

Swift-Boating Edition



Chase Olson



"I plan to attend college and get my degree, and then conquer and take over the world." - Chase Olson

Natapohn Im



"I plan to go back to Thailand to finish school, then attend college back here." - Jenny

Haven Tiberius



"I plan to go work for Ivy Jo Hair Salon" - Reaghan Kline

Rafael Darini



"I plan to go to college for economics, but I am not sure where yet."

Reaghan Kline



"I plan to attend ASU for pre dentistry or behavioral sciences." - Haven Tiberius

St. Patrick's Day

/by Jagger Hurraw/

As many readers are aware, we are already halfway into March, a month underappreciated by most, but widely renowned for college basketball, MLB spring training and above all else: St. Patrick's Day on the 17th. For the uncultured scoundrels who haven't an inkling what this tremendous holiday is, allow me to explain. St. Patrick's Day observes the death of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. What started as a time of religious services and feasting, has evolved into a day of parades, parties and lots of green. While the holiday started in Ireland, it is celebrated globally by Roman Catholics, and anyone who appreciates a bubbling pint o' foam with the lads. Now, you may find yourself wondering, "Well how is this momentous occasion celebrated in other countries?" Is everyone obligated to wear green, or get pinched? Do different countries share celebrations? Most importantly, are Lucky Charms the official cereal of Blarney Stone party goers? Read along to find out!

Ireland - Let's start in the birthplace of this celebration. Generally speaking, festivities near the bigger cities such as Dublin, Cork and Limerick are going to be much more similar to the U.S. However, observance in rural Ireland is nearer to traditional standards. It is comparable to Christmas, with families attending church before returning home for a meal of (typically) Corned Beef and Cabbage.

Argentina - Having the largest St. Patrick's parade in South America is a highly honorable distinction that the Argentinians are proud to hold. They also have the fifth highest population of former Irish in the world.

Montserrat Island - Believe it or not, this small island

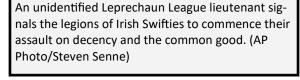
Wednesday, March 20, 2024, Hamilton Community Schools lost one of our own to a terrible tragedy when Senior Leland Lester, 17, was killed in a car crash on Bellefontaine Road. Leland was bright, kind, empathetic, and creative. Most of all, he loved a good joke, and was great fun to have in class, whether as your student or your classmate. A gifted systems thinker, Leland would have made one hekka good geographer. For now, we all hope he is safe, sound, and laughing, in Lelandia. Godspeed, young man.



of less than forty square miles in the Caribbean is the only country in the world to recognize March 17th as a public holiday. Enjoy a beachy island vibe that celebrates this beautiful holiday.

BASEBALL

(BOYS V)



United Kingdom (The British) - Probably drinking tea and making fun of the Irish in snooty accents.

Mexico - Our neighbors to the south celebrate for a different reason. For them, March 17th is a day to remember the soldiers of the San Patricios Battalion, a Mexican army regiment, made up of primarily Irish-Catholic immigrants who deserted the U.S. Army to fight for Mexico in the Mexican-American war. As for celebrations, the attraction is the Mexican St. Patrick's Battalion Pipes & Drums band performing Mariachi music.

SOFTBALL (GIRLS V)		
TRACK & FIELD (V)		
BASEBALL (BOYS V)		
TRACK & FIELD (V)		
BASEBALL (BOYS V)		
SOFTBALL (GIRLS V)		

—S. Wagner

The Evil Icon: Azael's Vessel

/by Dade Beldon/

On December 18th, 1989 in West Reading Pennsylvania, a daemon was released into this plane of existence. The husk she possesses is nothing more than a method of transportation for an evil entity. I am of course referring to the quially known, that it made influences of the ancient spirit Azael, a most powerful daemon. But for the sake of simplicity, I shall refer to the entity in the name given by her parents: Taylor Swift. Many would be surprised to know that "Taylor" wasn't exactly possessed, but rather exchanged a portion of her subconscious for a sliver of glory. The daemon resides deep within her, not letting itself be known. Through careful espionage and reconnaissance, however, I've managed to actually see the creature—a terrifying spectacle, to be sure. Be glad, dear reader, you but read my description of this gruesome fiend, rather than stare into its pitiless, empty eyes.

You see, Taylor Swift was bred to be an icon for young women, and that's precisely what made her a prime target for Azael. He gave her such a fan base, or "Swifties," as they're collomalevolent kind quite simplistic. With this wide of a fan base, so loyal to one person, I can only wonder what Azael's intentions may be with this personal army. It may be possible to overthrow a small city, thus creating a city-state run the legacy of Taylor Swift from our brains, and entirely by Swifties. Such a place would serve as a Black Hole of the spirit, drawing in evil from around the Solar System, into a bottomless well of malevolence, the air filled with hopelessness, despair, and terrible music. What a tragic thing that would be.

So we come to it; what is to be done? We as a Country must rise up and stamp out



this threat before it's too late! We must burn exorcize the great daemon from her bodily form, and banish the ancient malefactor back into the Abyss! And as for the Swifties, military action may be required in the case of a revolution. For now, however, be wary of the one who listens to this daemon's ear-filth. Distance yourself from such debauchery, and stay safe.



Newspaper March Madness Picks:

Wisconsin - Drew Merritt

Wisconsin - Wyatt Temple

UConn - Caleb McMullen

Purdue - Harrison Richter

Creighton - Kylee Hjelm

Oregon - Maddie Nester

St. Peter's - Jagger Hurraw

Wagner - Mr. Wagner

Dune: The Next Star Wars or a 'Dry' Experience?

/by Caleb McMullen/

In 1965, one of the greatest, most influential science fiction classics of all time was] written: Dune, by Frank Herbert. This book and its five sequels paved the way for the modern futurist fiction genre. Many majorly popular books, movies, and television shows have taken inspiration from Dune, both directly and indirectly. From Star Wars to Game of Thrones, the list is endless. As influential as it was, a movie adaptation was inevitable. In 1984, David Lynch directed a version starring Kyle MacLachlan, Patrick Stewart, and Virginia Madsen. Looking back the graphics of the film may seem outdated; however, at the time, it fit right in with the other classics, such as Star Wars and Star Trek.

Recently, a large percentage of major movies coming to theaters have been remakes or remasters of old classics, such as Wonka (2023) and The Batman (2022). Dune: Part One (2021) and Part Two (2024), starring Timothee Chalamet, are no exception to this, but they are certainly some of the better remakes. The movies follow the source material well, but still add their own spin on it, making the movies somewhat unique from the book. One great example of this is following the author's intent by not making the main character, Paul Atreides, out

as a hero. While Paul is not a villain, Herbert wrote his character more as an anti-hero -- no that's not a Swift reference, not everything is about her -- and even wrote the second book specifically to emphasize this point.

While the movies are extremely well written, the actors playing the major parts could have been picked better. In the source material, Paul is a 15 year old boy, and while Chalamet doesn't play this part particularly poorly, a younger actor would have made the movie a better adaptation. Additionally, these movies are way too long to comfortably watch in one sitting. Part One has a 2 hour and 35 minute run time and Part Two is even longer at a staggering 2 hours and 46 minutes. Most moviegoers, myself included, start to lose focus between the exposition and the climax if the rising action takes too long.

Overall, these movies, Dune: Part 1 and Dune: Part 2, may have their upsides and downsides, but they are must-watches for any sci-fi fan, especially those who have read the Dune books. I, and many others, are excitedly awaiting Dune: Part 3, which is predicted to be released within the next few years.

Today's Top Hits

/by Kylee Hjelm/

- 1. Texas Hold'Em, by Beyonce. This song is said to be in the country genre, which is completely false. This song falls under the pop genre and does not hold the same power as a true country song. Lastly, let's be honest, Beyonce can do better.
- 2. **Lovin In Me**, by Jack Harlow. Still sitting at number two on our list, this song falls into the hip hop category. While it is still one of Harlow's most popular songs, he has some better works.
- 3. Lose Control, by Teddy Swims. Teddy Swims is now on an uprise with this pop hit from last year. It is no surprise that he is on a rise with a voice like an angel and a beautiful rasp to his song. I'm sure there will be more to come from this amazing artist.
- 4. Carnival, by Kanye West and Ty Dolla \$ign (ft. Rich the Kid and Playboi Carti). Kanye West is officially back in the rapping business and he cannot be canceled. After a long wait, West finally dropped the new album and this masterpiece is a part of it. This song is goosebumps-worthy, with the vocal layering and bass effects. This song is 100% worth the listen, as well as the rest of the album.
- 5. **Beautiful Things,** by Benson Boone. This song is on the pop side of genres, and is one of his more lively songs. The song starts with a slower beat and progressively meets an upbeat sound. If you were not a fan of Boone's more depressing songs I recommend giving this song a try.









Hall Pass: Swift Boating

/by Fuzzy and Bojangles/



Her carbon footprint is terrible. She spends a lot of money in the wrong places.

- Ms. Wallace



She rearranged the face of music as a whole; she gave it buck teeth, a black eye, and a bad nose job. - **The Leprechaun**

She is almost worse than I am. - MADdie Nester



"Get off my lawn!"
- Kelly Shafer

She has ruined the NFL. MY beautiful NFL.

- Jagger Hurraw



Her planes polluted the environment, which affected my legs.

- Aidan Lingo



I'm afraid to answer because Hamilton Swifties might come after me.

- Mrs. Richter



St. Patrick's Day Fun Facts

March 17 is not Saint Patrick's birthday, St. Patrick's Day observers who might have thought they were celebrating the saint's birthday will be surprised to learn that March 17, 461 AD is actually the day he died.

1.) Everyone should be wearing blue, not green

Blue was actually the color that was most associated with Patrick and green was considered unlucky. Blue is still considered symbolic of Ireland — so how did green become the go-to hue for those who don't want to get pinched?

2.) Corned beef and cabbage is an American invention

Yes, it's true! The classic St. Patrick's Day dish — made with chopped meat, potatoes and fried onions — didn't originate in Ireland at all. While ham and cabbage were traditional Irish fare, corned beef became a more affordable alternative for Irish Americans, per History.com.

3.) His real name was Maewyn Succat, Yes, you read that correctly. That was his name until he changed it to Patrick when he became a bishop.





MADdie's Mad, Mad World

This universe has a ton of people considered evil that have made people scared, mad, and uncomfortable. There are too many villains to cover, so today we are going to focus on one of the top dogs on the devil's shoulder: Taylor Swift. She has been one of the biggest celebrities lately because of the sort of cult she has amassed. The Swifties are what they call themselves, they are willing to do anything for Taylor and it's getting out of hand.

There is a new phrase, "The Taylor Effect." This effect is made when someone sees Swift wear or use something and they think that they need it too. If she were to commit a crime, I bet crime rates would soar. We all need to enter a new era and forget about Taylor's version of this one. Here are some of the crazy things that Swift's fans would do for her:

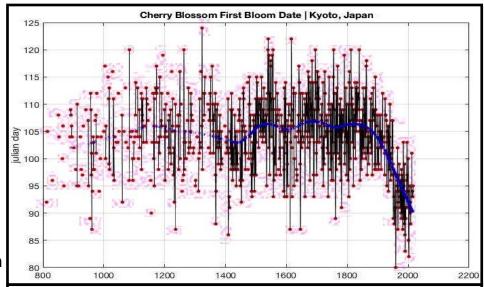
- "I would be willing to end Mason Moughler to be Taylor Swift's best friend."-Gianna Ceci
- "I would give up my beauty upkeep to go to a Chiefs game with Taylor."-Ms. Wallace
- "I would sell my soul for Taylor Swift."-Lilli Dager
- "Let's just say no one is safe."-Haven Tiberius

Cherry Blossoms Signal Spring Fully Sprung in Japan

/by Mr. Wagner/

Although we here in NE Indiana must wait until May 19th to enjoy the Cherry Blossom Festival, now being hosted by Purdue Ft. Wayne (https://www.cherryblossomfw.com/), flowering comes much earlier in the milder, ocean-influenced climate of the Japanese archipelago. The Japan Meteorological Corporation's (JMC) latest forecast expects Cherry Blossom season to begin in the Kyoto-Osaka area by March 27th (https://n-kishou.com/corp/news-contents/sakura/? lang=en&). Kyoto, the ancient capital (794-1868 CE) of Japan, offers a rare glimpse of long-term cultural records, with blossoming dates first collected by the Imperial Court all the way back in 812 A.D.

Today, Cherry Blossom Festivals sweep across Japan in stages as spring unfolds from Okinawa in the south to Hokkaido in the north, attracting millions of tourists to the mountainous country every year. For those planning a trip, two primary factors come into play: sunlight and warmth. Although hours of daylight varies only slightly from year to year, temperature check on to variations from one spring to the next have always challenged could just the planning skills of nature seekers headed to Japan. Further, May 19th!



Data is from the Kyoto area only, for the years 812-2021 CE, with continuous data from about 1350 CE. The solid line is the 20-yr running mean (average). The 3-yr span, 2022-24, has seen even earlier blooms than the 20-yr average, so the current avg. date would be slightly lower (earlier) than shown here.

https://www.sciencealert.com/japan-s-cherry-blossoms-burst-into-color-sooner-than-they-have-in-1-200-years

seasonal timing (see graph), as warmer temperatures have been arriving ever earlier—about 2.5 weeks earlier compared to 1900 (in Kyoto).

If you hope to stroll among the blossoms one day, be sure to check on the JMC's forecast before planning your trip—or you could just save time and money by joining the fun at PFW on