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Benefits of Reading

By Freesia Bornstein

While many teenagers, and people in general, may find reading boring, there are actually several benefits. Many people miss out on the benefits of reading regularly. Here are a few benefits of reading that may convince you to start up this hobby.

1. Reading provides your brain with mental stimulation, which means it gets your brain working. There have been many studies done showing that staying mentally stimulated can slow the progression of dementia.

2. It can also relieve you from the stresses of your everyday life. An interesting novel or article can keep you in the present moment and let your brain take a break from the everyday stressors in your life.

3. One of the obvious benefits is that reading provides you with knowledge. You never know when some of that information you learned whilst reading will come in handy!

4. Another pretty obvious benefit is that reading will expand your vocabulary. The more reading that you do, the more words your brain will be exposed to, which will naturally lead to you using the words in your everyday vocabulary.

5. Reading will also help with memory improvement. While reading, you have to remember characters, plot, background, and more. All of these new memories that you are creating are forging and strengthening the synapses in your brain that assist with short-term memory.

6. Reading can also help to improve your focus. Our lives now are very busy and there are always multiple things happening at once. Sitting down and taking some time to read will help you focus on one thing and take a break from your normal, busy life.

7. Lastly, reading provides entertainment. Everyone needs time to take a break and entertain themselves. Reading is a fairly inexpensive way to occupy time.

Source:

News, Cap Cana. "10 Benefits of Reading: Why You Should Read Every Day." Cc-Admin-Icon, 18 Aug. 2016, capcana.com/news/10-benefits-of-reading-why-you-should-read-every-day/.

Snow Days(?)

By Travis Johnson

With virtual schooling, districts have begun to question whether schools should close for snow days or if they should offer instruction virtually. In fact, multiple schools already have continued virtually when a large amount of snow hits. Schools have even begun asking whether they would have snow days next year. But what are the benefits of learning virtually or having snow days?

There are pros for having virtual school. Students and staff won't have to make up any time, and they can continue with the regular schedule for the year. Administrators have begun preparing for snow days and what to do when they inevitably arrive, so brief transitions between in-person and virtual would be easy and efficient.

Despite this, is maintaining the schedule for one day really that necessary? Heavy snow forecasts have always brought excitement to students of all ages in the hope of not having to go to school. The smallest glimmer of hope for having a snow day is enough for students to carry on and keep working, similar to the way students carry on until the weekend. This is especially true during Covid-19 where kids have been in quarantine for months. Why can't they have the occasional victory of a snow day?

While I do think that it is important to have a consistent schedule, I don't think that anyone can say that he/she doesn't feel bad for kids who have to stay inside during a snow day. I believe that schools should have a maximum amount of snow days and if there are more days that should be canceled, schools should go virtual so they don't miss any potential development.

Sources:

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<https://wisconsinexaminer.com/2021/01/25/the-campaign-to-save-snow-days/>

WBHS Varsity Boys' Conference Title

By Collin Kuiper

The 2020-2021 basketball season was one for the books to say the very least. Masks, rapid schedule changes, and other Covid-related effects are just a few factors that evoked a robust spirit of apprehension within players, teachers, and coaches alike. However, through innovative safety protocols and guidelines for Covid protection, a season was awarded to those who desperately sought it.

The doors of opportunity were finally opened, and the season began. On February 11, 2021, eleven young yet tenacious athletes made Williams Bay history once again. For the first time in ten years, the Williams Bay High School Boys Varsity Basketball Team claimed the Trailways Conference title, beating the Abundant Life Challengers in a 59-43 showdown. Not only did these boys claim the Trailways Conference title, but they did it undefeated, winning all of their conference matchups throughout their abridged season. Although the boys' season ended in a rough defeat against The Prairie School Hawks, they look back upon their historical season in a positive light, content with the privilege of even having a season in such unpredictable times. Special thanks to coaches Troy Nottestad, Nathan Borgan, Shane Cullian, and Andrew Breen for all of their excessive hours and unanimous dedication to the development of the team.

Congratulations boys, and good luck on your future athletic endeavors.

Traditional Differences of St. Patrick's Day in Ireland and the U.S.

By Emily Gauger and Annie Sanchez

In the United States, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated differently than it is in Ireland. For instance, one big difference is that in the U.S., we often spend the day celebrating with family and friends. In Ireland, it can be compared to a holiday like Easter or Christmas, which is often celebrated religiously. Saint Patrick was celebrated for his missionary work and for bringing Christianity to the Emerald Isle, which is why they celebrate it in more of a Christian and religious way. Traditional Irish typically attend church and make a family day out of it.

Another American misinterpretation is that beef and cabbage is "traditional," which is actually not popular in Ireland and really isn't even described as Irish at all. In Ireland they often just go with their traditional fish and chips or curry fries.

Lastly, wearing the color green and involving it in your St. Patrick's day traditions is a lot more common in the U.S. than it is in Ireland. The color green is a tradition in America, and we even dye rivers green. In Ireland, the prevalence of the color green is much less common.

Overall, traditions vary throughout the world.

Source:

"5 Ways St. Patrick's Is Different in the US vs. Ireland." Language Trainers USA Blog, 24 July 2017, www.languagetrainers.com/blog/2017/07/24/5-ways-st-patricks-is-different-in-the-us-vs-ireland/.



An Unhelpful Guide To The Stormlight Archives

By Monica Paur

I have a big problem; I am a huge fan. There are a lot of fan groups out there, some for *Star Wars* or *Avengers* or BTS, but there is a group of fans that gets overlooked. Those are hard core fans of a book series, otherwise known as nerds. One book series in particular that I have fallen into the fandom hole of is *The Stormlight Archives* by Brandon Sanderson. I was at first very intimidated by the thickness of the first book, which was about 1,000 pages, but was sucked in by Sanderson's creative and action-packed writing style. I quickly read through the other three books, which were all around the same page length as the first one, and I am looking forward to the next four books. (Yes, apparently Sanderson is planning to write eight books in total that are all about 1,000-1,200 pages long. Yes, this is for just one series).

My love for the books is not only because of the amazing writing by Brandon Sanderson, but also because I fell in love with the characters. Since the books are so lengthy, they do not follow just one person. They follow around three main characters: Kaladin, Shallan, and Dalinar. There are many breaks in the books that show more perspectives, but the books follow these three the most. Kaladin is first introduced through the eyes of a young-inexperienced boy on the battlefield. Kaladin is seen as a strong warrior by the boy and Kaladin tries to help the boy not die. The next time Kaladin is shown, he is a slave struggling to keep himself alive. Shallan is introduced on a boat, traveling to another kingdom. She is leaving her home to become an apprentice to the princess. Dalinar is the uncle of the dubious king and may be more of a leader than the actual king himself. Dalinar has been having strange dreams that are telling him to unite the High Princes. He doesn't know how to gain trust because of his old title as The Blackthorn, the ruthless warrior.

Each of these characters show an extreme amount of character development throughout each book and throughout the whole series. In many books I have read, many characters go through traumatic events but don't have any long term effects. Sanderson really gets into the characters' heads and shows what trauma can do to people.

The book would not be so large if it was just a normal fantasy book following these three characters. Sanderson creates an entire different world, creating different religions, languages, races, and geographical land. This is refreshing for me. I have gotten used to the basic young adult novels following a strong-willed girl that has some sort of powers that loses all character development when an attractive boy comes in. *The Stormlight Archives* was such a refreshing new world with no predictable tropes. (My favorite ship never even happened, which I may still hold a grudge about). It took a while to pick up on the different words and phrasing in the book, so let me explain a few aspects about the world that are important.

The world they live on is called Roshar and there are ten different countries. The country where most of the books take place is Alethela, which used to be separated. It was conquered and put under one king by Galivar and Dalinar, who are brothers. Alethela used to be ruled by Galivar, but after he was murdered by the mysterious Assassin in White, his son Elhokar took over the throne. Alethela is separated into different houses, with the High Princes ruling over different sections of the land.

In Roshar, there is a totally different weather system and there are no seasons. The weather system is controlled by the Highstorms, a violent hurricane-like storm that goes throughout the entirety of Roshar. If you get caught in one, you will die. The currency that the people use in Alethela are gems that collect the light from the storm. The light collected from the Highstorms is called stormlight, hence the name of the series.

The religion practiced in Alethela is Vorin, a religion following the Ten Heralds that used to protect the world. The women have to wear long sleeves on their left hands to cover them because it is known as their "safe hand." If women were to take their hand out of their safe hand sleeve, it would basically be flashing someone. In the Alethela culture, only women read and write. If a man were to read or write, it would be seen as sacrilegious. Men are supposed to be gifted in the art of war and women are supposed to be gifted in creating art.

The classes are distinguished in Alethela as light eyes and dark eyes. If you have light eyes, you are high class. If you have dark eyes, you are low class.

There are different races in the book from other countries, but I'm not going to get into that too much. One important race to highlight is the Parshman, a race that has marbled skin and has been completely enslaved by the people of Alethela. The Parshman are seen as animals, for they rarely speak and are considered to be even lower class than the dark eyes.

The book takes place during a war between the Alethela and a different race of Parshmen that are intelligent and stronger than the Parshmen enslaved by the Alethela. The war has been going on for seven years because the Alethela believe that the Parshmen were the ones that sent the Assassin in White to kill Galivar during a peace meeting. The war takes place on the Shattered Plains, a land that has thousands of platforms that have trenches in between them that are hundreds of feet below. To fight the battles on the platforms, the Alethela have to use movable bridges to move from one platform to another.

This is just some background information I wish I had before I started reading. There is still much more I could explain about the world, but then I would have to write my own book. Long story short, this series is an amazing series that can sweep you away into an exotic, new world. The characters are realistic and relatable in a way that other flat book characters could never be, the world is a completely different reality, and the writing style is full of action and wit. (Also, one of my favorite characters, but no one will probably read this, so no one will get the reference, and I will just look stupid, but that's ok.) Go check out the first book, *The Way of Kings*, in the school library. After I finish re-reading it. . .

Book Review: Six of Crows

By Anna Rolfs

Six of Crows, the first book in a duology written by Leigh Bardugo, and published in 2015, is an exciting read that I highly recommend. Even if you don't usually like reading books, this story is so compelling that it will suck you right in.

The action takes place in the city of Ketterdam where a multiethnic band of misfits with differing backgrounds team up against a common enemy. One of the main six, Kaz Brekker, is a criminal prodigy who is offered a chance at a deadly heist that could make him rich beyond his wildest dreams. All six characters eventually come together, and he must then lead this group of outcasts through their dangerous journey, taking them across many new places and exciting challenges. This book will for sure keep you hooked; with all its twists and turns, and action-packed storytelling, you won't be able to put it down.

My favorite aspect of the book, besides its captivating storyline, is the author's writing style. She uses witty bantering between characters, which makes the reader feel as if they are in the conversation. The descriptive imagery complements the dialogue. Bardugo has a powerful way with her words, and a talent for writing in such a way that the reader is drawn into the world that they're reading about. It's like watching a movie and seeing everything unfold right in front of you.

I highly recommend Bardugo's other works, as well. She has a trilogy called *Shadow and Bone* which is a prequel that explains what happens before the *Six of Crows* duology. These two series are connected, though you don't have to read one to enjoy the other. Both series can be read as their own series, but you would get the most enjoyment, at least I did, by reading *Six of Crows* and *Shadow and Bone*. I highly suggest at least giving one of these series a try, or at least one of Leigh Bardugo's books. Both series are action-packed and very entertaining reads, and as I mentioned earlier, her writing style is so well-done that I guarantee you would like any of her books.



Simple Studying Strategies for Success

By Cole Oertel

Many high school students suffer from a common theme: the burden of overwhelming stress. This stress may derive from heavy work loads in classes or the plethora of daily activities that seem to consume a student's life. This stress may originate from deteriorating grades in a particular class or the stressor of an upcoming test. Truth be told, most student stress is likely the result of insufficient studying strategies. Every student strives to get a perfect score on a test or dreams of acing every class he/she will ever have, but of course, this is far-fetched in certain situations. These expectations for excellence cause students to crumble under pressure, which may in turn cause further problems. However, like many aspects of life, there is always a way to come out stronger, and it starts with you. Reconsidering study strategies will not only help you to excel in your classes, but it will also help you to relieve stress of which you are a victim.

The first step in ensuring your success in class is by actually understanding the material being presented. It may be hard to understand certain concepts as they may be complex, but simply memorizing them ensures merely short-term success. One must engage in the material in order to fully understand it, which is similar to active engagement. Active engagement is "the process of constructing meaning from text that involves making connections to lectures, forming examples, and regulating your own learning" (Davis 2007). Practices such as re-reading and memorizing will most likely keep you focused but not actively learning. Active studying could include creating a study guide, deriving examples that relate to your own experience, or re-evaluating the material on a big-picture scale.

A misconception about studying is that it is extremely time-consuming and boring. Of course, this claim's validity depends on the material, but in general, studying can be extremely efficient with proper spacing and intensity during study sessions. The important aspect of studying is "how you use your study time, not how long you study" (Studying 101). A lack of concentration is the result of long periods of study intervals. To control this, you should distribute your study sessions over several days. By distributing your study time in more intervals covering shorter times, it will help you focus more efficiently and stay on track. Not only will you stay on track, but you will also have learned the same material over the same combined length of time, just in shorter sessions. This will definitely alleviate stress and the urge of procrastination. Instead of cramming math assignments the night before or writing a paper a day before it is due, try to make an effort to span sessions of intense work over several days. Make it a priority to make study sessions "30-45 minute[s] and include active studying strategies" (Studying 101). Reviewing each class's material in these short bursts every day will ensure that you learn the material rather than just memorizing or completely forgetting about it.

It may seem daunting to perform to the best of your ability everyday while juggling school's obstacles, but it is possible to succeed by implementing the proper strategies. With discipline and a good work ethic to study smarter, not harder, you can improve your high school experience in the classroom.

Sources:

"Studying 101: Study Smarter Not Harder." Learning Center, 24 July 2020, learningcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/studying-101-study-smarter-not-harder/.

Davis, S. G., & Gray, E. S. (2007). Going beyond test-taking strategies: Building self-regulated students and teachers. *Journal of Curriculum and Instruction*, 1(1), 31-47.

Covid Safe Spring Break

By Mannat Toor and Keira King

Spring Break is rapidly approaching. Usually, most of us get excited to plan a vacation to a warm beach, or to explore a new city. But with the COVID-19 pandemic, it might be harder to plan a safe and fun vacation for you and your family. Luckily, there are a lot of safe options you can take advantage of in order to still have a fun-filled spring break.

Take a road trip

Although airports are open and operating, some people are still not comfortable going to the airport at this time. If this is the case for you, a road trip might be a great option! As long as you don't mind a longer journey to your destination, a road trip can be a great experience. You can visit multiple cities and sites along the way, which you can't do from a plane. For some people, driving is a great way to go on a fun trip while also saving some money. You can take a popular road trip route like Route 66, but the beauty of a road trip is that the route you take to get to your destination is completely up to you!

Go on a hiking trip

Whether you're staying here in Williams Bay or taking a trip to a distant place, there is always a way to hike. There are many benefits from hiking; it is the perfect way to spend time with your close ones during this spring break. Not only is hiking done outdoors, but it is also an activity where people can still keep a far enough distance from one another. This is a great way to feel good and get a good workout in. You can even pick a scenic location and enjoy a great view while you break a sweat. Hiking can also be a fun and unexpected experience; you never know what you'll find upon the trail or how far you'll go!

Plan a stay-cation

If you still feel like staying home is the best option for you, a stay-cation can still allow you to do something different every day, and you can discover new features about your own town. You can research places in your area you have never visited before to make sure they are safe. You might even find a new favorite activity to do year round! If you like to stay busy, maybe pick a home-improvement project to tackle. This is always rewarding, and the beginning of spring is a great time to start planning a garden or getting your outdoor space ready for summer.

Although it's a bummer, spring break will most likely be a little more restricted than usual. Hopefully these ideas can help you make the most of your spring break. And who knows? You may even find a new favorite activity to look forward to every spring break.

The Grading Scale

By Josh Rolfs

As you know, the grading scale at WBHS is a little different from most other public and even private institutions across the nation. Our A starts at 94.5%, A- at 92.5%, B+ at 90.5%, and continuing until an F which is at 68.5%. This differs from most other schools with the basic 10% grading scale which is an F at 50% and A- and 90% thus making it an even 10% for each letter grade.

These two grading scales both have their advantages and disadvantages. The WBHS grading scale has two main advantages. First, this grading scale removes the pressure from students who want to earn an A+ since an A is the highest you can get. It also has slightly more merit, as a higher grade is needed to obtain the higher letter grades.

The normal 10% grading scale has advantages, as well. This scale does an excellent job at separating letters by an even 10%, making it easier to understand how the grades are split up, as well as giving a little more room to make mistakes and still achieve a high grade. This scale also allows for an A+, which in many cases also means a student can earn a higher GPA than just a 4.0.

These grading scales also have disadvantages. With the WBHS grading scale, its advantages are actually disadvantages as well. This grading scale does not have an A+. Yes, this does remove some stress, but at the same time, it does not necessarily allow for over-achievement nor a chance for students to prove to colleges they know the information extremely well. This grading scale does have more merit, but this does make it harder when applying to colleges. Students must earn a higher percentage than someone from another school to earn the same letter grade. This does not seem fair. At least the grading scale is attached to the transcript, but there is no guarantee that admissions will look at it.

A normal 10% grading scale can pressure students a little more with "having" to get an A+ and also, if the college does look at the grading scale, it does technically seem easier.

In conclusion, both of these scales have their advantages and disadvantages. This makes it hard to choose which one is better for the overall student body. But in my opinion, I do believe that the 10% grading scale is overall, a superior scale.

Top Fast Food Restaurants Around the World

By Keira King and Mannat Toor

Have you ever wondered what a quick lunch or midnight snack from your favorite fast food restaurant looks like around the world? Turns out, many other countries have the same popular chains as the United States. However, you may be surprised at the interesting foods offered at these locations.

Thailand

McDonald's seems to recur many times on this list. In Thailand, the Samurai Pork Burger from McDonald's is one of the most popular items on the menu. Krapao gai grab, a popular street food similar to fried chicken, can also be found at this McDonald's. Those with a more adventurous appetite might go for Durian ice cream.

New Zealand

Like many other countries, the New Zealand McDonald's offers the classics, along with a greater variety of wraps and salads than you would find in the U.S.; however, one of the most popular items on the menu is Georgie Pie, a hand-held savory pie, usually filled with meat and cheese.

China

KFC is definitely the most popular fast food chain in China. While we think we are pretty familiar with this chain's menu, the restaurants in China shake it up a bit. Their most popular items include shrimp sandwiches, matcha ice cream, and something called a sushirrito (sushi burrito).

Guatemala

Do you love a sweet treat filled with Kit Kat and Twix bars? Well Guatemala's unique Taco Bell is the place to go. There is a sweet option where there is a crunchy, sugary tortilla filled with melted Kit Kat and Twix pieces. You definitely do not want to miss out on this dessert!

Singapore

If you happen to be craving McDonald's in Singapore, you're in luck. McDonald's is very popular in Singapore, and they happen to serve most of the classics. If you feel like being a little more adventurous, they have special items like the Nasi Lemak Burger.

Italy

McDonald's in Italy has quite a zesty twist to their choices of food. Craving something crispy, warm, and cheesy? Italy has an amazing option of the panzerotti pomodoro e mozzarella (like mini calzones) at their McDonald's. These are crispy and breaded, mozzarella-filled dippers that are like bite-sized pizzas. They are so tasty and so convenient!

Canada

McDonald's reigns supreme in yet another country. However, one of the most popular items is hard to find in the United States. Poutine, the most popular item, is a mix of french fries and cheese curds, all topped off with a spoonful of brown gravy.

Nigeria

If you find yourself craving a bucket of KFC while in Nigeria, Chicken Republic is the place to go. Chicken Republic is the most popular fast food chain in Nigeria, but it is hard to find elsewhere. They serve a variety of fried chicken, along with some classic Nigerian cuisine.

Ireland

The most popular fast food in Ireland is actually an American themed diner that goes by the name of Eddie Rockets. They serve classic American foods that range from pancakes to cheese burgers. You don't have to go to Ireland to get it, either. They have locations in Spain, Wales, and England, as well.

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Earth Day

By Annie Sanchez and Emily Gauger

Earth Day is celebrated every year on April 22. It was founded to help educate people on environmental issues. Today, Earth Day focuses on green living and brings awareness to environmental issues. It is also celebrated in more than 184 countries (History.com).

Millions of people participate in Earth Day every year, and you can too. There are many ways to help, like planting trees or recycling. Some of the smallest things can have the biggest impact on the planet. Planting a tree is simple, but effective. Trees help to remove the carbon dioxide in the air, and they also help give us clean air to breathe. Recycling is another important step that you can take. It can help you reduce your carbon footprint by more than a thousand pounds a year (Earth Day Tips)! If you want to leave a smaller plastic footprint, you can stop using single-use plastics like water bottles. Instead, a metal water bottle is more environmentally friendly. There are also many activities in your community that you can take part in, like a beach cleanup. In 2021, there will be many different online options for you to participate in locally. Gateway Technical College in Elkhorn has many different online events that you can participate in to better inform yourself about how to help the environment. In the past, there have also been local plant sales and conservancy events around the lake (Earth Day). Of course, the easiest way to participate in Earth Day is to get outside and appreciate nature (Earth).

Even though Earth Day is just one day, there are many options available to be environmentally friendly all year. One of the biggest things that many people choose to do is shop organically. Farmers markets are an easy way to find fresh food that was produced in a clean way. You can also grow your own food, right in your backyard! This is a great way to be sure you are eating fresh food, and you will help the environment at the same time. You can also compost kitchen scraps to create fertilizer for your garden, which reduces waste (Earth).

Earth Day is an important day observed all over the world, and it's important for all of us to participate. It is important to appreciate the Earth every day of the year, but especially on Earth Day. This year, make sure you get out and celebrate the planet!

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Pain Pill

(A creative piece)

By Sophiia Lauten

It was an immense struggle walking down that isolated street. The buildings looked repulsive and the sky was gloomy, making the atmosphere give one the impression that something horribly awful had happened here. The broken window on the far side of the second floor of the huge white building hasn't been fixed since then. I stared at it until the shout of a bird scared me; it was a crow, black and threatening like the night. I didn't know that birds existed in a place like that. The winged creature was sitting on top of the overflowing garbage can and eating a red substance, akin to rotten meat. I looked back at the window, no magic had happened; it was still broken and intimidating. I walked past old, bare porches; some of them had doors, some didn't. Besides that, they didn't look welcoming at all because of the blackness that emanated from them. Instead, they looked more like portals into hell. There was no presence of any vegetation anywhere near that neighbourhood, except for aged trees that had fallen or withered. The scenery was very difficult for my mind to process; I have never thought that my home where we have been saving the world would change so much. I felt the sudden tears drop down on my scarred cheek bone, the results of the memories that I couldn't cease from coming back into my mind.

When I reached that cursed apartment, I couldn't locate a door. The smell of dust and regret filled the hallway of my home. I could see a bunch of cut and tangled wires resting on the floor. Concrete walls had some holes in them, created by the rifle, letting the dim light from the main room's window slip and brighten the outlines of old monitor screens laying in the corner of the storeroom. I made it through the piles of crumpled clothes and got into the room. Its appearance didn't really change, everything was chaotic, just like thirty years ago. The only big difference that I saw was the absence of consoles under the four computer tables. They confiscated all of them on that fatal day, that stopped all of our plans and killed the future of Germany.

We were the heroes that could hold the strand of hope that was too thin for others. However, when the evil gods found out about that strand that we used as the only possible stratagem, they quickly figured out our position. Even our highly secured programs that served as the strongest shield didn't rescue at the right moment. The blood spot on the hard carpet by the broken window and some marks of destroyed dreams reminded me of how brutally they cleared all the streets of people because they suspected potential danger from the residents. I dared to look at the wall where there was still a photo, hanging on one rusty nail. There we were: Phillip, Anna, Mark, and I, sitting on a rooftop and trying not to laugh at how stupid Mark's new tattoo looked. The cracked glass that protected the picture was so dusty, but I was still able to distinguish their happy and young faces full of passion, hope, and determination. It took so much force for my heavy feet to move on from that part of the room. Moving closer to the window, I saw my reflection in one of the broken pieces of glass and realized how small and pathetic I have become. Was it my unsuccessful attempt to succeed in our plans alone or was it just my powerless nature that made me so feeble? It wouldn't matter anymore because the plans were forever broken, the information leaked, all the potential for the future coups destroyed; a terrifying dystopia was created. I knew that this was going to be the case as soon as I heard the gunshots behind me, as I cowardly ran away from our shelter. But for some reason my idiotism told me that I still had the chance to make it work, while being helpless and inexperienced. Therefore, I decided to merge with the crowd, following the government's system of total control. It was easy to pretend that nothing had happened the first five years. I even pointlessly started a relationship and then had a family. That way, I developed a perfect portfolio of an average human that is unable to suspect anything.

Becoming somebody's pawn made me invisible to the eyes of those devils, and allowed me to keep the possibility of managing my own thoughts like in the old days. I, of course, tried to make at least little accomplishments of spreading the truth here and there, but due to the huge risk, my actions made little to no change. The generations of amazing and authentic populace were replaced with brainless consumers, and I somehow managed to fit in that group, providing myself a protection.

After five years, the guilt and depression came back, ruining the fake peace that I've acquired. The company that I worked at had noticed the shift in my emotional state by checking the overall statistics. Luckily, I controlled it at the right time, but the deviation from the accepted behavior has been kept on the records. As time passed, my inner fool and original intentions didn't go away and I kept trying to make up a similar plan to what we have created. Thinking back on this, I am actually glad that I stayed true until the end, but I am still awfully disappointed in how everything had turned out. The careful embodiment of my own plan took more than I thought and brought my life to a total disaster. Unpredictable things happened and I couldn't handle them. Just like the shattered vase on the floor by the couch, society lost its mind after the government had been taken down piece by piece with my own hands. I understand now the despair that I felt because of the insane controversy. The population was just like children trapped in their cradles, unable to take care of themselves.

In one instant of making a dream come true, I became a substantial virus in a large system that was the nation's savior and its demolition at the same time. Our country has suffered because of me, and I can not do anything to fix it anymore. I feel that the pain of all the innocent followers and guilty rulers landed on my shoulders, which kills me every second I breathe. That's why I came here, where it all started and could not be ended, to the place where I lost everything and gained infinite agony. That's why I am stepping out of the broken window, to escape this collapsing reality.

This edition of *The Bulldog Barker* is brought to you by Honors English 11.

The Cowardice Of Wisconsin

By Connor Pecht

Many Wisconsinites have been deeply troubled by one important question: why have we not taken over Michigan's Upper Peninsula? The fact that we have not taken it over yet makes us look like cowards. It probably would not be that hard. Michigan's territory hangs off of Wisconsin like a parasite, and frankly, needs to be dealt with. Also, that land isn't even touching their territory, but it cuts across half of ours; therefore, taking it is our right. In my opinion, we deserve that land. I propose a simple solution: get the Pope on our side.

This land tragedy was decided before Wisconsin was even a state. Michigan acquired the land as a result of the Toledo War. Ohioans and Michiganders fought over it because each believed that it was their land. Since Wisconsin did not get its fair chance for dominance, we should correct the tragedies of the past.



Influential Black Wisconsinites

By Eli Ramos and Addison Vlastnik

Vel Phillips (1924-2018)

After graduating from Howard University, Vel Phillips became the first African-American woman to graduate from UW-Madison Law School in 1951. She then decided to run for office in Milwaukee where she joined the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) which is committed to providing “the political, education, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons” (Naacp.org). Attorney Vel Phillips was elected to the City Council in 1956. Phillips represented the district known as the Inner Core and proposed the Fair Housing Act four times, which would make it illegal to not rent to black people. It was voted down each time it went before the Council. Vel Phillips and Father James Groppi organized 200 days and nights of marching to get people to pay attention to the problems in the Inner Core. The Fair Housing Act finally passed. Later, she became the first woman judge in Milwaukee, the first African-American judge in Wisconsin, and the first woman and African-American Wisconsin Secretary of State. She also recently helped Congresswoman Gwen Moore in her election process. Citizens can donate to fund Vel Phillips’ statue in the state capitol.

Lloyd A. Barbee (1925-2002)

Lloyd Barbee fought for justice his whole life and was decades ahead of his time in regards to policy issues. He joined the NAACP at age twelve and served in the Navy during WWII. After the war, he attended Le-Moyne College and attended UW-Madison Law School, but he dropped out due to the racism he experienced. He later returned and received his law degree in 1956. In 1955, he was elected president to the NAACP Madison Chapter and in 1961, he was elected president of the Wisconsin NAACP after conducting studies and demonstrations on Madison’s race discrimination. Barbee is most remembered for his fight against de facto segregation in Milwaukee, specifically the segregation of the Milwaukee school system. His progressive legislation in the Wisconsin State Assembly included those of gay rights, prison reform, legalization of drugs, and disarming of police officers; these all continue to largely affect the black population not only in Wisconsin, but everywhere in America.

Porche Bennet-Bey

Porche Bennet-Bey is a Kenosha mother of three and army veteran who has taken charge after the recent shooting of Jacob Blake. In September, shortly after the late August Black Lives Matter Protests that resulted in the murder of two, President Biden visited Kenosha to hold a town hall. Porche Bennet-Bey told Biden the truth about Kenosha and black communities everywhere. She talked about gentrification, police targeting, employment discrimination, and the COVID-19 health crisis that is hitting black communities especially hard. In light of last summer’s events, she quit her day job and now can fully devote her time to fighting for justice. Because of her devotion, she was named Guardian of the Year by *TIME* Magazine.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Though not technically a Wisconsinite, he roots for the Bucks. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar started his NBA career in the 1970’s and continued dominating the basketball world throughout the 80’s as well. His athletic portfolio doesn’t stop at that, as he scored a total of 2,067 points while in high school. This set a record in New York, but it has since been broken. He joined the Milwaukee Bucks in 1969 and was awarded Rookie of the Year. The accolades continued as he was awarded Most Valuable Player six different occasions throughout his extremely long career. He’s set three different NBA records: most points (38,387), most field goals made (15,387), and most minutes played (57,446). He also was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his life-long commitment to activism. He also succeeds in the arts, with appearances and contributions to over forty-five movies and T.V. shows, along with writing over thirty books. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar remains a very influential black figure for people all over the world, as did his inspirations MLK and Muhammad Ali, but his history with the Bucks will go down in Wisconsin history.

When asked to provide a statement, Williams Bay High School junior, Eli Ramos, said, “As a black student in a small town, I can only hope that I also make history in the Bay.” - Elimarie Ramos

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Need some inspiration? “

“The only time you fail is when you fall down and stay down.”

-Stephen Richards, author

“Positive anything is better than negative nothing.”

-Elbert Hubbard, writer

“KEEP YOUR FACE TO THE SUNSHINE AND YOU CANNOT SEE A SHADOW.”

-Helen Keller, author

“The happiness of your life depends upon the quality of your thoughts.”

-Marcus Aurelius, Roman Emperor

“In every day, there are 1,440 minutes. That means we have 1,440 daily opportunities to make a positive impact.”

-Les Brown, Author

“Optimism is a happiness magnet. If you stay positive good things and good people will be drawn to you.”

-Mary Lou Retton, Gymnast

“Happiness is the only thing that multiplies when you share it.”

-Albert Schweitzer, Theologian

Covid-19 News

By Caden Binger

In October's Bulldog Barker, I wrote about the Covid-19 situation. Because the United States just surpassed 500,000 Covid-19 deaths, it seems fitting to highlight and compare these surprising statistics.

October

- *2,500 cases and 34 deaths in Walworth County.
- *160,655 cases and 1,488 deaths in Wisconsin.
- *7 million cases and 200,000 deaths in the United States.
- *32 million cases and 1 million deaths worldwide.

March

- *11,200 cases and 144 deaths in Walworth County.
- *613,000 cases and 6,915 deaths in Wisconsin.
- *28.3 million cases and 503,000 deaths in the United States.
- *112 million cases and 2.5 million deaths worldwide.

While these statistics are depressing, there is some good news. Currently, there are two authorized Covid-19 vaccines, and there are three more that are in large-scale phase 3 clinical trials. However, not everyone is eligible to receive the vaccine yet.

The current eligible population consists of frontline health care personnel, residents in nursing homes, fire-fighters and police officers, and adults 65 and over.

Starting on March 1st, teachers, some essential workers, non-frontline health care personnel, and others become eligible. To learn more, visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine.htm>.

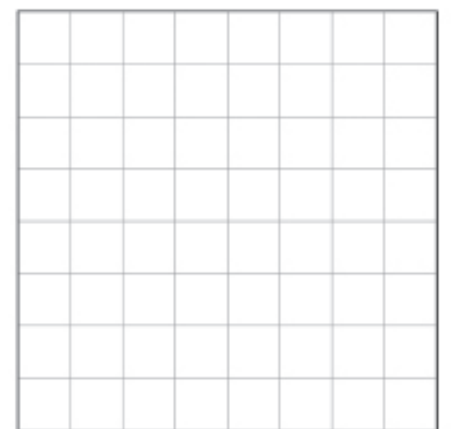
But until then, stay safe, social distance, and mask up Bulldogs!

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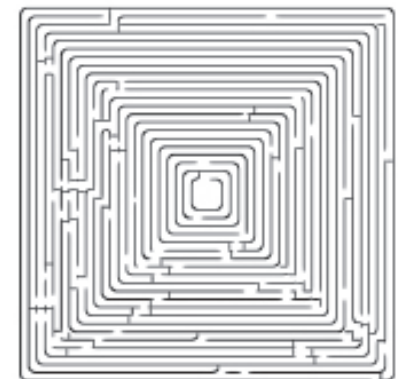
<https://news.google.com/covid19/map>



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My Note of Displeasure to Motivation

By Owen Johnson

Motivation. The will of a person to accomplish the task he/she sets out before him/her. It's a wonderful blossom of ideas and inspiration that gets you moving and working. The result of a spur of motivation can be the key to an opportunistic future, a powerful moment of emotion in the present, and a lasting object of pride for the past. In short, they can result in endearing moments that define major parts of peoples' memories. So why do I wish to write a "note of displeasure" to motivation? Well you see, this wonderful blossom of idea and inspiration is the idiot that drags me out of my bed at 3AM to write things like this. My peaceful life of relaxation and rest is under constant threat of this sleep-killing, headache-inducing villain that forces me to do stuff that, get this, I WANT to do. That's right, I want to do the things motivation tells me to do. That's the worst part. My brain doesn't go, "Oh this is gonna make you feel awful in the morning," because my brain's been sabotaged, bribed by this little rat. I can think of a large handful of times where my day's been completely ruined because motivation's pulled me along with one of its schemes, only to abandon me at the very top of the mountain without my climbing gear. Seriously, I'm halfway done with a short story or a song and it just leaves me out of nowhere! Suddenly I'm just sitting there wondering what I'm going to be eating in ten minutes. Useless. Just right now! You're all just reading, so there was absolutely no skip in time, but me going from "ten minutes" to "useless" took me sixteen and a half minutes to do, all because my motivation went off and conversed with a pigeon or something. Worst thing is, it's probably getting more done talking to that pigeon than I have in the past two weeks.

Now, I want to make something very clear. I don't necessarily think that motivation shouldn't exist. At least, not on my first wish. Maybe my second or third, but that comes after gravity. No, I just wish it wouldn't LEAVE ME AFTER IT'S ALREADY PROMISED ME GREATNESS. The only reason I'm doing the stuff it's telling me to do is because I think something's going to come out of it, but 90% of the time nothing does. The reason's pretty simple, though. As fast as motivation comes, it can also go just as quickly and it's infuriating. I have so many unfinished... things just lying around. Metaphorically and literally. I wouldn't have much of a problem with it if it also came with the motivation to FINISH what I'm motivated to do. To this, I applaud those who are able to work diligently and responsibly because that's true talent. Possibly one of the worst parts of motivation (I'm probably going to call every single tedious thing the "worst part" of any topic), the fact that it never really leaves your mind. It just sits outside the window staring at you, but there's like acid rain outside so you can't go and catch it. Bad analogy, but the point's clear. Whether you lose motivation or put it on hold, it never really goes away, even if the "motivation" part is gone. You're just stuck there thinking, "I should finish this," but you don't really want to at the same time. I know that if I finish whatever project I started on that it would be very satisfying, but at the same time, not doing it isn't necessarily unsatisfying until I think about it too much. But dear Lord do I think about it too much. Not a moment passes by in my idle time where I don't think about finishing at least one of the dozens of things I should probably do. So instead, I just daydream about randomness. Keeps me sane honestly. There's not much more to say about it... Haha, I lied. On to the next part.

Why is motivation so inconsistent? I just want to be motivated about the right thing for the right time, but it never comes to me when I need it. It would be VERY helpful if I had the motivation to, say, write this article, but it's almost midnight and I have yet to take out the garbage. I'm actually going to go do that real quick. Maybe along the walk, motivation will mug me or something.

Well, there goes my Amazon gift card. Anyways I'm back, and darn is it cold outside. Where was I? Oh yeah, not getting work done. On it. So one of the most frustrating things about being motivated is that it usually doesn't come at a convenient time. It's hard to motivate yourself to do tedious or monotonous tasks. Throughout this entire school year, I've only gotten majorly motivated to complete my homework once. For about thirty full minutes. That's it.

All the rest of the time I've been sludging through the mud with the bitter sting of motivation's betrayal on the back of my neck as it leaves me for dead to vacation in the Bahamas, or whatever it's doing. Because it certainly isn't helping me. Humanity would be 200 years in the future if motivation was a controllable variable. Heck, I'd be a responsible person if motivation was a controllable variable, and that's a doomsday scenario at best. So, in the face of the foe that resides in my own head, I do what I do best: I complain about it. It's funny in hindsight, unless it's not. But it's funny to someone so I'll keep at it I guess.

In the end, it's important to understand that I truly believe motivation is a good thing. How can I not? It's made me excited on more than one occasion. It's taught me new things I never thought I'd know. It's led to some cool successes and funny failures, all of which warm my heart when I look back on them. However, though my heart may be warmed, my body is screaming at me to get some sleep. So as I look at the time--1AM--I have decided to give my body and mind the mercy my heart does not have the heart to give. Right now, I am motivated to not be motivated. And in the end, that's a win in my book. So next time you feel motivated, try your hardest to hold onto it. Whether it be by carrying out the act instantly, writing it down so you won't forget later, or chaining it up, just make sure it doesn't escape because it will come back at the dead of night and drag you out of bed. Merry [insert date here].

Comic Strip

By Marissa Erdman

