you're definitely calculated, very intelligent, and take satisfaction in proving others wrong.

Mostly Es - Similar to the Oogie Boogie Man of Halloween Town in "The Nightmare Before Christmas", it only feels right that you should do anything possible to have the festivities work out in your favor, whether that means cheating your way through White Elephant or kidnapping Santa Claus himself. Determination plays a big part in your life and it's a quality that a lot of people admire in you, even if it makes them a little nervous to get you for Secret Santa!

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

As the holiday season approaches, so does the need to purchase gifts for a variety of friends and family members. Instead of procrastinating, finish your December shopping with this gift guide to find the perfect present for your best friend, coworker, or grandparent!

Written by: Lilly Sivco

Wooden Frog Instrument (\$16.99): Amazon.com - Do you know any parents with young children who need entertainment? Maybe the parents deserve to be kept awake all night because they are insufferable people? This traditional wooden frog instrument from Thailand is sure to provide endless amusement for children of all ages, making realistic frog croaking sounds without running out of battery.



Custom Blanket (\$14.99): Amazon.com - A personalized blanket is the perfect gift for your loneliest friend, providing optimal amounts of comfort and companionship. This thick sherpa cover can even be customized to add the faces of you and your closest friends, reminding them of you at all hours of the day.



Graphic T-Shirt (\$17.99): Amazon.com - Do you know anyone who constantly chases after girls, but can never seem to make a real connection? This shirt would be perfect for self-expression, placing their true inner fears on display for everyone to see. It comes in ten colors, ranging from Kelly Green to Asphalt Grey, with other catchphrases like "I am afraid of teenagers" and "I am afraid of clowns." No matter what your friends or family members are deathly scared of, these shirts would make perfect additions to any wardrobe.

Starburst Pack (\$9.79): Walmart.com - Candy is a Christmas present that anyone can appreciate. After all, who doesn't love a sweet treat during the holiday season? Surprise your least favorite family member with this candy pack, which may excite them at first, until they realize that it only contains yellow Starbursts (arguably the worst flavor).



Robe Gift Set (\$105.00) Etsy.com - This kit contains everything needed for a calming December night by the fire, like a festive cotton robe, a handmade bar of soap, and a bath bomb. Any distant relative who receives this gift will be so relaxed, maybe they will forget to bring up politics this holiday...

Star Projector (\$21.59): Amazon.com - This celestial night-light is perfect for transforming any room into a soothing wonderland. With unlimited color options, thousands of lights, and a bluetooth connection, this gift is the optimal choice for a friend who is deathly afraid of the dark, but too shy to admit it.



GMT-Master II Watch (\$16,450.00): Rolex.com - This scratchproof Rolex watch with anti-corrosion properties is the perfect gift for that family member who can never show up on time. Did they arrive at Thanksgiving dinner three hours late, ready to mooch on desserts without bringing anything for other people? Did they miss their child's first Christmas concert because they "slept in"? With this stylish and affordable watch, their tardiness will be completely erased!



JBL Partybox Speaker (\$299.95): Jbl.com - Do you have a relative whose voice you can't stand, with their irritable comments and complaints ruining the atmosphere of every holiday party? This portable Bluetooth speaker with high definition stereo sound would be the perfect gift to drown out the sound of their agitating voice, while hopefully playing joyful holiday tunes instead!



Cable-Knit Sweater (\$39.95): Hollister.com - Does your aunt or grandma constantly knit uncomfortable sweaters for each holiday season, unaware of the fact that they get shoved into a dresser drawer, never to be seen again? Give her a taste of her own medicine with this festive sweater, which is the most fashionable yet itchiest holiday item that she will own.

Custom Scented Candle (\$18.99): Amazon.com - Do you have a relative with a permanent frown plastered across their face, bringing negative energy into every holiday gathering? A powerfully fragrant candle would be the perfect present for anyone who could desperately use more joy in their life. Turn their frown upside-down with scents like "frat house basement party" and "freshly signed divorce papers," sure to cheer up anyone who has an attitude like the Grinch!

