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Inside:

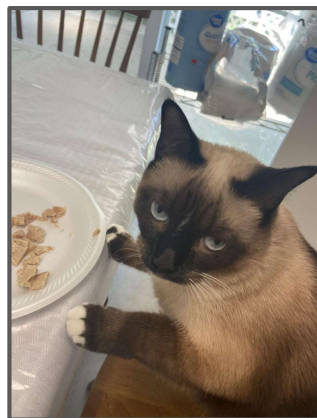
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Our Staff

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TikTok Ban?

By Len M.

The CEO of TikTok, Shou Chew, was interviewed by the U.S. federal government, in regards to the privacy of American Data security. There are concerns over whether TikTok shares user's data with the Chinese government.

These concerns have grown over the past few years, leaving an air of uncertainty about the future of TikTok. Millions of Americans are watching along as a decision is being made in Congress.

Many have spoken out, stating that the TikTok ban is meant to be used as a tool to silence the younger generation's voices.

The arguments made during the hearing led many Gen Z's to create content mocking the whole ordeal. CEO Shou Chew's followers increased sharply to 3.5 million under a three day period.

Gen Z has continued to speak out against this possible ban, in both serious and non serious ways. They have been reaching out to their respective representatives to voice their opinions on this ban. Chew's fans are now making edits of him during his interview with Congress and shipping him with the leftist politicians (old folks translation: they are making it appear as if Chew and the congressmen are having a conversation.) Will the politicians against TikTok change their minds after hearing from Gen Z?

This government intervention leads to many questions. Are there any other reasons behind the possible ban on TikTok? Is the government trying to control the younger generation and their more left wing political opinions? Will this ban lead to other possible bans in the future in social media? Why is Tik Tok being targeted inseed of other social media platforms that share more private data?



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Expressing Empathy for Criminals

By Waffles H.

When many people think of criminals, they often picture individuals who made conscious choices to harm others for personal gain. In reality, there's far more to that, and to judge criminals solely on their actions without any true knowledge of who they actually are is cruel.

Empathy is all about understanding what experiences and emotions someone else may be facing. Although it may seem hard to empathize with this group of people, it is important to remember that they are human beings who are deserving of care as well. Although they may have done horrible things, we have to recognize that their actions are often a direct reflection of their emotional state.

Many factors come into play when determining one's emotional state, such as social, economical, and physiological factors that could be well beyond their control. Having empathy for these individuals does not mean you support their criminal behavior. To put it simply, you are only recognizing that everyone's circumstances are different, and sometimes your circumstances can push you to do hurtful things.

If we start to understand criminals with more empathy, that can help us understand the factors which may contribute to criminal behavior, so then, we can work to address these individuals in a more humane way. Often, people who are misunderstood get locked away by the government. It really would feel horrible to be locked away for such a huge portion of your life feeling like no one took the time to try and understand why you did the things you have done.

Everyone has the capability to engage in criminal activities. Behind every criminal act is a human being with their own set of struggles and experiences. If we give more empathy to this group of people, we could better understand why they do the things they do, and create an environment in which everyone feels they are deserving of compassion and understanding to prevent more crimes even before they happen.

The Current State Of CryptoCurrency

By Ryan F.

What is cryptocurrency? Cryptocurrency is a digital currency with no physical form to it where transactions are verified and maintained records by a decentralized system using cryptology instead of the normal centralized authority.

The cryptocurrency market is still a topic of interest and debate in 2023. The adoption and acceptance of cryptocurrencies by mainstream institutions and individuals have increased, but the market remains unpredictable.

Many experts remain optimistic about the future of cryptocurrencies, despite recent price swings.

While the headlines speak of the downfall of crypto in November, 2022 it seems to be making a comeback and should stabilize soon.

As with any investment, it's important to do research and understand the risks before investing in digital assets.



The NHL Playoffs

By Callahan R.



The NHL Playoffs start on Monday April 17, and we have some great matchups to look forward to this year. The Boston Bruins are favored with +350 odds, which is far ahead from Colorado with +650 odds.

The Boston Bruins are definitely the best team the league has seen in a long time. After their record breaking season with 65 wins, they broke the record for the most wins in an NHL season, surpassing the 95-96 Detroit Red Wings. They also broke the points per season record with 135 points. This record passes the 96-97 Montreal Canadians who racked up 132.

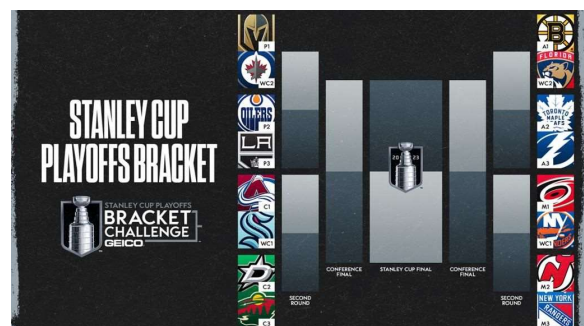
When one looks at the Bruins squad, one can see the reason they were so good. 60 goal scorer David Pastrnak is their star, but even their 4th forward line is solid with Nick Foligno and Garnet Hathaway (a former Washington Capital.) Most teams who do this well in the regular season end up running out of gas. For example, the 2018-19 Tampa Bay Lightning were swept (lost four straight games) by the Columbus Blue Jackets. I don't think this will be the case for them, due to the depth of the roster.

The reigning Stanley Cup Champions, the Colorado Avalanche, also have a great chance at going back to back, just like the Tampa Bay Lightning. The Avs have not been as much of a stand out as the Bruins, but I think they have the ability as a team to go deep into the playoffs. With the addition of Alexander Georgiev from the Rangers, they now have improved their goaltending, which has been a weakness of theirs from years past. With their explosive top line of Nathan Mackinnon, Mikko Rantanen and Evan Rodrigues, scoring goals will hardly be a problem. They will also be hoping for their star defenseman Cale Makar to return from injury to provide the team with a defensive boost.

The Rangers-Devils will meet in the first round for a physically demanding matchup of the playoffs. These two teams have had history in the playoffs and have a rivalry that has spanned over 40 years. The Rangers are based in Manhattan at MSG and the Devils are based in New Jersey with their stadium in Newark. These two teams' home arenas are 30 minutes away from each other, and therefore fight each other for revenue. On the roster side of this series, The Rangers have no shortage of talented players with Mika Zibanejad, Patrick Kane, Artemi Panarin and Vladimir Tarasenko. The Devils have their number one pick from 2019, Jack Hughes, who has had a breakout season with 43 goals.

The Tampa Bay Lightning and Toronto Maple Leafs are set for another entertaining first round matchup. Last year, the series went the full seven games with the Lightning coming out on top. Andrei Vasilevskiy is going to be the key factor in who will win this series. Vasilevskiy has always found a way to find another gear come playoff time. Tampa will definitely need the best goaltending possible when facing the Leafs offense, which includes Auston Matthews, Mitch Marner and William Nylander. The Leafs have yet to win a playoff series in 19 years.

The Los Angeles Kings are facing the Edmonton Oilers in their quest to become Stanley Cup Champions. The NHL Playoffs have seen the achilles heel for the Edmonton Oilers in recent history. They have been favored rather heavily for the past two years and have not delivered on the hype. Their captain, Connor McDavid, had a 150 point season and is sure to influence this series in a huge way. The Kings definitely don't look like they would be much of a challenge for the Oilers, but we have seen teams like the Kings go deep into the playoffs before.

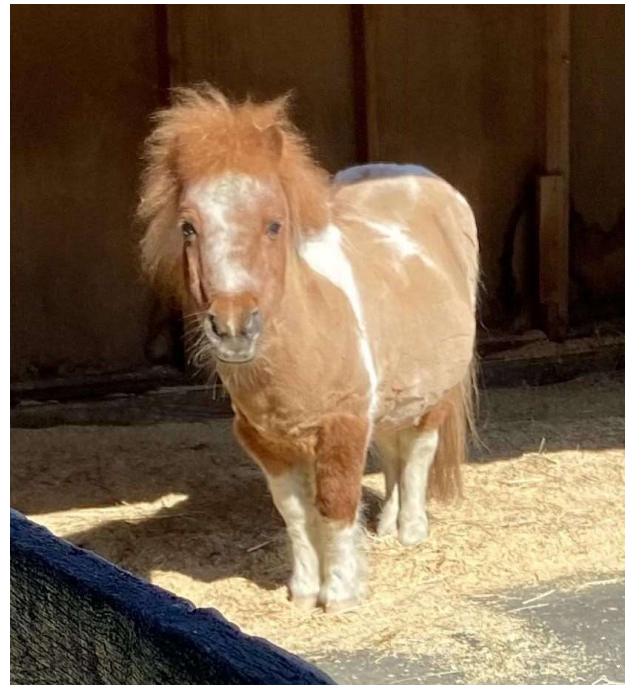


Jack the Cutie

By Waffles H.

On Tuesday, April 25, Cedar Lane students visited Project Horse and met some pretty remarkable horses.

They were cute, gentle, playful, and kind, and they were a delight to spend time with. Thank you to Ms. Moran for organizing such a wonderful trip! It was well liked by many, and we learned a lot about the adorable horses!



Top 10 Favorite Lightsabers

By Justin P.

1. Youngling Slayer 9000 (Anakin Skywalker)
2. The Darksaber
3. Crossguard Lightsaber
4. Saber Staff (Double Blade)
5. Inquisitor Spinning Blade
6. Mace Windu's purple lightsaber
7. Ahsoka Tano's white lightsabers
8. Darth Maul's cane lightsaber
9. Luke Skywalker's green lightsaber
10. Count Dooku's lightsaber



Best Baseball Players of the '90s

By Callahan R.

1. Ken Griffey Jr.
2. Greg Maddux
3. Derek Jeter
4. Barry Bonds
5. Cal Ripken Jr.
6. Frank Thomas
7. Mike Piazza
8. Alex Rodriguez
9. Randy Johnson
10. Pedro Martinez



Hugs



- 😊 Pigs
- 😊 Jack the Horse
- 😊 Meow Meow
- 😊 Ms. Blakemore
- 😊 Skipping School

&

Hits



- 😞 stubbing your toe
- 😞 Trump
- 😞 School Work
- 😞 Return to Learn
- 😞 Bugs

Poetry Corner

April
By Len M.

*The Rebirth of the color green,
The Time of blooming flowers,
The Return of the sun,
A goodbye to the cloudy skies,
A welcoming of spring!*



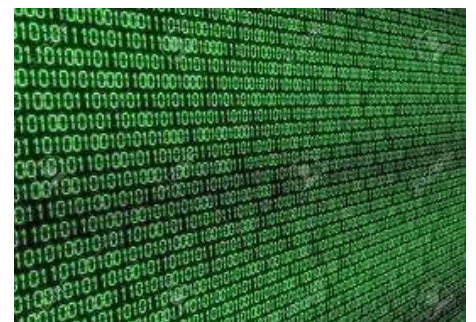
How to Protect Yourself in the age of Digital Surveillance

Patrick L.

- Read the Privacy Policy of any sites you visit. It may be long, but there is usually a table of contents that you can use to find the most important parts.
- Use a VPN.
- Cover up any webcams on your computer.
- Don't post any pictures of yourself online.
- Avoid sites such as Facebook, which are notorious for stealing your data and selling it to advertisers.
- Reject as many cookies as possible.
- Reject any request for personalized ads.
- Make use of any antivirus software you have.
- Pay attention to lock icon at the far left of your search bar. If it's replaced with text saying "not secure", leave the site.
- If all else fails, turn off the internet.



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You are Being Watched

By Patrick Lekus

Companies and governments are always watching normal people - here's what to know about it.

Surveillance for Profit

If you've ever seen an online product ask to enable cookies or personalized ads, this is because the company wants your data. Liam Hanham, a data science manager at Workday, an American software company, says that companies use "a cornucopia of collection methods and sources to capture and process customer data on metrics, with interest in types of data ranging from demographic data to behavioral data".

Businesses typically use your data to improve customer experience and engagement, refine the marketing strategy of the business, or to transform your data into a cash flow. The last use in particular is very common and also the most worrying. Data brokers are data service providers that buy and sell information on individuals, and have risen as a major industry alongside big data.

Your personal information is extremely valuable to advertisers, and they'll pay large amounts of money for it, which makes the demand for data grow. You might think that there are surely restrictions in place to stop this from happening, but these restrictions are very sparse - and your government wants this to happen.

Surveillance for Political Power

Dating back to the World Wars and wartime censorship, the United States is no stranger to mass surveillance. Federal agencies such as the FBI have been wiretapping and logging postal mail for decades. Albert Einstein, who was anti-war and opposed nuclear proliferation, was subject to mail searches and telephone tapping by the FBI in a secret government project aiming to link Einstein to Soviet espionage efforts in order to discredit him and then deport Einstein. The FBI has been keeping a 1,500 page dossier on Einstein for decades, some of which still will not be declassified for another five years.

Another example of an FBI target was John Lennon, a member of the Beatles and an anti-war activist. When Lennon arrived in the United States in 1971 on a visa to meet fellow anti-war activists, the FBI placed him under surveillance as the Federal Government attempted to deport Lennon from the country. This was at a time where opposition to the Vietnam War was at a peak, and Lennon often appeared at anti-war rallies to sing his anti-war song "*Give Peace a Chance*". The FBI continues to keep most of their dossier on Lennon a secret, as they believe releasing most of the contents of it would "lead to foreign diplomatic, economic, and military retaliation against the United States." The FBI has only released a heavily censored version.

In the modern day, the NSA typically buys data from companies to monitor worldwide individuals. The PRISM program in particular is an NSA program to collect information online. This includes emails, chats, file transfers and more from people using providers such as Microsoft and Google. These companies give the NSA data from worldwide customers.



MORE Star Wars Movies?!!

By Justin P.

Well, it had to happen sooner or later. At Star Wars Celebration 2023, many new trailers and announcements for future Star Wars projects were revealed.

I'm excited for most of these projects, but the one I'm kinda having trouble wrapping my head around is the announcement that Rey is getting her own movie. Now, when it comes down to it, I did not like the Disney Sequel Trilogy. I thought a lot of aspects of those films were poorly-written and I did not care for a majority of the characters. The character I dislike the most has to be Rey. Rey is a perfect example of how not to write a character. She goes through no struggles over the course of these movies. Her achievements when it comes to being a Jedi are very unrealistic, and her character arc was lame and uninteresting.

At the end of *The Rise of Skywalker*, Rey had defeated her "grandfather", the Sith Lord Darth Sidious and peace was restored to the galaxy once again. From that point onward, that was where her story ended. Now, there were many fans out there who speculated on the topic that Rey could have started to rebuild the Jedi Order after the events of the Sequel Trilogy and it now appears that those theories are correct, because with this new announcement, it has been confirmed. These films will follow a storyline of Rey trying to rebuild the Jedi Order after it was destroyed by Darth Vader and the Empire. Now, besides the fact that these movies are going to be centered around a character I despise, I need to talk about why I'm passionately enraged at the sound of this announcement.

First and foremost, I have to ask: why not make these movies sooner? Why not do these movies but with Luke Skywalker as the one to build the Jedi? Why does it have to be Rey? It's almost as if they're doing this on purpose in order to make Rey seem like a better character. Luke Skywalker was an iconic and legendary figure in pop culture and what they did to him in this sequel trilogy was inexcusable. Luke was a very optimistic person at heart, and it was because of his ability to see the good in people that allowed him to save Darth Vader from the dark side. There is nothing that can tell me that Luke Skywalker would give up and isolate himself on an island because he's too scared to fight. And now, it seems as if he's being replaced by Rey, and I am not happy about it. Rey has done nothing to earn such honor, and it's frustrating seeing what Disney has been doing to these characters. To put it briefly, I'm not excited for these movies in the slightest, but I will go see them when they come out regardless.



STAR WARS



Spring Word Search



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Allergies
Bloom
Flowers
May
SOL

April
Break
Games
Nature
Prom
Splendor



Baseball
Dandelions
Golf
Pigs
Rain
Sun



Bees
Easter
Growing
Pink
Ramadan
Trees

Birds
Fishing
Leaves
Pollen
Renewal
Warm

