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Clinton Students Rush to Self-Dismiss to View the Rare Eclipse



View of a total solar eclipse

Photo Credit: CNBC// Clinton Post Staff

BY: EMMA CHEN

Although solar eclipses happen about every 18 months, it is not often that the path of totality, or the path where the moon fully blocks the Sun, goes entirely across the mainland United States. The next time the United States will get to experience this phenomenon is in 2044 when most current students will be in their 30s. Although NYC did not experience a total eclipse, NYC reached almost 90% totality.

Each eclipse has a unique pathway, meaning that getting the chance to see an eclipse in your state is extremely uncommon. The last time the US had an eclipse was in 2017, but prior to that, the last one was in 1979. That being said, many students possessed special eclipse glasses many days or even weeks in advance of the eclipse, and companies like Warby Parker and even the New York Public

Library handed glasses out. Governments and the news repeatedly urged people to not stare at the Sun during the eclipse unless they had eclipse glasses since staring at the Sun can cause potentially permanent eye damage.

On Monday, April 8th, 2024, the majority of Clinton high school students self-dismissed prior to last period in order to view the rare eclipse, which began in NYC around 2:10 pm, reached max totality at 3:25 pm, and concluded at 4:35 pm. The school received 45 eclipse glasses from NASA and sent out a form for students interested in studying the eclipse 9th period, and then going outside to view the eclipse.

Since this event is so rare, many students, including those who never miss class, were willing to miss the last period on a Monday to witness the eclipse happen in Union Square. 10D fled out of their class early to rush to get in line

on the 7th floor to wait to get a slip for self-checkout. Within minutes, there were more than 40 people on line to check out, and at the security desk, there was an extensive, colorful pile of self-checkout slips. Many teachers even went outside to view the eclipse too. Very few students stayed behind, but luckily, many of those students still got the opportunity to watch the eclipse from the Hawk's Nest.

While some students and pedestrians already possessed eclipse glasses, some students frantically searched for people with extra glasses or people to buy glasses from. People were selling overpriced glasses in Union Square for \$5 to \$20, which is shocking since many companies had given them out for free. Despite the high price, many still purchased these glasses since they did not want to miss out on the opportunity to view this rare phenomenon.

Many students and even

teachers went even further than leaving school early, as many skipped the day altogether to travel west in hopes of viewing the eclipse in totality, which is in stark contrast to what we saw in NYC. In totality, the Sun looks like it has a glowing ring around it- and when the moon covers the sun enough, the Earth gets cooler and darker, in an unreal experience, and viewers can take their glasses off for about 4 minutes.

It is definitely worth it to see the total eclipse once in a lifetime, and perhaps next time the US experiences an eclipse, which will be when current students are adults, students should consider driving or taking a trip to view the eclipse in totality. Regardless of how students viewed the eclipse, and to what totality, it is incredible that most students had the opportunity to view the rare eclipse and it will one-hundred percent be an experience to remember.

School SAT Day

BY: NICHOLAS
BELIDA

On March 27th, Clinton held its first digital SAT for high school juniors. The test was administered on school-provided chromebooks and each student was given scrap paper when needed. The amount of resources for the new version can feel underwhelming, but it is really true that the make-up of the digital SAT itself is considerably easier than that of the old paper SAT? Statistics might point towards an uptrend in scores being true. In 2023, the average SAT score was 1028, but for the recently administered March 9th SAT, which was the first ever digital SAT, the average was 1166. A 138 score jump is crazy, thus, the question arises: how will colleges average SAT score change in response to an average upshift? However, that is a question for another day. In this piece, Clinton juniors will be interviewed about their predictions, comments, and overall thoughts about the digital SAT.

Anna Loof, a Junior who also happens to be the President of Model UN and Vice President of the Student

Council, speaks about her thoughts following the SAT. She also took the paper SAT back in December. When asked her thoughts on the overall environment of the test day, Loof stated that she felt more relaxed being at Clinton as it is an environment that she was already familiar with. Knowing the layout of the school, and thus the location of bathrooms and water fountains, is one less thing to worry about when the test is in your school. Additionally, being surrounded by her close friends and classmates lowered stress levels making it feel just like another regular exam. While it's normal to have some "night before jitters", Loof stated that it was nice not having to wake early on a Saturday morning like she would have if she was taking a non-school SAT. Contrary to the strict 8:00 AM cut off for the College Board administered SATs, school administered SATs cutoffs follow the individual schools bell schedule. Clinton students are, therefore, able to go about getting ready for their morning in similar fashion to any other day and arrive at the test no later than they would any other school day.

The new digital

SAT presented with a large difference in layout and structure compared to the old paper SAT. Loof says that the test moving digital came with its ups and downs. One pro that she mentioned was the new format of the English section. "As someone who always struggled reading the long passages on the old SAT, the shorter paragraphs for the English modules were a lot easier and more digestible for me." However, something that Loof said she noticed was that the jump in difficulty from the first module to the second module was very noticeable. While she went into the test knowing that it is adaptive and that the second module will be harder, Loof states that she greatly underestimated the vast difference between the two modules. Moreover, she stated that it was annoying that she couldn't underline or annotate as easily as she could when taking the paper test. However, Loof ended her statement saying that the pros heavily outweigh the cons. While it's important to be aware of all the small details about the test, remember that much of the content is similar.

Whether you decide to take the SAT again, or decide to just

go with the score you get on your school day SAT, we wish you the best of luck in achieving your dream score and with any future endeavors that might come about. A great thank you to Anna Loof for giving up some of her time to conduct this interview. Her insights provided will be useful for those wondering not only how the digital SAT varies from the paper SAT, but also how the school administered SAT varies from the College Board administered SAT.

UConn and South Carolina Claim Titles in 2024 March Madness

BY: JACOB
MELCHOR

Over the past month, one of the most viewed and exciting tournaments in all of sports has been underway, and it's not even played at a professional level. March Madness, the collegiate basketball tournament that brings in the country's best teams in a single-elimination bracket, is one of the most famous events in the sporting world. This year, UConn topped Purdue to win the NCAA championship, while South Carolina beat out Iowa to claim their third NCAA title.

Both championship games delivered show stopping performances from star players who will likely be playing in the big leagues throughout the coming years. In the men's final, Zach Edey, the Purdue center, put up an astonishing 37 points with another 10 rebounds to boot. In the women's championship, Iowa guard Caitlin Clark scored 30 points along with 8 rebounds and 5 assists. After the conclusion of the tournament, Iowa announced that it would retire the number 22 in honor of Clark, who has taken the basketball world by storm the past two years. While both Purdue and Iowa fell at the home stretch of the tournament, both teams put together deep runs that are not likely to be forgot-

ten anytime soon.

On the other hand, UConn was able to notch its sixth national championship and its second straight. Guard Tristan Newton paced the team in scoring with 20 points. Fellow guards Stephon Castle and Cam Spencer added 15 and 11 points respectively. In the end, UConn was able to win by a wide margin, beating Purdue 75 to 60. While the game was tight coming out of halftime, UConn's second-half defense was stifling and Purdue failed to get any offensive momentum to swing the game in its favor. While UConn failed to prevent Edey from putting up his usual crazy high amount of points, Edey's lack of offensive support from the rest of his team allowed UConn to prevent the rest of Purdue from scoring consistently.

South Carolina topped Iowa by a similar amount, winning 87 to 75. The key to stopping Iowa was always preventing Clark from tearing through the defense. While Clark was able to score 18 points in the first quarter (an NCAA record for most points scored in a single quarter of a championship game), her efficiency dropped sharply the rest of the game as South Carolina was able to adapt its defense to prevent her from scoring. South Carolina didn't have a sole performer who swung the game in its

favor, but the entire team contributed to a huge victory. Notably, Tessa Johnson, a freshman guard coming off the bench, scored 19 points.

One of the most exciting and potentially heartbreaking parts of March Madness is, of course, the bracket-making. Every year, millions of sports fans attempt to predict how the 68-team bracket will shape up. However, making a perfect bracket is notoriously difficult, as it has never been done before. Many bracket-makers (including some Clinton students), will add prizes or punishments for those who create the best or worst brackets. This creates excitement, intensity, and – for the losers – anxiety, though it is all in good fun. Making a bracket is not only a tradition, but it adds another layer to the tournament that so many others lack.

This year's March Madness tournament was spectacular in every sense. Not only were two worthy champions crowned with star-studded finals, but the rest of the tournament had a plethora of upsets and Cinderella stories. It all started with #3 seeded Kentucky losing in the first round to #14 Oakland - Oakland, Michigan, that is (who knew Oakland was a place in Michigan and not just California?). Random schools like Oakland, which almost nobody knows exists,

topping big-name colleges is one of the best parts of the tournament. Additionally, #11-seeded NC State shocked the world and made it to the final four.

The chaos, intensity, and finally, triumph of March Madness is what makes it one of the finest tournaments the sporting world has ever seen. This year's tournament was one of the best in recent memory, and everyone expects the exact same next year.

Unprecedented Proceedings: Inside the Trial of Donald Trump

BY: CHIARA MOINE

Donald Trump was indicted on 34 felony counts of first-degree falsifying business records in a Manhattan appeals court in March 2024 making him the first former president to be indicted in history. He is accused of paying hush money to two women who he had sexual relations with prior to the 2016 election, Stormy Daniels and Karen McDougal. The controversy started when Trump had his lawyer Michael Cohen pay the sums of \$130,000 to Danieks and \$150,000 to McDougal in exchange for their silence over claims. The money was supposed to be reimbursed to Cohen from Trump's organization under the guise of legal fees. After he was charged in

March, Trump pled not guilty to the dozens of counts against him. If he is found guilty, he would face four years in prison. At this time, the selection of the jury process has begun in Manhattan. Additionally, Trump has attempted to postpone his court date three times, unsuccessful in each one of them. The argument his lawyers have given is that Trump needs to continue on the campaign trail instead of defending himself in a courtroom. On multiple court occasions, Trump has been issued gag orders due to berating the judge and people representing the prosecution. The official trial begins on Monday, April 15th and here is what to expect. It is expected that the trial will last up to six to eight weeks. As previously mentioned, jury selection has begun and that is expected to last 1-2 weeks with

the final number being 12 jurors. The prosecution is accusing Trump of falsifying business records to cover up criminal actions in New York during the 2016 election. The heart of the case surrounds various sex scandals he tried to cover up. One of the most famous being with Stormy Daniels, an adult film star, in 2006. During the 2016 campaign, she, along with other women, came out and told their stories of their relations with Trump. The defense side is maintaining the claim that the former president did not do anything wrong and that he is being wrongfully accused. It is also expected for Cohen and Daniels to be attacked during the trial to create a story for the defense because the media has painted them as having a vendetta against Trump. There are around 10 witnesses being called to the stand – ranging

from past lawyers, white house officials, people who used to work at the Enquirer, and women who Trump had relations with. In the past year, Trump has been criminally charged four times for separate crimes each time. In New York, he is accused of the hush money case and in Georgia he is accused of election interference during the 2020 presidential race. There are two federal cases, those being on the matter of handling classified documents after her presidency, as well as a more national perspective of election interference. So far, he has pleaded not guilty to all four of them. The public is eager to watch this trial unfold and see how Trump acts during the trial period. Be sure to watch out for the follow up article next month!

The NYC Quake

BY: BAILEY WITT

New York City is known for its hustle and bustle, but not for its rumble. But if you were anywhere in the tri-state area on April 6th, you would have felt one of the largest earthquakes in New York since 1973. Earthquakes are typically associated with the West Coast and the San Andreas Fault, but after a 3.8 magnitude earth-

quake hit Gladstone, New Jersey, California's reputation is shouldered by the East Coast.

Seismologists initially reported that the earthquake was a 4.0 magnitude, which is about half of the Richter scale. For reference, the Haiti earthquake in 2010 registered at a 7.0, while the Great 1906 San Francisco earthquake peaked at a 7.9 magnitude. However, accounts

of our city's own quake differ. Some reported a distinct shaking of chairs and tables while others were only made aware of the earthquake through friends and family. "I only knew about the earthquake after hearing my wife scream from the other room," said Jonathan Witt, a Clinton dad and software engineer. "Otherwise, I wouldn't have ever known it happened."

Aftershocks continue to hit New York's neighbors in New Jersey, including one felt just this morning at 10:30 AM as reported by WABC. This aftershock registered at a lower 2.6 magnitude, but still shocked those in the aftershock area.

We HE(ART) NYC: A Review of The Harlem Renaissance and Transatlantic Modernism

BY: MAEVE HANNERT

Unless you've been living under a rock, you've surely heard Beyonce's hit song, "This Ain't Texas". With her latest genre-busting album, "Cowboy Carter", Beyonce has done more than top the country charts - she's broken through the racial barriers that have long existed in country music. The artists associated with The Harlem Renaissance movement, currently the focus of an excellent show at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, were similarly bold in their artistic vision and originality, rewriting the rules of black identity - or throwing them out altogether.

Leading the first major African-American international movement in modern art, the collective genius of the writers, intellectuals and artists at the helm of the Harlem Renaissance took root in the 1920s. In the wake of the Great Migration, millions of African Americans fled the segregation and discrimination of the southern states in favor of the bustling cities



Photo Credit: Archibald J. Motley Jr. // The Clinton Post Staff



Photo Credit: Charles Henry Alston // The Clinton Post Staff

of the Northeast and Midwest. The creative exchange that played out over the next couple of decades, influencing the likes of Picasso and Matisse, was one based on self-representation and complete freedom of artistic expression.

This is perhaps most evident in the different approaches to portraiture that make up a central component of the show. One standout example is Charles Henry Alston's *Girl in a Red Dress*, which references the aesthetics of African art and completely modernizes it. Another is The

Janitor Who Paints, a self-portrait by Palmer Hayden that addresses the socio-economic realities weighing upon himself and his fellow African Americans as he juggles his day-job as a janitor with his work as an artist. He's depicted at his easel in a cramped apartment, surrounded by a dustbin and brooms as he paints his wife and baby, in what he later described as "a protest painting." Perhaps my favorite portrait of all is Archibald J. Motley, Jr.'s "Uncle Bob", a gracious painting of his mother's half-brother,

Robert White, who was born into slavery but went on to own his own farm. Shown sitting on his own porch, holding a pipe beside a vase of flowers and a bible, the artist elevates his relative through the very act of portraiture.

Archibald J. Motley, Jr., who was raised in Chicago, studied in Paris like so many artists of the day, and his work from that period is a cornerstone of the show. Inspired by urban culture and city nightlife, his energetic and brightly colored depictions of Chicago dance clubs and Parisian cafes bring a multi-dimensionality to black identity. Freedom, for Motley, Jr. and his Harlem Renaissance peers, was expressed through their art.

Many of these works, on view at The Met now until July 28th, are loaned from the collections of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), where some of Clinton's own graduating seniors are headed in the fall.

Sports betting punishments: How far is too far?



Photo Credit: "Hi Nicholas", YouTube // The Clinton Post Staff
The cage punishment

BY: SAREENA
PERNAMBUCO

I'm sure that many Clinton post readers have participated or at least heard about betting on sports. Whether it's fantasy football, march madness brackets, or just normal games, betting on sports is a fun way to compete with friends and sometimes even win a quick buck in the process. Typically, the person who wins in the group gets a prize and the person who loses gets a punishment.

The punishments typically include some sort of public embar-

rassment, or physical pain or strain of some sort. This is where the problem arises. Many people think that some punishments are too cruel, such as the 24 hours in IHOP punishment or the 24 hours on stream punishment.

I personally think that with the consent of all the people involved, any punishment is ethical. If one agrees to a punishment, they are agreeing to have that happen to them. It may not happen, because they may not lose, but it might happen, and thus agreeing to a sports betting punishment seems fine in my

opinion.

Some argue specifically about "The Cage", a popular fantasy football punishment seen in the picture here in which the loser is locked in a dog kennel-sized cage and the rest of the people get to pour whatever they want on them, such as flour, eggs, ice water, tomato sauce, and much more.

While I did get second to last place in the march madness bracket that I was in, thus earning me a punishment, I still think it's fine that there are punishments in brackets and fantasy sports,

and I would say I don't condone those who back out of doing a punishment in a cowardly manner. It's understandable to not want to participate, but if you agree to a punishment, backing out should not be allowed, and in my opinion is more embarrassing than simply doing whatever punishment was assigned to you.

Do You Ever Stop to Wonder What You're Swimming In?

BY: RUBY COSTA

From surfers to swimmers, Rockaway beach is home to millions of visitors each year. Rockaway is the city's only permitted surfing beach with streets 67-69 and 87-92 open to everyone. Rockaway is family friendly with nice playgrounds where children and parents can enjoy the sand and ocean. Rockaway is considered New Yorkers paradise as there is a nice affordable vacation spot at the tips of their fingers. Its accessibility is as easy as your everyday transport, as it only takes a simple hop on the A train. Rockaway's main home is to surfers, as there aren't many places in the city to carry out the sport. New York City isn't known for its beaches, no one comes to the city to sprawl in the sand, but when all you've known is city lights with crowded streets, you begin to crave different surroundings. When summer rolls around, the beach is exactly where you want to be, with the sun on your face, wind in your hair, and the smell of the ocean wafting all around you, which is what makes rockaway so special. Whether you're visiting or a long-time New Yorker, Rockaway is special to all.

Rockaway, as popular and dreamy as it can appear, faces water quality challenges. Just last season 244 New York's



Photo Credit: Ruby Costa // The Clinton Post Staff
Side-by-side comparison of before vs. after testing

beaches closed due to faulty water quality that exceeded safety concerns; this was concerning as this was an increase of 94 closures from 2021. Many contributing factors to these unsafe cleanliness of water is due to rainfall, as it increases pollution that streams into oceans and sewage overflow. Rockaway in particular is vulnerable to such contamination risks due to its close proximity to sewage sources. According to THE CITY, "CFU refers to 'colony forming units,' a measure of the number of active bacteria in the water." The more people swimming and surfing in contaminated water increases the risk of them getting sick, which is why volunteer services are held to try and reduce waste in oceans and beaches; especially in such a populated place

like Rockaway.

The Surfrider Foundation is one of many volunteer organizations that help clean Rockaway. The foundation fights for plastic reduction, ocean protection, beach access, tackling coast and climate issues, and cleaning water. In 2021 Surfrider's volunteer hours consisted of 182,000 hours, their motto being, "a just, equitable, diverse and inclusive organization for all people who protect and enjoy the world's ocean, waves, and beaches." I am a surfer myself and feel connected to the ocean. From a very young age I was exposed to hiking and camping throughout a variety of camps in the woods and on a lake; from these experiences I have grown to love and appreciate nature. With the controversy about climate change and the lack of action

politicians and people of power are taking to fix the environment, it is easy to feel helpless. Wanting to help in any way I could, I let my passion for the ocean guide my research, which is how I found Surfrider. A few weekends ago I went to 67th street Rockaway beach to meet a bunch of volunteers to learn about testing the purification of water. From there we went down to the beach and asked a surfer to swim past the break and collect a water sample for us, we then headed to a volunteer's home where she housed machines and tools that tested the water sample for feces. The results took about a week to come back and it was later discovered that our sample contained a lot of feces. In order to ensure it wasn't that of fish, people tested at the same spot the following week. When the results came back they were crystal clear.

It is foundations like these that are heavily organized by people willing to help out for the betterment of our environment. Surfrider tests the Rockaway waters almost every week, as well as performing beach cleanups and as a result the increase of clean water is apparent.

Poetry Month: A Reminder of the Poetry in our Daily Lives

BY: ABBY CHEN

The month of April is National Poetry Month! Poetry month, launched by the Academy of American Poets in 1996, celebrates poetry throughout libraries, schools, and social media throughout the month of April.

Poetry is often described as a form of art and lyricism. The most common consumption of poetry, that likely all of us have partaken in, exists in the form of songs. Blockbuster singer-songwriter and lyricist Taylor Swift's upcoming album, releasing April 19, is even titled The Tortured Poets Department! Poetry, as exhibited through many songwriters and poets, can be a method to lyrically express feelings, emotions, and experiences. Many writers turn to poetry to process events in their lives, tell stories, or spread awareness.

Poetry comes in many forms such as Haikus, Shake-



Photo Credit: Abigail Chen// The Clinton Post Staff
A library display for Poetry Month made by Ms. Nelson and library volunteers

sporean Sonnets, and more. Within Clinton, students have interpreted and explored poetry of incredible poets. 9th graders explore Nikki Giovanni's poems explaining themes of love and value in Ms. Balascio's class. Mary Oliver's poetry regarding materialism and the value of nature are observed in Ms. Heather's classes. And we

can't forget about the timeless poetry of Shakespeare explored across multiple grades!

In our Clinton Community, thanks to Ms. Nelson, we are celebrating National Poetry Month throughout the library! In the Clinton Library, Ms. Nelson, along with the help of her library staff, have set up a Poetry Month display. In the display, students can

add their own poems to the poetry tree! Clintonians can stop by to check out some poetry books that have been selected by the library helpers and Ms. Nelson!

Another way poetry is integrated into the Clinton Community is through student Ava Ayala who has also put up haikus throughout the school community and students can grab these "pocket poems" for a quick read!

Some activities you can participate in to indulge yourself in more poetry are subscribing to Poem-a-Day (at poets.org) curated by Cyrus Casell. Students can also submit a letter to the Dear Poet competition, which takes place every April, an activity similar to 10th Grade Representations of Social Conflict teacher Ms. Heather's letter to author assignment.

National Poetry Month is a great opportunity to explore your interest in poetry and practice expressing yourself through poetry!

Are You a Yankee Fan?

BY: LIVI LASNER

Do you live in the Bronx? Have you ever seen Yankee Stadium? The one that's still around, I mean.

The Yankee's are a major league baseball team who play in the Bronx, New York.

The first Yankee stadium was built in 1923. It stood in the South Bronx, on East 161st street. It was a lively place where families would take day trips, kids would hope to visit, and people gathered with their friends. That is,

until it got torn down in 2008.

You might be thinking, "I recently went to a Yankee game", and that might very well be true. The new Yankee Stadium was built in 2009, and is still standing on 161st street in the South Bronx. The new stadium is down the street from the old one.

Though there was nothing wrong with the old stadium, the owners felt that there could be new improvements. So, they created a new home for the Yankees which was built with better ame-

nities, to produce more revenue. The new stadium has the sixth largest seating availability of the 30 Major League Baseball teams. That's pretty good!

Personally, I love going to a Yankee game and cheering on a team that lives close to home. I love wearing blue and white, the Yankee's colors, to show my Yankee spirit and to cheer on the players. Although the Mets also play in NYC, I'm a true Yankee fan, as is my family.

Baseball season just started up again. On March 28th, 2024 to be

exact. If you want to follow in on Yankee games, the MLB app will tell you scores, give you clips of great plays, and will tell you the current news surrounding baseball.

Additionally, you can catch full baseball games on your TV on ESPN, FOX, MLB, and many more channels. Set your DVR, buy a ticket, or talk to your friends to catch up on the latest baseball news!

Planet vs. Plastics: Earth Day 2024

BY: LAVANYA BIST

Mark your calendars! International Earth Day is fast approaching. On April 22nd we will protect the earth the way it protects us every day. On this day we will think about how we can protect our lush home planet.

Earth Day was first celebrated on April 22nd, 1970. On this day, Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin created the first ever Earth Day. This annual celebration was inspired by the lack of EPA, no the Clean Air Act, and no Clean Water Act. This day was established to remind the people and the government nationally to pay more attention to the environment. To this day, it continues to

enlighten generations and inspire them to bring about change.

The theme for this year, 2024, is Planet vs. Plastics! Information has been spread around, and it is very clear that plastics are one of our planet's greatest nemesis today. Single use plastics are huge issues for our environment these days and this earth day everyone would like to focus on getting rid of single use plastics. "2 million single-use plastic bags are distributed worldwide every minute", according to Heal the Planet. Examples include plastic straws, plastic or styrofoam plates, cups, plastic utensils, plastic bags, and much more. This earth day, we should all try to cut down

our use of single use plastic and transition to things such as reusable bottles and bags for any type of shopping.

If you are looking for a place to start, here are some fun ideas of what to do on earth day:

1. Bake Earth cookies! Make a fun earth day snack for friends and family (and yourself) by mixing blue and green batter, creating a fun-filled way to celebrate the earth!
2. Take a peaceful walk through a park! Walk through nature, breathe in the fresh air, and enjoy all that our planet has to offer!

3. Clean up the park or sidewalks with friends and family! Give back to the earth and your community by walking around, chatting, spending time with loved ones while also picking up trash and waste. Being with friends can improve the experience tenfold and create a fun community building experience!

4. Create artwork! Inspire people to think about their impact on the environment and on the earth!

However you celebrate this important and meaningful day, make sure that you are being conscious of the environment and the planet that we call home. Enjoy Earth Day!

Bumping Into The Season: The Clinton Boys Volleyball Team's Grand Debut

BY: TENZIN CHIME

The long awaited Clinton Boys' Volleyball team kicked off their season earlier last month!

For their debut, the Hawks took on University Neighborhood – who some might say to be a Cinderella story. During warmups and throughout the beginning of the game, it was looking remarkable for the Hawks. The team was performing unified, hyped, and ready, while the others were giving JV. The first set was won relatively easily with Clinton's players being "locked in", focused, and executing plays well. They bumped, set, and spiked their way to a win for the first set.

The second set began with the game looking tremendous for the Hawks. As the Hawks pulled in the lead that everyone thought University could not take over, there was a shakeup in the lineup.

Slowly but surely, University was able to take advantage of the lineup change and loss of rhythm on Clinton's side of the net – and ended up winning the second set. As a spectator at this game, the crowd was shocked, but excited to watch another set of exciting volleyball.

The third set had the crowd standing up with stress. University was able to take a tremendous lead over the Hawks which left little hope for Clinton. As fans yelled, "Comeback season" – the Hawks heard and delivered. The Clinton Comeback was astonishing, with the Hawks putting Clinton back in the game leaving the score 23-24. For those who are not familiar with volleyball game mechanics, Clinton needed one more point to make it anybody's game. If University got the next point, University would take home the win because when the game is tied, the winner has to win by 2 points.

The University coach in fear of Clinton comeback called a timeout where they tried to come up with a game winning play. As the players were let back on to court, the fans were cheering in angst as well as excitement. As Clinton took the serve the whole gym crept with silence. Unfortunately, the ball didn't make it across the net giving the upsetting win to University.

Aside from the disappointing outcome, the team is shaping out to be very successful this season. Spectators and fellow classmates weren't expecting to see such a cohesive, strong team given how new it is, but they surpassed all expectations. The game was filled with excellent plays that were executed perfectly, as well as crazy hustle and saving the ball without any hesitation. Not only did the starting line up look strong, but when you have a bench filled with talent like that, the team collectively shows promise.

The Post was able to interview the starting libero and starting setter, Kyle Wong and Johnny Zou, respectively. They shared with the Post their thoughts and feelings being a part of this new team. They had similar opinions on the team's nervous energy before their big debut. Johnny recalls, "I was feeling both nervous and excited because I had this fear of messing up."

Aside from the nervousness, they were able to "lock in" and get their momentum going, fast. "The team just needs more time to work together to improve the team dynamic," Kyle reassures the Post. "This will ensure more wins!"

As Kyle said, the team delivered. With more time, the Hawks had a huge win against Energy Tech, arguably the most skilled team they have faced yet. Within more practice and on-court experience, the Clinton Boys volleyball team is a team to look out for.

National Pet Day: Celebrating Our Furry Friends

BY: VASILISA
LASKOVA

According to *World Population Review* and *Population U*, the population of New York as of 2024 is estimated to be around 19.5 million people, and according to *World Population Review* and *U.S Population*, the average household size is about 3 people per household. With roughly 50% of New York households owning pets (about 4 million households) (United States Census; Census Reporter), there's a pretty good chance that the reader of this article may own one as well. While nationally, 66% of households own pets (16% more than New York's statistics) (Forbes Advisor), New York pet owners are ranked most likely to pamper and spoil their pets in recent statistics comparing money spent on pets across the nation. New York definitely outdoes other states when it comes to spending as much money as possible on their beloved furry or scaly family members (dogster; DollarGeek). Pets are clearly a hot topic to New Yorkers, yet it's very likely that most of the pet enthusiasts residing

in this animal-loving city don't know what day is nationally dedicated to celebrating their best friends and loyal companions.

National Pet Day falls on April 11th every year, since it was first celebrated in 2006. The day was created by animal welfare advocate and family lifestyle expert Colleen Paige, who founded this holiday along with National Cat Day, National Dog Day, and more. These holidays are celebrated today nationally in the US and internationally in countries such as the U.K., Ireland, Italy, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, Spain, Guam, and Scotland. Colleen Paige brainstormed National Pet Day as a way to create public awareness for the animals awaiting homes in shelters, over 6.5 million entering animal shelters nationwide each year according to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). The motto for this day is: "Adopt, don't shop!", promoting adoption as the first choice over purebred animals to prevent the euthanizations of countless animals in need of homes. When families decide to pay extra money for a pure-

bred pet, they deny animals in shelters the rare opportunity to secure a forever home. The more this choice is repeated by several individuals, the more overcrowding happens in shelters, leading countless animals to get euthanized. According to *American Humane*, "56 percent of dogs and 71 percent of cats that enter animal shelters are euthanized". Many lives are lost for preventable reasons, and Colleen Paige has worked hard to save some of those lives by promoting adoption over the purchasing of pure-bred animals. Her work has been recognized and promoted by countless celebrities, some of which include Taylor Swift, Ellen DeGeneres, Jimmy Fallon, and Carrie Underwood among others.

In terms of popularity, the results may not be very surprising. Dogs are present in 65.1 million households nationwide, taking first place. Cats are the second most popular, a part of 46.6 million households. Third are fish, followed by small animals such as rodents, and then by birds. Dogs are most popular in North America in general, and take the gold medal across most con-

tinents with cats as the silver medalists. While most of the world's statistics may not come as a shock, Europe's statistics prove to be an outlier when it comes to their most popular pet. In Europe, cats are the most popular, present in 127 million households (26% of households) while dogs occupy 104 million households (25% of households). Overall, pets are important worldwide no matter the type, and deserve to be celebrated.

Think of this day as a reminder about the millions of pets in need of homes, and help encourage adoption before purebred pets if someone you know or yourself are considering getting one. Don't forget to mark this day in your calendar to remember for next time, and celebrate the joy the pets you own and are surrounded by bring you with extra love and care, no matter where you are celebrating.

The Spanish Column

Editada por Abril De León

¡En el mes de mayo honramos a las madres!

Nota: Pocos meses son tan especiales como el mes de mayo. En esta edición, te damos las gracias mamá y compartimos estos dos poemas para mostrar nuestra apreciación y amor hacia ti.

POR: ABRIL DE LEON

Mi madre: Poema en prosa

Mi madre es como el sol de otoño en el campo; fresca, brillante, luminosa...
Mi madre tiene una sonrisa blanca y amplia. Aunque solo mide cinco pies de estatura, su corazón abarca el universo...
Mi madre es simple y rosada como una cereza madura.

Sus pies son mínimos y sus caderas son anchas... Parece una guitarra...
En sus ojos chinos se esconde el color del ámbar. Su nariz fue robada de una estatuilla del Greco y su cabello es rojo como un atardecer en Key West...
Su piel es un caminito de leche tibia y azucarada.

Mi madre está siempre atenta a los dolores ajenos...
Guarda en su interior historias oscuras que la hacen llorar a solas.
Mi madre es fuerte como un roble y es una mariposa...
Se acuesta con las gallinas y se despierta con el alba.

Batalla contra el cáncer, la maldad y el olvido...
Guardó sus sueños eternos en un cajón transparente que no encontró jamás.
Mi madre mira el tiempo a la cara, asume su vida, y camina aguerrida hacia la esperanza...

POR: CESAR VALLEJO
LXV - Trilce

Madre, me voy mañana a Santiago, a mojarme en tu bendición y en tu llanto. Acomodando estoy mis desengaños y el rosado de llaga de mis falsos trajines.

Me esperará tu arco de asombro, las tonsuradas columnas de tus ansias que se acaban la vida. Me esperará el patio, el corredor de abajo con sus tondos y repulgos de fiesta. Me esperará mi sillón ayo, aquel buen quijarudo trasto de dinástico cuero, que para no más rezongando a las nalgas tataranietas, de correa a correhuela.

Estoy cribando mis cariños más puros. Estoy ejeando ¿no oyes jadear la sonda? ¿no oyes tascar dianas? estoy plasmando tu fórmula de amor para todos los huecos de este suelo. Oh si se dispusieran los tácticos volantes para todas las cintas más distantes, para todas las citas más distintas.

Así, muerta inmortal. Así. Bajo los dobles arcos de tu sangre, por donde hay que pasar tan de puntillas, que hasta mi padre para ir por allí, humildóse hasta menos de la mitad del hombre, hasta ser el primer pequeño que tuviste.

Así, muerta inmortal. Entre la columnata de tus huesos que no puede caer ni a lloros, y a cuyo lado ni el destino pudo entrometer ni un solo dedo suyo

Así, muerta inmortal. Así.

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CLINTON WORD HUNT!

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Answers

CLINTON WORD HUNT!