

Student Reporter

A Twinge To Your Heart



Hannah Lee
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A Man Called Otto is an impressive film that is not only a great movie, but one which teaches kindness to all.
[Source: Author, Hannah Lee]

A Man Called Otto. Its views skyrocketed from the day it came out on Netflix, and, in my opinion, it is definitely one of the most heart-warming movies ever released. It is because of this I encourage you to make this movie a part of your life.

The story begins with an old man named Otto, who is seemingly the main character as the story unfolds. He begins every single day with the exact same routine,

and ends his days in the same fashion. He is a man of principle, and one day, when he finds out he is not the employee that his company wants, he decides to end his life because now there is interference in his structured and necessary routine. But on that day, new neighbors move in, making loud noises outside, which stop him from attempting the ending of his life. In order not to spoil the movie, I will stop here. However, throughout

the film, there are many instances when the man, Otto, is saved from death by his neighbors.

Throughout this movie, the emotional scenes will make you feel more sensitive, as there are so many scenes that show that humanity still has kindness. The small efforts that some people make, that someone might think really wouldn't make an impact on a life, can change an entire future. A future that lies in front of you.

Personally, I think that there are many lessons you can learn from A Man Called Otto. One such lesson is that you should always be kind to others, even if they are as grumpy as Otto is, because you never know their life story, and, by doing so, you could be saving them, whether this be physically or emotionally. Second to

that, is that this movie shows that one of your friends or neighbors who treat you well, greet you, and make small talk with you could all just be part of kindness, and not a scheme that you may assume it to be. Lastly is the lesson that family does not need to be biological. And this is an important lesson in this movie because although Otto has no relatives left, he spends all his time with people he learned that he could trust after months, a couple of years, and more.

A Man Called Otto is definitely a recommended movie, as it is family-friendly and provides important life lessons for all. I personally cried while watching the film, but it was a captivating and impressive movie that I feel strongly about. Now, you have a movie recommendation for the summer which I hope you enjoy as much as I did!

EDITORS COLUMN

Planning for a Meaningful Vacation



Subeen Yu
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What is vacation, and why does it exist? What do you do during vacation? Vacation in the academic year is a period during which school is stopped for a time. Students can spend their vacations in numerous ways. For instance, having time to rest or review, and previewing upcoming school material can be one of the ways to spend a vacation. Then, how can we spend our vacation meaningfully?

Vacation can affect students in various ways. How can they spend their vacation and have a meaningful time? A meaningful vacation might mean improvement in academic work. However, it can also mean other things. Focusing and putting all the energy into one's interest and improving skills, such as in certain sports or instruments, can have a positive impact on self-encouragement by achieving an ultimate goal. Planning for the vacation and having a solid goal to achieve is important as well; using half of the vacation



Families can be seen going to Boracay ocean as a family trip on summer vacation.
[Source: Author, Subeen Yu]

on school homework and spending the other half on their interests and their goals can be a way of planning a meaningful vacation.

A break from school also gives an opportunity to unite with family again. During the school year, students have to focus on their academic work, which leads to having less time to spend with their families. However, during vacation, students have time to go on a

trip or a chance to talk and spend time with family or their peers. Enjoying time with family and other people who you could not spend time with during the school year can be meaningful in the relationships of each other.

One of the students in Juniper Christian School said, "I think I don't really plan and do much for my vacation. However, I do work on something, which is try-

ing to maintain the same school schedule on my vacation. If I just chill all day and only do my vacation homework, I feel like I cannot adapt to school, and I need some time to settle down in the first few weeks of the school year. Moreover, I think I should stop wasting my time on adapting to school, but try to maintain a similar school schedule during vacation to make home feel like a school environment." Another student, Daniel Kwak, said, "This summer, I am planning to visit Spain to admire the works of Antoni Gaudí. I am looking forward to it."

Vacation allows us the opportunity to focus on our interests and grow academically. It also gives time to build unforgettable relationships with others. Making a schedule for vacation to optimize the vacation time and being able to adapt to school quickly after the rest is also important too. Let's go plan for the vacation and spend the most memorable and meaningful time possible.

Student Reporter

Moving through the Gears with E-Bikes



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A drive down a residential area could prompt one to see a teenager or young adult riding a vehicle that resembles something you'd see while racing down a freeway, and to the exhilarated person behind the handlebars, it might be just that.

Amongst the technological advances of the past decade, a new mode of transportation has been introduced on the streets: the E-Bike. Contrasting to its less technological predecessors, the E-Bike has risen in popularity due to its simple steering mechanics and ability to mimic the speed of a car or the aesthetic of a heavy-duty motorcycle. And through their popularity, many parts of the world have already observed the immediate effects of them through environmental and social means.

The most popular electric vehicles have come in the form of the E-bike and Electric Cars, their company mottos aligned with efforts to preserve the longevity of

our Earth's atmosphere through reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Many will find that in past efforts to conserve energy, environmental advocates have suggested using alternatives to cars, which release greenhouse gasses. The suggestions led many to start commuting through public transportation, scooters, and, most importantly, bikes. One will find that the previously mentioned E-Bike not only makes the option of being environmentally friendly more appealing, but also convenient.

Furthermore, modern society has also seen the effects of the E-Bike in school and civic life. For example, many of these E-Bikes have been spotted in my city's streets, as it has nearly taken over the bike racks at schools, malls, and other public spaces. These were one of many factors that alluded to the E-Bike's significance in the urban lifestyle, as it illustrated the many young employees riding the vehicles to their job sites and teens enriching the quality of their meetings through faster transportation.



E-Bikes feature the simplicity that comes with controlling a run-of-the-mill scooter and speeds that resemble faster vehicles.
[Source: Author, Audrey Park]

Similarly, Chloe Shin, an E-Bike owner, plans to ride the vehicle this summer, stating, "The possibilities are endless. I'll be able to manage my own rides to tutor buildings and won't be inconveniencing my parents much by demanding rides for a haptic and ever-changing summer schedule. Also, I don't feel that nervous about driving a car next year because my time controlling a fast [vehicle] has mentally prepared me." Additionally, the summer brings the ideal conditions for a

younger audience of riders. Those who are in their high school years might find it beneficial to gain experience behind a faster vehicle that can be allowed on roads to prepare for driving a car.

Ultimately, all these details illustrate how this vehicle, similar to the traditional bicycles that first took over strenuous transportation, has become implemented into many city street life and become a potentially significant marker of the future.

Student Reporter

The Art of Rock Climbing



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Bouldering focuses on both a climber's mental and physical abilities, regardless of the scope. [Source: Author, Kaylyn Yu]

A sense of accomplishment is one thing almost anyone would enjoy. The more you go through to achieve the goal, the greater you feel. Rock climbing is one extreme sport that enhances your confidence with stimulus. With

a clear purpose and goal, climbers are sure about what they are doing, which all the more uplifts the joy at the end.

Interviewee Jong-joo Lee, a professional rock climbing director, stated, "Rock climbing is originally done in real mountains, on actual rocks, but it is stimulated as well." According to Lee, rock climbing is majorly divided into three categories; bouldering, lead climbing, and speed climbing. "The top reason why anyone should choose this sport/activity above other ones is because there are definite starting and ending points within the exercising, so it is much more motivation than what you feel at common fitness centers. The sense of fulfillment and pride you feel when you reach the final hold is everything."

Of the three major categories, bouldering is the most common, then lead climbing, and lastly, speed climbing. Bouldering focuses on specific areas where the most climbing techniques are initialized and requires no ropes or leads, at total heights of less than 6 meters. Lead climbing, given by its name, is when leads are utilized to ensure a climber is not injured when they fall while climbing, especially at unsteady heights. Speed climbing is completely indoors, and is performed as a competition for setting the fastest record time to finish certain routes, typically with little to no variance to heighten the competition. These three types of climbing are also referred to as the types of sports climbing, and all of them can be used to compete. Hence, the three are also the categories contained in the

Olympics.

Sports climbing was first added to the Olympics in 2020, with all events being held indoors in order to reduce harming the natural environment. For bouldering, contestants boulder 4.5m walls in fixed time limits. With lead events, participants scale 15m surfaces, ascending as high as possible within 6 minutes. In speed climbing, opponents challenge each other on 15m inclined walls of five degrees, striving to reach the end in the least amount of time. However, in 2024's Paris Olympics, boulder and lead will be combined into one category.

I absolutely believe rock climbing is a fascinating sport/activity with numerous benefits to your body. If you are aiming to test yourself with a thrilling hardcore exercise, give this a shot!

Student Reporter

The Rise of Valorant Championships: Battling for Glory in the World of Esports



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Valorant is a trending multiplayer game available to all. Taking the video game world by storm, it has risen in popularity since its release. After CS: GO and Apex Legends, it is noted to be one of the most popular first-person shooter games. Created by the same company as League of Legends and TeamFight Tactics, Riot has created a game loved by all. Since its release in 2020, Valorant has seen many improvements in its gun skins, gameplay, and its characters. Many competitive pro players have switched from famous games, such as CSGO and Apex, to Valorant. Those old games are decreasing in popularity, while Valorant continues to gain many players. In the past, Counterstrike has had its tournament exclusive to pro players, similar to Valorant's current VCT.

VCT, otherwise known as Valorant Champions Tour, is a competition known globally, where Valorant teams will face off against one another for the title of



Many enjoy playing and practicing their skills while awaiting the upcoming Esport Valorant Championships, which they look forward to watching this August. [Source: Author, Dion Jung]

Champion. Involving three major regions, Americas, EMEA, and the Pacific, this competition brings joy to everyone throughout the world. The EMEA, otherwise known as the region including Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, holds teams such as Team Liquid and Fnatic, the team who won VCT in 2023. The American league involves 100 Thieves and Sentinels, another team who won the VCT in April 2020.

Taking place in one of the most popular cities in the United States, VCT 2023 is set to be in Los Angeles. Valorant Champions 2023 will start on August 6, ending a couple of weeks late, on August 20, and will feature sixteen teams from the Americas, EMEA, the Pacific, and China. On the 20th, there will only be four teams left, each competing for the title of champion. They will be using a double-elimination bracket format. This means that teams will

only lose after losing two matches rather than just one. This is the first time an international Valorant Competition has been placed in North America.

There have been a number of changes to the Valorant esports team and Valorant, so no one will know what will happen at VCT. With a number of buffs (changes that make the character stronger) and nerfs (changes that make the agents weaker), agents have been changed, along with maps, with the possibility of hindering the pro's ability to play. On top of these game changes, there have been multiple changes to the actual team rosters. Sentinels, a long-term favorite Esports pro team, is unfortunately not in the upcoming VCT, due to their loss against NRG and Evil Geniuses. But there is a team that many are rooting for, Seoul DRX, along with T1 and Gen.G! For those who play Valorant, there will be two new agents coming this year, so look forward to them!

Student Reporter

A Growing Trend: Math Dropouts



Jiyong Kwak
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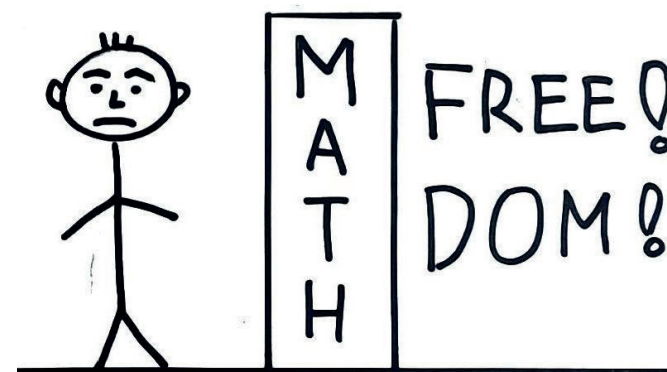
A new breed of students has been focused by the education industry in the past year. They are called math dropouts. Math dropouts are considered to be students who quit math during their time from grade one to twelve. However, it sometimes applies to college students as well. It has been ongoing for years, and even though the education department is implementing changes to prevent dropouts, it is a recurring problem.

The reason why math dropouts are increasing is due to two reasons: the education system and people's views on it. The education department initially believed that high school math covered an extensive amount of materials that students found hard to comprehend. As they shortened the range, the test makers needed to extract good problems from the limited categories. The plan ultimately backfired, and the harder tests increased the number of math dropouts.

Students' views on math also affected the increases in math dropout rates. Most students believe they found no real use of math in everyday life. For example, an employer would not usually say, prove the Cauchy inequality or you are fired. Therefore, students were not getting the objective that math is used to teach them how to think critically and analytically.

According to research by the Korea Institute of Curriculum & Evaluation, the percentage of 11th graders with below-basic achievement levels in math increased from 9% to 13.5% from 2019 to 2020, and 13.5% to 14.2% from 2020 to 2021. It is estimated that the ratio would increase because of the polarization of education and online classes.

When asked about what math means, Noah Kim, a 12th-grade student, said, "Math is not about numbers. It's about ideas. Math is a mental art form where you try to



Many students feel that by quitting math, they are gaining freedom. [Source: Author, Jiyong Kwak]

string ideas together to form consistent - and perhaps even elegant - conclusions. It is an exercise in discipline, grit, and mental acuity. It is immensely frustrating that people consider "when will I ever use this?" a valid question. Do people ask artists to explain how art is useful? Do people ask writers to explain how their writing is useful? That is not the point of math. There is little doubt that mathematics is the queen of the sciences, but math is, first and foremost, an art. I daresay that the likes of Euler or Gauss should be

considered artists on the order of Van Gogh or Picasso."

Although most students receive the word math as an unnecessary course they take to graduate high school, we can see it has a greater meaning. Through math, students are able to discover a new way of thinking, which is important in a world overloaded with information. Therefore, we should work to be closer to math by practicing and going a step further to truly understand this art of mathematics and love it.