IN MEMORY OF DAN ROONEY
Fans Pay Tribute to Former Steelers Owner
LIVIE MILLER STAFF REPORTER

Former Pittsburgh Steeler chairman and owner Dan Rooney passed away April 13th at the age of 84.

The Rooneys have been the owners of the Steelers for generations and will continue to pass the ownership to family. Mr. Rooney's oldest son, Art Rooney Jr., will now be the owner of the team.

There were two funerals services for Rooney. One was for all Steeler fans who wanted to share and pay their respects to Rooney and his family. It was a public service. On April 18th there was a private ceremony for Rooney’s family, close friends, or any Steeler player or ex Steeler player.

Many players attended to support Mr. Rooney including Steelers players Antonio Brown, James Harrison, Ben Roethlisberger, Troy Polamalu.

"The service was very nice and peaceful. He lived a great life and was a great inspiration to all his athletes and many other people. He always gave us pep talks before and after the games win or lose. He was a good man," said former Steeler Josh Miller.

Dan Rooney was a father of nine. He served as the U.S. Ambassador to Ireland from 2009 to 2012 under former president Obama. In 2000 he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Rooney had the "Rooney Rule" coined after him, which provided minority coaches a chance to coach in the NFL. He never missed a Steelers game, and when he became president of the Steelers in the 1970s, the Steelers won four Super Bowls in six years. Under his head the Steelers continued their success and went on to win Super Bowls X, XIII, and XIV.

Mr. Rooney touched the lives of many in Pittsburgh and the U.S., but his loss will deeply be felt here in Pittsburgh.

Former NFL Player Aaron Hernandez Found Dead
KYLE WALZER STAFF REPORTER

Last Wednesday, April 19th, former NFL player Aaron Hernandez was found dead in his jail cell. There is much controversy still surrounding Hernandez's court cases, as well as his death.

Hernandez had a successful football career. He played for the Florida Gators in college, winning a national championship. He was drafted in 2010 by the New England Patriots. He collected almost 2000 yards and caught 18 touchdowns in his three year career. But, Hernandez was cut in the summer of 2013, following his arrest for the murder case of Odin Lloyd.

A grand jury found Hernandez guilty of first degree murder in the case of Lloyd, and he was sentenced to life in jail with no chance of parole. Hernandez was also indicted in the 2012 double homicide case of Daniel de Abreu and Safiro Furtado, but he was found not guilty. In addition, Hernandez may have worked around a unique Massachusetts Law that states Hernandez's conviction must be vacated if he passes away during the process of an active appeal. This may result in the Patriots owing his family upwards of $15 million dollars, but this is not a confirmed fact. His death was a shock for many, and it still has the world in a surprised state.

Inside this issue: movie reviews, tv reviews, opinion, and more!
Why We Should Play More
Reconnecting With our Inner Child

ELAINA HARRIS FEATURES EDITOR

It is often said that “all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.” No matter if you are a Jack or a Jill, it is easy to see that without play we are hollow shells of who we are truly meant to be.

Play means different things to different people. To some play is binge-watching Netflix for 48 hours straight. To others play is going out to dinner with family, and to still others, play is taking a well-deserved nap after a hard day of school or work.

The fact of the matter is that relaxation comes out of play. Whatever relaxes you, whether it be a long walk on the beach or a relaxing night out with friends, it does a lot more than just make you feel happier in that moment; it actually improves physical and mental health.

According to mindhealthconnect, “Relaxation reduces stress and the symptoms of mental health conditions like depression, anxiety and schizophrenia.”

It also improves your physical health as it lowers your heart rate, anger, and fatigue.

The Huffington Post also weighs in on this argument explaining the benefits of relaxation for our heart and our memory, as well as reducing the risk of stroke and depression. It is scientifically proven that relaxing improves physical and mental health, so why don’t we do it more often?

My explanation is found in the unrealistically high expectations of our world today. We would rather push ourselves into commitments that we don’t want to do, thereby increasing our anxiety, rather than doing what we want to do and therefore being more relaxed.

For example, if one doesn’t like to run and it is not relaxing for them, then why not take a day off to see a movie with friends rather than go for a two-mile run that causes you more anxiety than it helps your health?

In the world we live in everyone wants to be doing something productive. Our parents and teachers and bosses all breathe down our necks to do one more job, one more assignment, one more

Obviously it is easy for me to say this, but how can we actually do it?

Again, the answer is simple.

Find a way to make even the dullest work fun by looking at it in a more positive way.

For instance, try listening to music while you’re working, or, if you like writing, create a story out of your history textbook. Or if you like math then do your math homework in between your other work so you are being productive as well as taking a break from the things you don’t like to do.

One of the most helpful solutions in order to increase your play-time is joining a club or sport that relates to your favorite activity. If you are athletic then there are school teams, which are more competitive. However, if the competition creates more stress, then there are also club teams that you can join which are more fun.

If you don’t like sports then there are plenty of other clubs and activities to join. For example, if you like politics you can join student government or Model UN.

If you like public speaking there’s forensics, and if you like foreign language there’s a whole plethora of language clubs.

There’s even clubs for technology or math or physics.

Your interests are the primary place of play because it gives you a chance to enjoy life rather than just doing what other people want you to do; your passion outside of the work place is one of the best forms of play that you can find. This applies to you even if you don’t like clubs or sports because your play can be something else that is the most important part of play: friends.
Your friends will always be there for you and whether you are going to the movies or just hanging out at home you can be assured that you will have a good time with them.

Play is different for everyone, but the most important part about it is the break it gives us from work. And most importantly, from school.

We are constantly bombarded by new assignments. Forced to work with other students on projects, and we are often in constant flux as to how we feel about our own identities.

But it doesn’t stop in high school. If you are in college you are trying to balance being away from home for the first time as well as ever challenging classes.

If you are out in the workforce you are competing for jobs and working as hard as you can to maintain all of the responsibilities that come with being on your own.

No matter where you are in your life you always need play.

For the high school student, believe me, I know what you are going through. This fourth quarter I have been working hard trying to keep my grade up in math, but for me this subject is abstruse. When I got my final test of the third quarter back I didn’t do as well as I’d hoped and so I got stuck with a grade that did not please me. I know I can do better and so I was upset, but after talking to my parents I realized that all of my stress is misplaced. Math is my work, not my play, and so rather than getting hung up on a failure at work, I learned that I must focus on what makes me happy and relaxed to make it through the stresses of my high school career.

If you react in the same way to this situation, just remember that it is one class and the most important thing in life is your happiness, so take a day of relaxation and don’t stress about things that you cannot control.

If you are a college student, find play in new friends and new experiences, and try to find a career that will make your work feel like play.

If you are out in the work force, make your career feel like play. Happiness can be found if you are just willing to go out and look for it no matter your stage in life.

The point of play goes all the way back to childhood. No matter your age everyone went through childhood, and it is at this point when you are able to play the most. Playing as young adults, full-grown adults, or the elderly all takes us back to the childhood fun we enjoyed so long ago.

In fact, a website called The Bold Life, published a list of suggestions on how to be more childlike. One of their pieces of advice corresponds to this view. They said, “Children live in the moment. They aren’t concerned with the pain of the past or fear of the future. Forget about the economy, abandon crazy deadlines or unsolvable problems. Be content with life now.”

What if we could fall back into familiar patterns and remember how it used to be, and actually be content? Well, why not? Maybe we don’t play with Barbies or army men anymore, but now our Barbie doll might be a new computer that lets us program to our heart’s content. Maybe our army man is a stethoscope and surgeon’s gloves, as we help others to heal. Who knows where your interests might take you?

WORK CAN BE PLAY! All you have to do is make it so.

Play is something that the individual can find if they just look for it. We can search for play in work or friends or hobbies, but what’s important is that we find it, because if you forget to play, life will truly have made you a very dull boy.
**Why We Need To Respect Ourselves and Each Other**

*How it May Change the Lives of You and Those Around You*

SOPHIA CLEGG STAFF REPORTER

Do you remember in elementary schools we all got those bullying talks? It would always start with this question: “Have you ever been bullied or bullied someone else?” Then you would go around and talk about standing up for people and being a bystander vs. being in the predicament.

I think there's a simple way to solve it, or at least start: respect.

If you can learn to respect yourself, then already one person respects you, the most important person. And if everyone respects themselves all you have to do is share that knowledge and that attitude, and more importantly, put it into respecting others. Then if everyone respects themselves and is on the road to respecting each other, then you won’t need to bully, talk down to someone, and make them feel inferior. Because you will know how it feels to be respected and know that everyone deserves respect. In addition, with all mindsets changed, even in the slightest, it can make a great impact on how people view themselves, making it easier to respect themselves. So, it’s a little change, but with possibility for a huge impact.

The Golden Rule: Treat others the way you would want to be treated. If this is applied and people followed this rule, then people will not only be happier and but more respected. Even if you do not have the best feelings about someone, or someone’s thoughts about something, if you follow this rule no one will feel disrespected or unimportant.

If you don’t have anything nice to say, don’t say anything at all. Okay, I understand constructive criticism is something we need to take and hear, but that’s not usually our intention. Saying something mean and rude does not build you up; it tears us down. And, no, that does not make you better in comparison and shouldn’t make you feel that way either. This will help us say and focus on nice things that help people, build not only other's views on them, but help an individual build their own self-esteem.

I know school is stressful and I know you get frustrated and everything just seems so tedious and pointless we want to scream. There are SOOO many times I just want to scream and yell.

However, I stop myself and think is what I’m about to say going to make someone feel better or worse?

Would I want someone I was trying to impress, hear me say that?

What if someone did that to me?

This leads me to PERSPECTIVE: walking in someone else’s shoes.

Helping others. It is as easy as that. You can see a person drop his or her books in a hallway, and keep walking, step over it, or be the rude person that even laughs, not pointing anyone out just saying. Or, you can be the person that picks up the books, helps someone carry them, or just tell the mean people to stop laughing.

**Being a bystander is just as bad.**

You may not be directly hurting the person, or even doing in intentionally, but it shows that you are too scared, or that the person does not matter enough, to take some heat off that bully. And standing there shows other people it’s not worth stopping. If you try to stop it, other people may join you.

If you have ever met me, you know I’m so clumsy. I drop things all the time. Sometimes people laugh at, or with; sometimes people pick up the things I drop. Or, if I fall, ask if I’m ok, lend me a hand to help me up, or simply pass by while giggling, smirking, or whispering while walking by. I can guarantee that I am not a perfect person and I don’t always help people up. However, I can say this: we are all human. I am human. You are human. We all make mistakes. We all need help or advice from time to time and sometimes we just need to let out a laugh or cry. However, laughing at someone else or someone’s mistakes is not how to get it out.

I am an outgoing person and whenever I drop something, or fall down or up the stairs I get embarrassed and try to just laugh it off. Sometimes I just get all red and hot and nervous that people are judging me and are going to laugh and I just close my eyes, count to three gather myself, pick up, and keep walking. I can promise you most people here, not even just students have
tripped, fallen, dropped something, and just straight out taken an L about a lot of things.

I can count on one hand the amount of times I have gotten through a day without dropping, falling, and tripping at least once throughout the day. I can think of more times I have encountered those things twice, or three times. So trust me, don't fuss about it. It happens. And, if people laugh, let them laugh, because it has happened to them too and I have learned to laugh at myself, laugh it off and pretend it didn’t get to me and stand back up and walk my little self down the hallway while letting whoever talks, talk.

And when it happens to them, be the bigger person offer them a helping hand up, ask if they’re ok or just ask them if they even need help.

Don’t hold a grudge. Don’t stoop to their level. Don’t let them know it got to you, or if it did, talk to them about it, and if it happens to them don’t do any of that “just keep walking and let them get up like you did.”

You are strong. Beautiful. Handsome. And you deserve to respect yourself. You deserve for others to respect you. On top of all of this, respect shouldn’t just mean you don’t hate them, but that you want to help them.

Saying “I’m sorry.” Two words that take five seconds to say but can fix a fight, make someone less sad, or acknowledge you messed up.

It’s so easy to say sorry and we all make mistakes that we regret so I do not understand why everyone makes such a big deal of it. When you were little your mom would threaten you or make you say you’re sorry. I believe this made kids view it negatively. Whenever someone said they were sorry, it meant very little, because you knew they were made to say it and you did it to get revenge and probably get their mom involved and get them in trouble.

But, in the real world it means someone truly regrets something, and respects you and your feelings. If someone did something rude, you would want him or her to sincerely be sorry, not just, so they wouldn’t be grounded or so they wouldn’t lose a toy, but because it hurt you and it shows.

Put people first, literally and figuratively.

If you hold the door open and you let someone go before you, this shows you respect them. Or making sure someone gets to do what they want, before you do what you want. There are a lot of ways to put people first, but to me the most important is putting someone’s feeling first.

Sure, yelling and being rude or mean may make you less angry, but how is that going to make the person receiving this action feel?

Probably mad, and they will most likely be sad to, and confused to why you would do this. This also will not fully help you that is. So put that person’s feelings first because in the end it will probably help both of you.

Random acts of kindness. I’m not saying you need to go out and buy everyone a car. It doesn’t have to be something that costs anything, though spending money may be less effort and may be easier to find or do. It could range from just holding the door for someone, giving people compliments, passing a smile, paying for the person behind you in the drive through, bringing a friend a cup of coffee or hot cocoa, letting your friend borrow your clothes or shoes, helping someone with anything and everything.

THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS.

And, to explain what I meant by things involving money may be easier; while you may not see someone having a bad day, you may not run into someone who dropped their books, you may not know someone that needs help.

However, usually there will be someone behind you in a drive-through, usually a friend would like or need a warm drink in the cold or a cold drink when it’s hot. You do not need to find the most needy person or donate all your money and clothes, I’m not saying you can’t, and if you want to, go for it because that’s amazing and so nice and courageous, but that also takes a lot and not everyone wants to or can do that.

Something you can always do is just pass a smile, compliment everyone (or try to), and try to make it sincere or just simply wave to someone, say hello, hold open a door, or say bless you when someone sneezes.

These things maybe simple but, if someone is having a bad day these things could make all the difference, bring a smile to their face, and maybe change their outlook.

If someone else sees the effect even one of the smallest random acts of kindness has, it may encourage them to do something too.

Respect is easy to show and greatly appreciated so next time you see someone don’t put them down, but help build them up.
Why We Need to Speak Up and Speak Out
Use Your Voice and Your Pen to Spread Your Opinions and Feelings

ISABELLE KRATZ EDITOR IN CHIEF

We all know that our forefathers created a bill of rights to protect our rights as citizens, unlike the tyranny experienced under King George III.

However, some people don't even use their rights because they don't know what they are. Well, look no further than the first amendment. The first amendment gives citizens the right to freedom of speech, press, religion, peaceful protest, and to petition the government for grievances. This means differing political opinions, religious beliefs, and diversity. This can lead to printed political opinions that degrade politicians or showcase them in a negative light. No matter your opinion on the person, this is legal and civil right to criticize them, and no matter your religion, you won't be discriminated. While recently these examples have been put into question, I want to focus on the third: freedom of speech.

In some countries this is a coveted right that some Americans never think twice about. All of American citizens' rights are listed in the Bill of Rights, and as far as other countries go, Americans have a plethora of freedoms. Through the Bill of Rights we have freedom of speech, press, peaceful protest, to petition the government for grievances, a right to bear arms, consent to house soldiers during wartime, protection of property from unwarranted searches without due cause, innocent until proven guilty, right to trial by jury, and no excessive bails, fines, or unusual punishments.

However your rights extend past the Bill of Rights into the 16 amendments added to the Constitution, like banishment of slavery, all persons born in the United States are considered citizens and receive due process before the law, race cannot abridge citizens from voting, and your sex does not discriminate voting rights. These are your rights that you receive when you are born in America. The government cannot take these away from you.

I urge you to speak up any time that these rights are threatened. Let your story be heard and let your state senator or house representative know; it is their job to bring citizens' wants to government meetings. In fact, when you feel like government has abridged your rights, you're probably not the only person who feels that way, but you'll never know if you don't discuss it. Your first step doesn't have to be taking it to city hall or your local township meeting. Your first step is to talk to your friends and family because if you can't talk freely and with courage in front of those you love, then how will you speak in front of your peers and those in your town?

On a more basic level, I urge you to speak up and speak out about your beliefs. Both your less serious and more serious beliefs. If you believe that movies are better than books, I want to hear your opinion why, before I school you in my opinion that books are SO much better than movies. I want to hear why you think Pepsi is better than Coke or why leggings go better with hoodies than skinny jeans.

Just talk. To me.
To those around you.
Please use your voice instead of your phone.

Junior Natalie Cristel told me a story about the time junior Tyler Viljaste went to Olive Garden and ordered some delicious grilled chicken. He cut the chicken, and his heart dropped and his knife slipped onto the cold stone floor. His mouth hung open, and he screamed internally. His. Chicken. Was. Undercooked. He knew something had to be done, so he stood up shakily and whispered, “It's undercooked.” The waitress walked over and asked him what was wrong, and he said louder, “It's undercooked.” She still didn’t hear him, so he yelled “MY CHICKEN IS UNDERCOOKED.” “That day, Tyler was glad that he spoke up for something he knew was wrong,” finished Cristel.

In a more serious matter freshman Chloe Erder helped solve a bullying issue. She saw her friends bullying other people in her class during her eighth grade year, so she went to her principal's office and told her about it. She helped end a vicious tendency that occurs unnoticed without action in schools all the time.

Even my 10-year-old younger sister had a chance to speak up, and she didn't hesitate. In the cafeteria at her school, the boys were slowly taking over the whole table, so even after all her friends left, she yelled at the boys and told them to stop taking over the table. She stirred so much trouble that her teacher intervened and told her and her friends to move to a different table. She lost the battle, but the war over the prime fifth grade lunch table still continues. She looked at me like I was crazy when I smiled at this story, but considering she already has the initiative to speak up when she feels wronged, I was smiling because I'm proud of her.

Maybe it’s a personality thing, but I love discussing books, movies, TV, society, and anything where differing opinions are likely. While conversations where people have similar opinions are easier, they aren’t as always as fun, also, speaking to people with differing opinions from you open your eyes. You can learn so much about other cultures and their histories when hearing a view point that’s different from yours. They say history is written by the victors, but learning about white superiority, male dominance, and capitalism gets boring after five years of history, but that’s because women and people of color were suppressed for almost two millennia of modern history.
The only stories we have from women and people of color are from the people who were courageous enough to talk or write about them.

During the 1890s Ida B. Wells had to report and tell stories about lynching of black people in the south from England because of the repression of the south. The way the north found out about lynching in the south and horrors that happened through the Jim Crow Laws were through stories of African Americans from the south, some came from Ida B. Wells, who is one of the more well-known people who reported about lynching and conditions of African Americans during the nadir of American race relations.

It takes a lot of courage talk about your problems or issues, even world issues. It takes a lot of write about them, too, though sometimes it’s easier. It takes courage to speak up and speak out in general. While I entreat you to use your voice and speak, I also encourage you to write, too. Writing is another form of speaking up and speaking out, without actually using your voice. Personally I am better at writing than speaking. I prefer writing to speaking about important topics. Writing gives you more time to gather your thoughts and refine them. I can explain my thoughts and feelings with more ease when I have time, and in conversation I try my hardest, but half the time I end up sounding disconnected. Every time I have a conversation I think of better answers or responses minutes after the conversation ended, and I kick myself for not thinking of it sooner. With writing, I have time, and I can revise, and it makes promulgating my ideas A LOT easier.

One person who didn’t waste his opportunity to speak up was Alexander Hamilton. This founding father is an immigrant who made his way to America because he spoke up about his life, in metaphors and hyperboles to extensive degrees, but nonetheless he spoke up, and the people of his hometown were so impressed by his writing that they collected funds to send him to America to further his education. Lin-Manuel Miranda’s musical, Hamilton touches on the subjects of speaking up and staying quiet. Hamilton, while brash and abrasive, never kept his mouth shut. “My Shot,” is a song Hamilton sings to tell the audience he won’t “throw away his shot,” and he does this by speaking up.

Hamilton sings in the second act “I wrote my way out,” out of the Caribbean and to America. If Hamilton had never spoken up through his writings, then history would have been different. How would George Washington have fared without Hamilton? How different would our government have been? Maybe it’s my personal affinity for Hamilton, but I dislike the notion of a world where Hamilton didn’t travel to America.

We can’t change the past, but we can change and shape our futures, and we can only do that by speaking up and speaking out.

Even the antagonist and fellow founding father, Aaron Burr, tried Hamilton’s method after his motto: “talk less, smile more” failed in his pursuits.

Besides using your voice to exercise your political rights or fight for what you believe in, you can use it to be kind. You can choose to speak to the “new kid.” Just talking to someone can change their life for the better and form deep friendships or relationships.

Junior Alice Qian spoke up and asked the new girl in freshman year honors English class if she wanted to be a part of her group for the project. She asked, out of the three girls already in the group, and the new girl gave her a weird look and said maybe. Qian was glad she tried, but the girl said yes. They talked more and became friends. She introduced her to some of her best friends: juniors Melody Lin, Taylor Brenner, and Morgan Allen, and they worked on all of their English projects together for the rest of freshman year, while their friendship deepened. They had AP Euro together sophomore year, and together they kept each other sane as they triumphed over 600 plus years of politics, empires, kings, wars, inventions, societies, cultures, and trends. And they triumphed. They helped each other, and they both got fours on the AP exam. Qian loves her, despite her “weird obsessions” with Harry Potter and Fall Out Boy.

That new girl is me, and I’m thankful every day that she was courageous enough to speak up and choose to be kind and take a chance on the new girl. She is one of my best friends, and I hers, and I can’t imagine how different high school would have been without her.

These stories and my words have a purpose. I’m not telling you these stories because they’re entertaining. I’m trying to inspire you. Change starts with a seed of an idea, but change takes action. My want is for you to be unafraid to speak your mind, to stand up for what you believe in, but I can’t do that part for you. You have to choose to speak, to fight for what you believe in. You can’t be passive about your feelings, thoughts, and opinions, but you can’t be all talk and no game.

Many Americans were passive about this past election, so only 51% of Americans showed up to vote this past Election Day. ONLY 51%. How is that okay? These people who didn’t go out to vote are paying the price now for their passiveness. Thankfully they’re not being passive now. They’ve chosen to speak up, speak out, and take action now that they believe it’s necessary. That’s why the Women’s March happened on January 21, in so many cities across America and even the world: these people refuse to be quiet. That’s why people are protesting the “Immigration Ban” with airport protests and lawyers voluntarily helping people fight for what is legally theirs.

Change starts with a seed of an idea because someone spoke up and spoke out, but it takes initiative and action to really make a difference. People have started to realize that: that someone else can’t speak for them or take action for them, so slowly but surely, more and more people are using their voices and speaking up and speaking out and taking action. But it’s not enough yet, so I urge you: use your voice. It’s there for a reason, so use it.

So, while change takes time, please never let the most difficult part about change be because you didn’t speak up and speak out.
Five Movies You Should Never Watch

CAITLIN COLE STAFF REPORTER

There have been some major flops in the movie industry. Do yourself a favor and save some time by never watching these movies:

#1 The Jungle Book (2016): I went into this movie thinking it would be good because I liked the original. Let’s just say it was the longest one hour and 51 minutes of my life. The duration bored me out of my mind. The second it was over, I darted out of the theater because I couldn’t wait to get home and do something worthwhile. If you’re hungry for a jungle story, just watch the original.

#2 Zoolander 2: This movie definitely killed a bunch of my brain cells. I couldn’t even tell you what it was about because it was completely random and strange. It probably would have helped if I watched the first one, but that would have wasted even more of my time. Watching this movie pushed me to the point of leaving the theater and hiding in the bathroom for 20 minutes just to do something other than watch it.

#3 Coraline: The actual plot is not the worst, but the people who made it did not pull it off. This is supposed to be a children’s movie, so I watched it as a child. I could not sleep for a week. This is the creepiest movie I have ever seen.

#4 Central Intelligence: This movie is comparable to Zoolander 2. There was no point, and I was confused about it. Unless you’re in the mood for a weird, bad comedy, I would not recommend it.

#5 Mean Girls 2: I was expecting this movie to be a continuation of Cady Herring and Regina George, but nowhere did these names come up. The story is completely different. The worst part is the claim that it was a sequel of the unbeatable first one.


High School Just Got a Whole Lot Harder…

ELAINA HARRIS FEATURES EDITOR

High school is already a difficult time for students, but the book series Quarantine, takes this already hard time in a person’s life to a whole new level, with the romance of a YA novel but the intensity of a post-apocalyptic adventure, the characters are constantly tested in a well woven tale of action, love and survival.

Many events in the first book of the series center around two brothers, David and William, who lost their mom in a recent car accident leaving them with only each other and their dad. Once a star quarterback on the fast track the loss of his mother led David to quit the football team as well as cutting out all of the people that he once called friends.

Will, David’s younger brother, begins the story as an enthusiastic freshman, after spending a summer on a retreat called Wild Trek which led him to believe that he can handle anything that comes his way. On the first day of school David’s jealous backlash against the new star quarterback for stealing his girlfriend has jeopardized any chance he had at reconnecting with his old life and the popularity he once had. Unfortunately, this loss of David’s popularity comes at the exact wrong time.

The story travels from the party to the first day of school where an illegal experiment creates a disease which infects David and Will’s entire high school. Unfortunately, this disease only affects teenagers, but fortunately it leaves their system once they grow out of puberty. This leads the government to decide to release them periodically as the disease moves out of their system, leaving many of the younger students with four years trapped inside the school before they can finally leave.

After about a year in captivity groups of students have joined together into separate gangs, The Freaks, the Sluts, the Skaters, the Nerds, the Geeks, the Pretty Ones, and the jocks who have come to call themselves Varsity. For anyone who doesn’t have a place in these gangs, they are left alone to fend for themselves and are known as Scraps. Thanks to David’s stunt at the party the year before and Will’s epilepsy medication running out leaving him liable to seize at any given moment, they are left alone, without a gang, creating much bitterness between them.

“The Loners” takes the reader on a journey through the struggles that the brothers face and the eventual attempts of Scraps like them to band together in order to fight back against the school which has cast them out. It is a story of coming of age and of acceptance and fighting for what is right as well as a post-apocalyptic adventure that keeps the reader on the edge of their seat.
Monk TV Review: *Corky Detective Solves the Case & Boredom*

RYAN MURPHY ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Over the course of 8 seasons and 125 episodes, Private Detective Adrian Monk (Tony Shalhoub) captivates our attention with his traumatic life story and extreme obsessive-compulsive disorders.

The story line follows Monk, his assistant, and his friends at the San Francisco Police Department as they solve murder mysteries. You never know what crazy stunt Monk will pull next in order catch a killer, and he almost always ends up getting dirty, which is incredibly ironic based on his personality.

In addition, the entire series follows Monk’s decade long investigation into the murder of his wife Trudy. Her death led to Monk’s countless phobias and ridiculous OCD. He battles these illnesses throughout the series, and quite frequently, they add a comedic element to the plot.

Throughout the show, the audience watches Monk progress in his distinct personality and develop relationships with the other characters around him. For example, Monk and Captain Leland Stottlemeyer (Ted Levine) grow in their friendship and are closer than ever by the series finale. In addition, Monk’s second assistant Natalie Teger (Traylor Howard) becomes a beacon of light and a true caretaker in Monk’s life.

Tony Shahloub has won two Emmy Awards as best actor in a television comedy for his role as Monk. He also won a Golden Globe for the role in 2002 along with countless other nominations. Shahloub’s skills in portraying such an odd and atypical character definitely make this series worth watching. Hopefully, it will make an appearance in the Netflix library sometime soon.

Movie Review: *Angus Explores “Chubby” Insecurities in High School*

RILEY MOORE NEWS AND FEATURES EDITOR

There are plenty of old movies in the world, but what some may consider the “classics” are not the “classics” to everyone else. The “classics” I’m referring to are the 80s and 90s “teen movies” that are often imitated, but never duplicated. While some people might say that some of the best teen movies include *The Breakfast Club, Can’t Buy Me Love, Ferris Bueller’s Day Off,* and *Pretty in Pink,* there are many “gems” of teen movies that go overlooked. My family has one “teen movie” that many call cliché, but it’s something that we call phenomenal, heart-breaking, uplifting, and altogether fun. This movie is none other than the 1995 film, *Angus,* starring James Van Der Beek (famous from *Dawson’s Creek* and the meme of where he cries), Charlie Talbert, George C. Scott, Chris Owen, Ariana Richards, Anna Thomson, and Kathy Bates.

*Angus* is a story about a boy named Angus Bethune (Talbert), who from the beginning of the film, expresses his frustration with being a chubby kid named after a cow. He is an incredibly skilled football player and is talented in science and math, but nonetheless, he holds deep insecurities. Since a young age, Rick Sanford (Van Der Beek) has bullied him, and his only friend is Troy (Owen), another social outcast. Angus likes a girl named Melissa Lefevre (Richards), but he is afraid of expressing these feelings because she is dating Rick. Due to constant abuse from Rick and his friends, Angus decides to apply to a magnet school in order to escape humiliation. Unbeknownst to Angus, Rick rigs the election for the Freshman Winter Ball so the two will dance together as King and Queen. This frustrates Angus because he is afraid he will mess up and embarrass himself, and essentially, throughout the course of the story, with the help of his mother (Bates) and his grandfather (Scott). Angus’ grandfather is a narcoleptic free-spirit, and he doesn’t want his grandson to be afraid of bullies. Throughout the course of the story, Angus learns to be confident in himself, and learns that “normal” doesn’t exist, hence he shouldn’t worry about trying to reach that goal.

This movie, though it is not a unique plot, has uplifting characters and a shocking relatability to our everyday lives. Everyone can relate to the outcast, the person who just wants to feel wanted. Plus, the story is about how we don’t need to be afraid to be ourselves. All in all, *Angus* is a feel-good movie every high-school student should see.
Turkish Drama: Kiralık Ask Is a MUST Watch

ISABELLE KRATZ EDITOR IN CHIEF

As part of my diverse reading challenge this year, I decided to diversify my TV shows as well.

While I’ve only watched one new TV show, that’s because the show hooked me.

Kiralık Ask follows waitress Defne who needs a miracle to retrieve her brother Serdar from the mafia, and Omer is a workaholic introvert who has distanced himself from his grandfather, money, and love. Neriman is Omer’s aunt who attempts to set Omer on a date in the hopes that he will eventually marry, so he can claim the inheritance from his grandfather and become head of the household. Neriman’s mainly in it for the money and house she’ll receive from it all. After a failed date causes Omer to escape by pretending Defne’s his girlfriend, Neriman decides to set Defne up as Omer’s personal assistant in the hopes that they’ll fall in love and marry, and in return she gives Defne the money needed to get her brother back, plus a wardrobe, hair, and makeup renovation. The TV follows Omer and Defne’s relationship from there.

A friend of mine recommended it to me, and I’m mad I didn’t start it sooner.

The show is ADDICTIVE. She pitched it to me as a romantic comedy show, and while it is both cutesy and hilarious it is also EXTREMELY dramatic.

Neriman is a drama queen and spends the day gossiping and planning revenge on Yasemin, her arch nemesis who works with Omer, plans romantic encounters all day with Koray, Omer’s photographer, and Neriman’s closest friend. Neriman’s husband, Necme is unwillingly dragged into this whole scheme, but his dynamic with Neriman repeatedly makes me laugh.

Not only is the show dramatic, but it frustrates me to no end. I don’t have much patience, and this show only aggravates my existing patience, but I’m too engrossed in the story to stop watching.

I also know parts of the ending, like who Defne and Omer end up with and if they have happy futures, but that’s ALL I know. The journey is the most important part of the story, and I’m trying to be patient and just watch everything unfold, but that’s easier said than done at times.

Multiple times I’ve screamed while watching. I also melted into a pile of emotions a couple times because of romantic cuteness. I may have paused a couple times to fight off the secondhand embarrassment or as an attempt to stop something that I don’t want to happen from happening, but alas, it never works.

Since the show is Turkish, I watch it on Youtube, with English subtitles. If you look up the channel “Kiralik Ask Napisy PL” you should be able to figure out everything else from there.

Kiralık Ask creates emotions, gives an insight into Turkish culture, and makes me happy, so go watch it.

Baking Across the Pond: “Great British Baking Show” Charms

SARAH LUIKEN ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Do you watch Food Network? If you do, you know that at any given time, the shows feature high-strung and angry chefs running around, bumping into each other, screaming and crying at their cooking frustration.

This is not the case for PBS’ Great British Baking Show.

Instead, this program opts for a tent in the middle of a rural field, polite bakers interested in actually helping each other, and, of course, baking puns and innuendos bound to make you grin.

Called the “Bake Off” in the UK, hosts Mel and Sue guide a very select group of home bakers through a series of three challenges that determine their abilities as a baker.

First, bakers may practice and bring to the tent a signature challenge; the only guideline is the type of bake the chefs must produce, but flavors, breads, jams, and any other special touches are completely up to each individual baker. Then, the bakers move onto their technical challenge. In the technical, the contestants must use their instincts and experience to compensate for an otherwise vague recipe given to them by judges Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood. Finally, the bakers must produce a gaudy and decorative bake in their showstopper competition.

At the end of each episode, any contestant who fails to produce worthy bakes during the three challenges is sent home.

I am completely obsessed with this show. I always read Brits on social media raving about this addictive program, and I barely thought anything of it. When Netflix added it to their collection, I remembered all the hilarious screenshots and GIFs from social media, and decided to give it a whirl.

Now, my attention this month only has eyes for British bakers. Sorry, teachers!

You must watch this show. The contestants on this show never yell or scream or run about madly, and the whole setting of the tent in an open field is extremely pleasant. Pleasant is the perfect way to describe this show: pleasant, relaxing, and a perfect way to kill time.

And if you’re not interested in being completely relaxed while dreaming of pastries, cakes, and breads, you must watch it, at least, for Her Royal Highness Mary Berry, the queen of baking.
Prom: To Go or Not to Go; That is the Question

Prom is absolutely the most significant event of your entire existence. It is more important than getting married, having babies, launching a successful career and traveling combined. In fact, if you don’t go to prom, you might as well cover your face with a brown bag and call yourself a failure because you will have made the biggest mistake of your life. If you do not go to prom, every single person in high school will remember that you didn’t go and judge you for it. And most importantly remember that EVERYTHING I just said is a complete and utter lie.

Deciding to go to prom or not is an individual choice. Your prom experience (or lack thereof) will not get you into a good college or land you an impressive job. Despite what popular media may suggest, not attending prom will not label you a social outcast or ruin your reputation. In fact, not going may even be a better choice in the longrun. Here are the reasons why prom might not matter as much as social media promises, and why you shouldn’t let yourself feel bad if you choose not to go:

- **Tickets & dresses can be expensive:** A typical prom experience can cost anywhere between 100 to 900 dollars, depending on your level of enthusiasm and dress costs.
- **Socializing might become awkward:** There is no set formula to determine how much time you must spend with your date versus how much time you should spend with your friends; you will undoubtedly be haunted by a lingering sense of confusion all night as you either drag your poor date back and forth across the room or make the decision to abandon them for hours at a time.

Prom is a grain of sand on a very long beach. While it may be one of the prettier specks, when you’re old you probably won’t even be able to see the difference between that prom particle and all the others. There are plenty of other opportunities to dress up such as weddings, fancy business events, and balls. And the number one reason to not regret not going to prom goes to…

**Prom is not a once in a lifetime experience:** Don’t believe what you see in TV shows and magazines about prom being a once-in-a-lifetime experience with confetti raining down from the heavens. Prom is a high school dance with a fancy name.

Do whatever your heart desires and leave your regrets behind because when it comes to four letter words, life is the only one that truly matters. Don’t waste it trying to please others. Make up your own decision as to go to prom or not. What are your thoughts, PR? Write to us: prhsrampageneews@gmail.com

**Fourth Quarter Struggles: You CAN Make it Through Final Stretch**

High school students around the country struggle to get through the fourth quarter, so you’re not alone, PR, if you feel the same challenge to make it through the rest of the year.

The pleasant weather is what really brings us down at this time of the school year. Instead of being able to run around and soak in the sun, we’re stuck inside for over SEVEN hours each weekday. On top of it all, we don’t get the chance to spend time outside after school either. We have hours of work that continuously builds up, and no motivation to do it.

Freshman Ashley Zaldivar said, “It is sort of a struggle. I mean the year is almost over, so I’m getting very impatient.”

Summer seems so close. With warm weather right outside, and a nice spring break recently ending, toughing through this last month and a half is a huge endeavor.

Freshman Kelley McLain said, “The fourth quarter does seem harder. I feel like I have had more work from my teachers, and my tests are getting harder.”

There is also the matter of the increasing workload.

“We tend to have more homework and tests in a smaller period of time,” said freshman Mackenzie Hackel.

School-related travel more frequently occurs in the fourth quarter, such as the recent Spain and France trips, as well as the chorus’ visit to New York, and the Marching Band’s trip to Universal Studios in Florida. These trips lead to large gaps of missed school for these students that can be tough to make up all the work for. Another factor that influences students’ academic careers during the last nine weeks are spring sports such as Track and Field, Softball, and Lacrosse just to name a few.

For instance, an anonymous distance runner said, “The fourth quarter is hard because it is so close to summer and so the classes feel even harder. Not only this, but spring sports add to the exhaustion and lack of time to do the tremendous amount of work piled on at the end of the year.”

In all, the end of the school year is a hard time for all students. Whether that be due to band trips, spring sports, or just pure excitement for summer, everyone is feeling the stress.
Camels Rides Amaze Circus Goers
MEREDITH MUSCHWECK STAFF REPORTER

The Shrine Circus came to town for a few days last week. On Friday April 7th, I went with juniors Landi Batykefer, Bailey Osborne, and sophomore Isabel Muschweck. We were sitting in a box at the PPG Paints Arena, where we could see everything from where we were sitting.

This was one of the greatest shows I have attended. There were elephants, camels, bears, and tigers in the show. The elephants were super cute and they ate watermelon and did a few tricks. When the camels came out, I could not contain my laughter. They did not do any tricks; instead, they just ran in circles around the ring. It was honestly one of the most hilarious moments of the circus. The bears were the most adorable animals I have ever seen. They did some handstands and danced. They also rode in a little car. The tigers were beautiful; they are such majestic animals. They did jumps through rings and their trainers did a good job of making sure they did well.

The best part of the circus was when we rode camels. This has to have been one of the weirdest experiences of my life. I rode by myself in front of the hump. It was pure bliss; I could not stop smiling. I had the most fun riding this camel. He was so friendly and funny. I did have a hard time getting off though (so did Landi with her sling).

I also got pictures with a few clowns; they were cute, retired older men. They looked like they were having the time of their lives. I used to be terrified of clowns, but this helped me conquer my fear.

The acrobats were one of the most interesting parts of the circus. They were suspended up in the air on the trapeze and they performed flips and jumps. The trick that impressed me the most was the triple front flip. It took them two tries and they finally got it and the acrobat caught the other acrobat. The women and men who were part of this act were so talented and it had to have been one of the coolest things I have ever seen.

For those of you who have not heard of Johnny Rocket, look him up. He was not very entertaining, but his haircut was. He had a huge, spiked mohawk. He mainly did dancing at the start; we stood up and sang and danced along with him. Later in the show, he rode on a motorcycle suspended in the air. I got a picture with him and I got his autograph during the intermission.

I highly recommend checking out the circus in your lifetime. It was fun and I am glad I had the chance to go with some of my best friends. I laughed to the point where I was crying multiple times. These memories will never be forgotten. I had fun acting like a little kid for bit and cheering, dancing, and singing along with the acts.

Clowns Terrify Me and Everyone Else
LANDI BATYKEFER ASSISTANT OPINION EDITOR

I am not a huge fan of clowns (I will get into that later), and I was a little weary about going just for that fact. I have not gone to the circus since I was probably five. Why not go, I thought to myself, especially since it was Meredith’s birthday that Tuesday.

The night started when all four of us drove into the city; Meredith and Isabel’s uncle is the CEO of Gateway Financial so he was able to get free tickets to anything that happens at the arena. Uncle Dave got us box seats so that was a neat experience; I had never been in a box.

After we got to the box we got food and let me tell you, the chicken tenders were SO GOOD!!! The circus started and we took our seats, but I did forget my glasses and I cannot see distance so that kinda stunk. They had the normal animal acts, lions, tigers, bears… OH MY (hahaha). They also had the acrobats doing the tricks in the air and stuff, even though they missed a few tricks trying to catch each other it is still so impressive that someone can move like that and do what they can do.

At the intermission, and the end of the circus you are allowed to go on the arena, ride the animals, go on the blow-ups, and take pictures with… CLOWNS! They literally had a RING of clowns that you could go in and take pictures… so a ring of my biggest fear.

Meredith, Bailey, and Isabel all wanted to take pictures, so I walked in with them, got really hot and felt like I was going to pass out and had to walk out. I got so anxious and nervous with 30+ clowns around me I had to walk out, and I called my mom! They did convince me to go on the very end and get a picture with them, so I was on the end and made sure that the clown did not touch me.

I am happy I went and especially with people, who I love, trust and care about. Yes, like everything there were a few things I was not 100% okay with. For example the women acrobats had on scandalous leotards, and if you think about it there are hundreds of children looking up (literally) at them and they are not wearing much material. That is really the only thing I was not okay with; everything else was amazing.

All in all, I had an amazing time at the Shrine Circus and I am for sure going back next year.