

THE HAWKINGTON

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2020

Herndon Middle School, Herndon, Virginia

Post



MUSIC

KANYE WEST DOES OPERA!

By: Abdullah M

(Summarized from the original article "Kanye West: Nebuchadnezzar review – rapper's first opera is a giant folly.")

Rock and pop artists tend to tread very carefully around the issue of classical music. Paul McCartney waited for 30 years of his career to pass – by which time he was thoroughly established as one half of the most successful songwriting partnership in history – before presenting his first oratorio to the world. Billy Joel and Elvis Costello similarly allowed 30 years to elapse before announcing that they had written classical pieces.



Sheck Wes in Kanye West's opera Nebuchadnezzar.

You can understand their reticence – the classical establishment is sniffy, even brutal, about pop artists chancing their arm in the world of chamber orchestras, librettos and movements in C minor – but they're not made of the same stuff as Kanye West, who blithely announced he'd written an opera, which would be premiering at the 17,500-capacity Hollywood Bowl in seven days' time, a couple of weeks after releasing his album *Jesus Is King*. Here was evidence that West's belief in himself as not merely "the greatest artist that God has ever created" but a polymath genius who can turn his hand to anything remains undimmed by a muted response to a number of ventures. The people who

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SPORTS

2020 College Football Playoff

By Brody B

This was certainly a year to remember in the college football world. From the year starting with Clemson's then freshman quarterback Trevor Lawrence obliterating Alabama by a score of 44-16 in the 2019 National Championship, and ending with Heisman Trophy winning quarterback Joe Burrow from LSU having an eight touchdown game against Oklahoma to send the tigers into the National Championship in 2020.

The College Football Playoff was set. The four top teams in the country, according to the committee of analysts that selected them. Number 1,



Trevor Lawrence

LSU. Number 2, Ohio St. Number 3, Clemson, and number 4, Oklahoma. The first of the two games on December 28th would be the Chick-fil-a Peach Bowl, pitting the LSU Tigers and the Oklahoma Sooners in a game that was decided in the first quarter. Like I mentioned earlier, Joe Burrow would have eight touchdowns. Three came in the first quarter, and LSU was already routing Oklahoma 21-7. But LSU was nowhere near done for the first half. They continued to score four touchdowns in the second quarter, to have the lead by a whopping score of 49-14 at the half.

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POLITICS

By Noah E

Are we on the brink of World War III?



Tensions are at an all-time high between Iran and the U.S. What began as a series of retaliations have escalated as social media is claiming World War Three is coming. America and Iran have not had diplomatic relations since 1980 and the only form of communication comes from Switzerland and Pakistan. Iranian and U.S relations began in the mid to late-nineteenth-century when Iran was known to the west as Persia, Iran was wary against Russia and the U.K (Both U.S allies) and America was seen as the more trustworthy foreign power, even when Iran was invaded by the Soviet Union and the U.K Iran and the U.S remained on friendly terms. In 1953 when The CIA and MI6 aided the coup d'état (Known in the West as Operation Ajax) of Mohammad Mo-

saddegh, which began an era of very close reliance and friendship, Iran was turning



into Americas closest ally. This all changed suddenly in 1979 when the Iranian Revolution also known as the Islamic Revolution. The U.S claims that the worsening of relations was due to the 1979-81 Hostage crisis when Iran held 52 American diplomats and civilians for 444 days. Iran attributes the sour turn to Islamic Revolution on one side and

American ignorance. Since 1955 America had an embargo on all Iranian trade but in 2015 The U.S led successful negotiations to lift the embargo and give back Irans money if Iran disables its nuclear weapons. Then Donald Trump withdrew from the nuclear deal and re-imposed the sanctions further worsening the conflict. And now tensions are at an all-time high due to the Persian Gulf Crisis of 2019-2020. That is the story of the conflict between Iran and the U.S.



MOVIES

By Sidney I and Madi L



THE FIRST ROMANCE MOVIE

The first romance movie was called *The Mary Irwin Kiss*, it was 18 seconds long and was made in the 1890s. It became the most popular film of the year and the first in a long line of romantic cinema.

ROMANCE MOVIES BACK THEN

Years later the movie *Gone with the Wind* came out in 1939, it was about a man and woman who fell in love during the American civil war and reconstruction periods. Over the years movies like *Shall We Dance* (1937), *Barefoot In The Park* (1967), *It Happened One Night* (1934) and cc all had a common theme of finding true love with a problem in the way.

ROMANCE MOVIES BACK NOW

Recent movies like *Always Be My Maybe* (2019), *Isn't it romantic* (2019), *The Sun Is Also A Star* (2019), *Five Feet Apart* (2019) and *The Notebook* (2004) Romance movies now are usually quite similar with a theme of childhood sweethearts or with a kind of love at first sight theme to them



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George Washington's Birthday

By Danny S

With the new year comes the brand new holidays of 2020, not to mention the new decade. One of the very first holidays we will be seeing near the beginning of the year is President's Day, celebrating Mr. George Washington's birthday. President's Day is celebrated annually in the United States, on the fourth Monday in February. It being a school holiday, another reason to skip school, we ought to know more about this holiday. More specifically President Washington himself! Let's journey back; it all started almost 300 years ago...

A new man is born! On February 22, 1732, Washington was born, in Westmoreland County, Virginia. Not many people know that he was not actually born on president's day. Back then, Great Britain (along with all of the colonies) was using the Julian Calendar, so back then, his birthday would've been on February 11, 1731. Then, when Britain and the colonies adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1752, it moved a year and eleven days, to now February 22nd, 1732.

He was born the oldest child of Mary Ball and Augustine Washington's six. Augustine was a successful man, who acquired land and slaves, and grew tobacco but died when George was only 11, in 1743. Mary then took over the running of the family and the large plantation. However, very little is known of Washington's childhood and early life, except that he was home-schooled from 7 to 15 years old, in the normal subjects



of the time.

George started work as a land surveyor, and soon became the head of one of Virginia's most famous and luxurious estates, Mount Vernon, at 20. Then, he became a Major in the Virginia Military



where he played crucial roles in the French and Indian war, and was very successful as a military man. He married Martha Curtis in 1759, bringing in two of her children from a previous marriage to their house, John and Martha. Both of the children passed away, Martha just prior to the war, and John during. From there he was appointed general and commander-in-chief of the Continental Army taking them to battle against the British and winning, becoming an independent country. With a country needs a leader, and the colonial Americans wondered what to do in terms of government. They settled on presidency, which Washington took, inaugurated in 1789. George died at Mt Vernon in 1799 at the age of 67.

George Washington's life at a glance. Were he still here today, he would be turning 288 years old. Old as he is, we will never forget this founding father, the commander who won the Revolutionary War, the first president of our United States of America.

**He would be 288
years old this
February!**



T R A V E L



KENYA SAFARI! By Nahomy F

Have you ever seen those movies about Africa and marvel at the beautiful scenery, the wild life, the animals roaming around, the mountains, the planes, the lakes, the rivers? Many of us have! But... how can we go there? Where exactly do we go? What can we see there? Relax. We can start with the awesome country of Kenya! A safari to Kenya!

This country is a popular safari destination with interesting, enthralling and sometimes not too well-known Kenya safari facts. It is the home of African safari, and it offers up-close observation of some of the most magnificent animals in the world, meandering across its grassy savannah. With its breathtaking views, amazing wildlife, vibrant culture, and diverse flora, nothing beats a safari holiday in Kenya.

Kenya's wildlife is unrivaled in terms of variety of species. Other than the Big Five that draw millions of eager visitors to the country, we have hippos, cheetahs, an assortment of snake and bird species as well as the world's last remaining, northern white rhinos. A Kenya balloon safari is a luxurious way to explore the most scenic national parks and game reserves; including the Masai Mara National Reserve. It is also the best way to experience the great Wildebeest migration, considered one of the 8 wonders of the world.

Other than being famous for spotting the "Big Five" and the Big Cats, Masai Mara is the arena of the majestic wildebeest migration. The Mara wildebeest migration has been dubbed one of the 8 wonders of the world. Every year, millions of wildebeest, zebras, and other animals migrate from the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania to the Masai Mara in Kenya in search of pastures and water. The migration creates a great spectacle as the herbivores like zebras and wildebeest are hunted, stalked and run down by larger carnivores and in the end, only the most resilient survive. Despite the killing, millions still make it across the Mara River only to make the same journey back to Serengeti in three months. Can you imagine having to risk your life again? Poor herbivores!



So, what are you waiting for? Plan your safari to Kenya soon! It might be a little pricey, but if you save up a bit, you could find yourself taking a selfie with some rhinos behind you. Now, that would be cool!



Porter Cake Irish Traditional Cooking

450g (1lb) plain white flour pinch of salt
1 teaspoon baking powder
225g (8oz) caster or brown sugar
½ teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
½ teaspoon mixed spice 225g (8oz) butter
450g (1lb) sultanas
55g (2oz) chopped peel
55g (2oz) crystalized cherries 300ml
(10fl oz) porter or stout
2 eggs, free-range if possible

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F/gas mark 4. Line the bottom and sides of a 20cm (8in) cake tin, 7.5cm (3in) deep, with greaseproof paper. Sieve the flour, salt and baking powder into a bowl. Add the sugar, freshly grated nutmeg and mixed spice. Rub in the butter. Add the fruit, then mix the porter with the beaten eggs. Pour into the other ingredients and mix well. Turn into the lined tin and bake for about 2½ hours. Cool in the tin, then store in an airtight tin.

Traditional st patrick's day food

Representative traditional Irish dishes include Irish stew (made with lamb, mutton, or beef), bacon and cabbage (with potatoes), boxty (potato pancake), coddle (sausage, bacon, and potato), colcannon (mashed potato, kale or cabbage, and butter), and, in Ulster, the soda farl..

Most Favorited dishes in ireland

1. The Full Irish. ...
2. Chicken fillet Roll. ...
3. Irish Stew. ...
4. Bacon and Cabbage (Pint of milk optional) ...
5. Brown Bread. ...
6. Waterford Blaa. ...
7. Colcannon. ...
8. Boxty.





Why do we give chocolates on Valentines Day?

Written by Harper F

Chocolate is considered aphrodisiac food since the time of Aztecs. Chocolate is said to contain substance that inflames desire and make the beloved one more open to romance. In olden days, this resulted in the tradition in European royalty to give their lovers chocolates mixed with amber to stimulate their love.

♥ **HAPPY**
Valentine's
DAY ♥

CANDY HEARTS

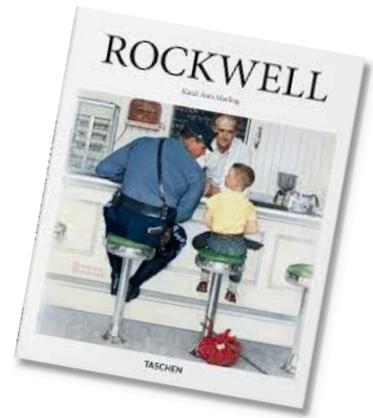
By Harper F

Remember those candy hearts that used to have those messages saying I love you or your cute, Well last year it was official that the company that made them was bought out by BRACH'S. So many people were sad because it was the best valentine exchange candy. Well this year as I was shopping for valentine cards I saw them. But they were not the original. They were Brach's brand. They are not the original but they stil do make them





By Bilen A



INTERVIEW

MR. JORDAN CITRON

Art Teacher

Why do you think art is important in school and today's society?

Art is an outlet for many students, especially those who may struggle in other courses. One of the signs of a successful culture is its awe-inspiring art and architecture.

How did you first discover your passion for art?

I remember as far back as first grade some classmates asking for me to draw them Lamborghinis. There was also an artist at the end of our cul-de-sac that would let me draw with chalk pastels on large format paper. I used to ride my bike back to my house somehow carrying what I had just created.

What are your favorite types of art?

My favorite mediums to teach are painting and clay. Those are generally the two favorite of students, which make them my favorite to teach. I really like working with resin and painting on my own.

What do you consider your greatest accomplishments in art?

Becoming an art teacher.

Who are your top two painters/designers/sculptures? Why?

Norman Rockwell, because he conveys expressions in his paintings unmatched by any other artist. Also, Rene Magritte, because he explored surrealism and

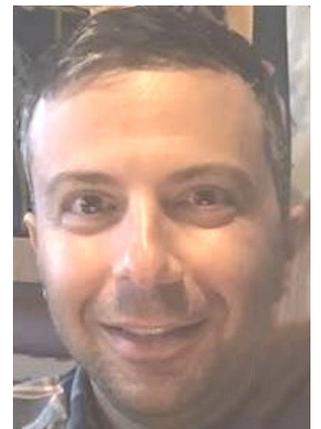
showed that the impossible was in fact possible.

How can schools promote the appreciation of art?

By not sidelining art in favor of "core" classes. Having artwork prominently displayed in halls and in the main office also helps with advocacy, as does students producing great works to be displayed in schools or at art shows.

What would you recommend someone interested in pursuing a career in arts or humanities?

To take as many art courses as possible, inside and outside of school. This will help students narrow down their focus for college.



GAMING

By Ben F



The best and most popular virtual reality games right now are:

- No Man's Sky VR - ps vr
- Defector - oculus rift and rift s
- Superhot VR - oculus, windows and psvr
- Vader Immortal - oculus quest
- Space Pirate Trainer - oculus, windows and htc vive
- Fallout 4 VR - htc vive
- Beat Saber - all platforms
- Astro Bot: Rescue Bot - ps vr
- Tetris Effect - ps vr
- Skyrim VR - all platforms
- Moss - ps vr
- Rec Room - all platforms
- Elite: Dangerous VR - oculus rift, htc vive
- Keep Talking and Nobody Explodes - all platforms
- Rick and Morty Simulator: Virtual Rick-ality - all platforms
- Resident Evil 7: Biohazard - ps vr
- Batman: Arkham VR - all platforms
- Minecraft VR - windows, oculus rift, gear vr
- Eve: Valkyrie - most platforms
- Star Trek: Bridge Crew - most platforms
- Lucky's Tale - oculus rift



The Oculus Rift S and Oculus Quest and Playstation VR are great choices for a virtual reality headset. There are differences for each VR, for example the Oculus Quest is portable, but the Rift has to be hooked up to a PC and the Playstation VR has to be attached to your Playstation. The Oculus Quest is for people who are new to VR or don't have a PC or a Playstation. The Oculus Rift S is for PC users and more advanced players. The playstation VR is for, well, Playstation users.



There are exclusive games and accessories for each of the virtual reality HEADSETS!



SPORTS

By Brody B

2020 College Football Playoff

Continued from page 1.

Wide receiver Justin Jefferson had four touchdowns, a Peach Bowl record. Joe Burrow also broke the record for Peach Bowl touchdown passes in the first 20 minutes of the game. The game was clearly over. In the second half, a few more touchdowns were scored and LSU won by a score of 63-28.

Now it was time for the fun. Clemson vs. Ohio St. 2 vs. 3. The game started as a blowout in favor of Ohio St., thanks to a JK Dobbins Touchdown and some Blake Haubeil field goals, but quickly turned around. Clemson running back Travis Etienne scored to make it a 16-7 game, and quarterback Trevor Lawrence turned on the wheels for a 67 yard touchdown to bring the tigers within 2 at the half. Clemson didn't cool down in the third quarter. With a 53 yard pass, Clemson took the lead at 21-16.

Ohio St. wasn't done, though. With a touchdown early in the fourth, they regained the lead at 23-2, but with 1:49 to go in the game, the tigers drove down the field and scored to make it a 29-23 game. On the last drive of the game, Ohio St. had a chance, but Justin Fields was intercepted and the Clemson Tigers advanced to play LSU for a national title.

So there it was. Tigers vs. Tigers for all the marbles. Clemson struck first with a touchdown by Trevor Lawrence, but LSU struck right back with a 52 yard pass by Joe Burrow. The back and forth ness would continue in the second quarter, with Clemson going up 17-7 but LSU then taking a 28-17 lead at the half. Early in the third quarter, Clemson made it a 3 point game with a 3 yard run and a 2-point conversion, but LSU started to draw away, with a touchdown pass caught by LSU tight end Thaddeus Moss, the son of NFL legend Randy Moss. LSU would just score more and more until they led by a score of 42-25. They would hold on and deliver the school their first title since 2007.

A cheating scandal

The MLB has discovered that the Houston Astros had been cheating on their 2017 season, when they won the World Series. The MLB suspended their manager, AJ Hinch, and their General Manager, Jeff Luhnow, for a full season because of this. However, Astros owner Jim Crane opted to fire the two instead. The Astros allegedly set up a camera in centerfield, which was focused on the opposing catcher. The footage from the camera would show up on a monitor in a hallway near the locker room, manned by either a player or staff member. If an off-speed pitch was coming, the person at the monitor would loudly bang a trash can to let the batter



know. The setup was revealed in a documentary about their 2017 championship team. The New York Mets hired for-



mer Astros player Carlos Beltran to be their manager this offseason, but after finding out that he was a part of the scandal, they fired him. The Astros didn't seem to be the only ones, though. The Boston Red Sox are now being investigated for sign-stealing during their 2018 championship season. Their manager, Alex Cora, was fired. But what about the LA Dodgers, who lost in both of those World Series? Well, the La City Council is now asking the MLB to remove those titles and make them the World Champs. I don't know if that will happen, but we'll see!



Kanye West does Opera!

Continued from page 1.

queue up to buy his trainers seem to have reacted to the news that he was planning on inventing a flying car with an indulgent roll of the eyes. But the feeling that even his fans thought he might be pushing it this time was hard to miss: one US newspaper reported that tickets were still available for the premiere hours before it was due to begin, despite having been slashed in price from \$150 to \$20. Reports from the Hollywood Bowl on the night also suggested West may have overstretched himself.

The show was delayed by two hours, during which time stagehands could apparently be seen frantically building the set. But you didn't need to be present to work out things were happening very much on the fly. Watching at home via the Tidal livestream, you could spot the singers reading from scripts, the fluffed cues that occasionally gave the production a certain Acorn Antiques air. "Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face!" intoned West at one point, but rapper Sheck Wes, in the title role, noticeably failed to fall on any part his anatomy. West tried again: "Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face!" Still Wes remained resolutely upright. After Wes failed to respond for a third time, West gave up and moved on, fighting a fit of the giggles. Perhaps it didn't matter. For anyone without a working knowledge of the Book of Daniel, the plot was pretty hard to follow. There were moments when the choreography seemed to be in chaos. Babylon's siege of Jeru-

salem looked like a cross between a rugby scrum, an exposition of street dance moves and the kind of scuffling leave-it-Barry-he's-not-worth-it fight that often breaks out in Britain's high streets when the pubs chuck out on a Saturday.



A scene from *Nebuchadnezzar*

But there were moments when it was genuinely beautiful, a series of graceful rippling movements. By the time it got round to Shadrach, Meschach and Abednego being cast into the fiery furnace, at least one person watching at home on Tidal would have willingly chucked himself in with them, considering immolation a merciful release from West's reading and Wes's bellowing. Instead, it ended with West commanding the audience to stand and put their hands in the air to praise God. As an opera, *Nebuchadnezzar* wasn't much use. As an act of authentically mind-blowing pop-star folly, it exceeded all expectations.

If it didn't work in artistic terms, as a bulwark against the argument that pop music is devoid of character and spectacle and crazed, foolhardy ambition, *Nebuchadnezzar* worked perfectly.