



The Eagle Eye

March
2019

Luck
is
what happens
when
preparation
meets
opportunity.

-Seneca

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Debunking Common Anti-Vax Theories

By: Roshan Patel

Although it is widely known that vaccines have saved millions of lives and protect individuals against Hepatitis B, measles, meningitis, mumps, and much more, there has been a recent surge in the anti-vaccination movement. Supporters of the anti-vaccination movement believe that vaccines will lead to more harm than good for themselves or their children, and others even believe in conspiracy theories which state that vaccines were made up by the government to stimulate the economy. While these theories may have spread recently, there is only one thing to fight them with: science.

1. Pharmaceutical companies and the government promote vaccinations to make more money.

While it is true that pharmaceutical companies make significant amounts of money from vaccines (about twenty-four billion dollars are made each year), a recent study found that from 1994 to 2013, vaccines saved a total of 295 billion dollars in direct cost and 1.38 trillion dollars in societal costs. While it may be true that some medicines have been taken off shelves because of unexpected and harmful side effects, vaccines are very highly regulated substances, and must undergo many phases of testing before they are deemed as safe. In fact, it can take up to twenty-five years for a vaccine to be approved. Once approved, there is also continuous monitoring of its effects.

2. Vaccines contain numerous dangerous chemicals and substances.

Although vaccines often do contain mercury, aluminum, and formaldehyde, the dosage and quantities of these substances are so small that their effects on the overall health of the human body are essentially negligible. For example, vaccines which include aluminum contain about 0.125 milligrams per dose. However, the average American individual actually consumes about thirty to fifty milligrams of aluminum through food and drink alone. In summary, consuming too much of any one substance can be harmful. For example, consuming too much water can lead to water intoxication, or water poisoning, in which electrolyte balances are thrown off by the spontaneous consumption of water.

3. Vaccinations can cause allergies and autism in kids.

During the late 1990s, many began to question whether there was a connection between allergies and vaccinations, leading many to stop getting vaccinations altogether. However, a study which consisted of 2,100 participants ranging from ages five to six discovered that vaccines actually have a protective effect against allergies instead of creating them in the first place. Another common misconception is that vaccines can cause autism. This was created when a study claimed to have found a correlation between the two. However, the 1998 study that raised concerns about a possible link between measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine and autism was retracted by the journal that published it because it was significantly flawed by bad science.

4. If I don't vaccinate my child, he/she will be okay because everyone else around her/him will be fine."

Even though this statement may seem to make logical sense, vaccines not only protect individuals but the unvaccinated as well. After all, if you are not sick, then you can't spread the disease, especially to the young, elderly, and those who have medical conditions which prevent them from getting vaccinated in the first place. The very premise of vaccinations is based on a concept called herd immunity. Basically, if everyone is protected by the vaccine, it cannot spread and affect others.

The battle against the anti-vax movement is best encapsulated by Ethan Lindenberger, an eighteen-year-old who went against his mother's wishes and got himself vaccinated. He blamed platforms such as Facebook for spreading misinformation and for

leading his mother to believe that they were made up by the government in an attempt to harm kids. Lindenberger's mother, who loved her son dearly, was fooled into accepting this school of thought and was, in fact, hurting her child. Thus, although the resistance to vaccinations is growing, it is important to keep an open mind as well as use good judgment to make the right decision.



the earth listens

By: Purva Bommireddy

the brightness softens under billowing clouds,
radiance that spills from the mist that shrouds.
the lilacs and ambers emanating in the deep azure twilight,
converging with the tranquil sea at the horizon of night.
upon it casting streaks of gentle phosphorescence
that twinkle faintly in the arriving darkness,
as if embracing their subliminal essence.



the blissful silence is broken by the graceful sound
of neighs emanating within the air and hooves pattering upon the ground.
the silhouette of a mare emerges soon,
fondly caressing her foal as they approach a sandy dune.
both beaten down from their immense journey,
as their search for home was often stony.
the mother lifts her forelimbs as if it was a call to the sky and sea,
echoing motherly love behind a disheartened plea.

let our wearisome travels trace us back to home.

for I bring with me the most valuable existence as I roam.

her fierce affection for the young one gusts through the breeze,
and is carried by rippling currents overseas.

two souls from a lonesome corner of the world become loud,

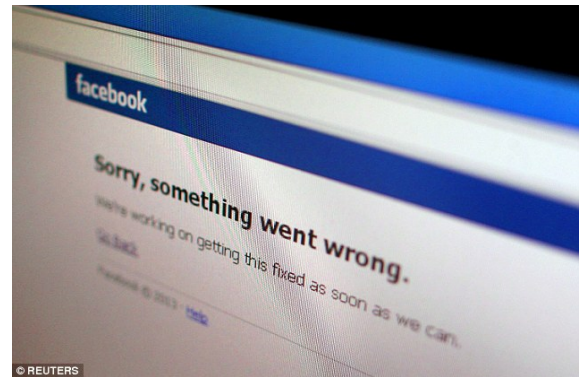
6 reunited with their home by a lonesome cloud.

FACEBOOK GLOBAL OUTAGE

By: Megan Santhumayor

Unresponding networks and “failed to reload” signs reflected from screens as a multitude of users across the globe lost access to social media apps including Facebook, and Facebook-owned Instagram, Messenger, and WhatsApp on Wednesday, March 13. While some initially resorted to blaming weak WiFi connections, it became apparent that the outage was global when Twitter was used as an outlet for the angered customers. It affected approximately 2 billion people worldwide and is possibly the largest outage in Facebook history.

From the onset of the global outage, there were mixed explanations for the event. Among them were a Distributed Denial of Service attack, a routing error, and overloaded databases. The purpose of a DDoS attack is to intentionally bring sites down by disrupting the flow of traffic. An internal source mentioned that the Facebook databases were overloaded and they tried to resolve the issue by spinning up new machines. It turned out to not be caused by the Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) due to a lack of data to support the statement.



Facebook remained relatively reticent throughout the day, only releasing two brief tweets. It did not bode well for the corporation who advertisers heavily rely on, as they lost valuable time. Facebook debated whether or not to give a refund to advertisers. The day after the problems, Facebook's shares dropped about 2 percent. Facebook eventually stated it was caused by a “server configuration change that triggered a cascading series of issues.”

A week before, Facebook announced a project called the Facebook Coin, a cryptocurrency. It is questionable whether customers will trust Facebook Bank after they did not provide a detailed explanation regarding the outage. Although the company was impacted negatively, the instant messaging app Telegram benefited. The public turned to Telegram after being let down by Facebook. A prominent statistic showing this is that over 24 hours after the outage, three million signed up to Telegram. The hashtag #FacebookDown was trending, but service was eventually restored the next day on March 14. It will be interesting to see the next actions that Facebook will take.

Dr. Seuss: The Man Behind the Books Every Child Has Read

By: Adhya Khare

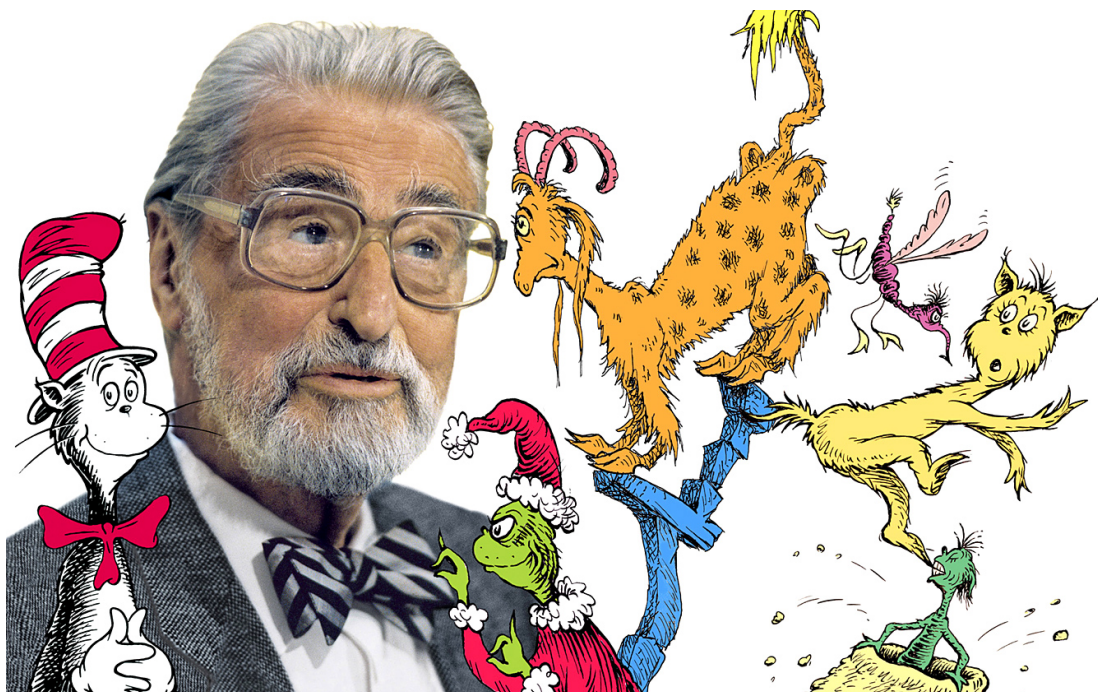
On March 2nd, 2019, Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss, would have celebrated his 115th birthday. Although, he may not be with the world today, the world is still celebrating for him.

Seuss' inclination towards literature began with his frequent trips to the Springfield Zoo. The visits inspired many characters that would later appear in his books. Once Seuss became the superintendent of the zoo, the characters would begin to take shape, as the antlers and horns of the deceased zoo animals became part of Seuss' taxidermy projects.

Later in his life, Seuss attended

Dartmouth College. The highlight of his four years at the university was being a contributor and then editor of the campus' humor magazine, Jack O' Lantern. After an incident with alcohol, Seuss was removed as editor, as this occurred during the early years of Prohibition. However, Seuss continued to contribute to the magazine under various pen names, and it was here where that 'Dr. Seuss' was born.

Seuss began his early career as a cartoonist. His first cartoon, The Saturday Evening Post, was published July 16, 1927, which led him to move to New York. He went on to publish more cartoons in the form of advertisements and political





criticisms. During World War II, he was commissioned by a New York daily newspaper called PM, for whom he would draw over 400 cartoons.

It wouldn't be until after the war that Seuss would begin writing children's books. He went on to publish more than 50 books which were translated into more than 20 different languages and sold more than 600 million copies worldwide.

Seuss unfortunately died on September 24th, 1991; however, his memory is commemorated through the efforts of the National Education Association in the United States. The organization wished to have a national holiday to encourage children all over

America to read. As an honor to Seuss, it was decided to be coincide with Seuss' birthday.

Now, thousands of schools across America celebrate this holiday every year by reading some of Seuss' books in elementary school classrooms, and through this, Seuss' legacy is carried beyond his time.

YOUTH TAKE THE CLIMATE CRISIS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS

By: Purva Bommireddy

The climate crisis facing our planet is not an issue that can be debated or delayed. It is drastically affecting us now, and if we do not act, the consequences will be inexorable. We must prove that as the future of our planet we, the young people, are stronger and more powerful than fossil-fuel industries and the politicians that support them.

Greta Thunberg, 16 year old activist, stepped up with bravery, sick of the inaction of the Swedish government. She school struck for the climate, and now young people all over the world have raised their voices. In the massive, international strike demanding action on the climate crisis in alignment with the Paris Agreement, over two million students across the globe struck and rallied for climate justice on March 15th. While companies are unwilling to change their ways, and when even those who support green initiatives are delaying action, precious moments are slipping away.

Barrels upon barrels of oil are drilled from the earth, carbon is released into the atmosphere inexhaustibly, and the time we will remain below even a two-degree warming target is waning. If adults--the ones who are in control of the government, workforce, and decisions made every day on our planet--do not act, we, as the youth, have no choice but to do so ourselves. We must do it for the sake of our lives and those of future generations. The entire world is at stake because of our actions, and inaction and delay will only intensify the climate crisis.

Thus, we demand sweeping legislation that addresses the climate crisis with the urgency and magnitude of the issue itself. I and masses of students all around the world are fed up with how people have the problem facing them and brim with solutions, how science shows us the reality and our own eyes the severity of this issue, yet so many still refuse to take action. Talking about the issue isn't enough anymore: we need to act. It may seem as though it is a harmless slight increase of the overall climate, but it is the directly human-caused carbon emissions that are trapping greenhouse gases into our atmosphere and bringing our planet to a state of global emergency. We humans, as the ones who are behind all of it, even after seeing the results proven time and time again in front of our own eyes, have decided to continue our ways.

Yet we cannot accuse one another of being immoral. The problem at heart is that the majority of us cannot comprehend the immensity of the problem that climate change is presenting. We would expect to see large scale changes, ones that pop right before our own eyes if it were such a huge problem, right? Why aren't people dying, why don't we hear news about destructive floods due to the rising sea level, and why don't we talk about air pollution suffocating and killing people? The issue is not so simple, and the ones who are being most affected by climate change at the present time are those that we rarely ever think about.

Coral, hidden deep beneath the sea, is delicate and direly affected by the increase of the ocean's rising temperature by just 1 degree Celsius. Masses of coral have been bleaching over the past years, but most of us haven't taken notice. Yet, coral serves as the base for the entire ocean ecosystem, and if it dies, all life in the ocean will dwindle away, with time. The time that we cannot lose.

But the consequences of human actions have brought us to a worse situation than even this. The extinction rate is absolutely abnormal, between 1,000 and 10,000 times higher than normal. It has brought us to the point of a sixth mass extinction, with up to



200 species that go extinct every day, a number that will only skyrocket as we continue to pump carbon into our atmosphere. It has taken us to a point where we cannot even discover the existence of a species before it disappears from the face of our planet permanently. And it is only going to increase exponentially.

This is why young people striked from school, and this is the reason why we need to start demanding policy addressing the scale of the issue from our governments. We need action *now*. There is no point in us kids, who are going to be living with the consequences of our leaders' inaction today, to sit in school classrooms learning while politicians are not facing the reality of the situation when they make decisions. We cannot attend school knowing full well that these government officials are determining the future of the world on the basis of personal and political motives and that our generation will have to bear the brunt of this avarice. United, we will fight until we see the change that protects our rights and our future, and we will not stop until the rising climate stops too.

Facing Hate

Anonymous

On the morning of March 15, a shooter opened fire in two New Zealand mosques, leaving 49 dead and many injured. The attacks, motivated by white supremacist beliefs, Islamophobia, and anti-refugee sentiments left a devastating path of destruction. Many were killed during prayer in a country to which many immigrated to avoid brutal wars.

Unfortunately, for many of us today, hearing about a mass shooting is everyday news; scarily, it has become a norm. However, New Zealand's response to the attacks gives us hope that such situations can be properly dealt with.

Prime minister Jacinda Ardern's immediate reaction was to pursue gun control laws while taking a strong stand against hate crimes. By showing undoubted support for the victims, Ardern left no room for conspiracy theories and hate towards the victims. She visited the mosques, prayed with the affected, and spoke with school children traumatised by the attack. What I found especially admirable was giving little attention to the shooter. Often, people commit mass crimes to gain fame and notoriety. Media around the world unfortunately gives criminals the

satisfaction, but Ardern took a better path. In a speech directed towards the whole country, she never uttered the shooter's name. Instead, she urged, to remember the victims and their sacrifices.

Within a week of the attack, New Zealand passed new gun control laws. Assault rifles and other semi-automatic weapons are now banned, and civil gun licenses have stricter regulations. The population supports the gun laws; in fact, many voluntarily turned in firearms after the attacks.

Although New Zealand has different laws than the United States, the response to a single mass shooting puts our country to shame. Every month, there are about twenty-five shootings, which have left about forty dead and many more injured. These situations are simply addressed with thoughts and prayers. The response to the tragedy in New Zealand shows what is possible when the government comes together to fight hate. Perhaps it will inspire Americans to advocate for stricter gun control laws. The Christchurch attacks remind us to appreciate diversity and advocate peace in our world. As Ardern urged in her speech, we should appreciate

the victims. Below are their names. Hopefully, we can remember their sacrifices and aim to make a difference in our own country.



Abdukadir Elmi
 Abdul Fattah Qasem
 Ahmed Abdel Ghani
 Ali Elmadani
 Amjad Hamid
 Ansi Alibava
 Ashraf Ali
 Ashraf Al-Masri
 Ashraf Morsi
 Asif Vora
 Atta Elayyan
 Daoud Nabi
 Farhaj Ahsan
 Ghulam Husain
 Hafiz Musa Vali Patel
 Hamza Mustafa
 Haroon Mehmood
 Hosne Ahmed
 Hussain al-Umari
 Hussein Moustafa
 Junaid Kara/Ismail
 Kamel Mohamad Kamel Darweesh
 Karam Bibi
 Khaled Mustafa
 Linda Armstrong

Maheboob Khokhar
 Matiullah Safi
 Mohammed Imran Khan
 Omar Faruk
 Mohsen Mohammed Al Harbi
 Mojammel Hoq
 Mounir Suleiman
 Mucad Ibrahim
 Lilik Abdul Hamid
 Abdus Samad
 Musa Nur Awale
 Naeem Rashid
 Osama Adnan Abu Kweik
 Ozair Kadir
 Ramiz Vora
 Sayyad Milne
 Sohail Shahid
 Syed Areeb Ahmed
 Syed Jahandad Ali
 Talha Rashid
 Tariq Omar
 Zakaria Bhuiya
 Zakaria Bhuiya
 Muhammad Haziq bin Mohd Tarmizi
 Mohamad Moosi Mohamedhosen

helpless

By: Adhya Khare

I look at you and my heart tears up.
You avoid my eyes and tell me nothing,
as helplessness overcomes me.

Your eyes that hold no joy
make clouds of ink
that shroud you in dark haze.

Your soul is an oak tree,
growing with you all these years,
but now each leaf is falling down
leaving your trunk bare.

Your tears are hidden behind your pride,
but your lion is licking his wounds.

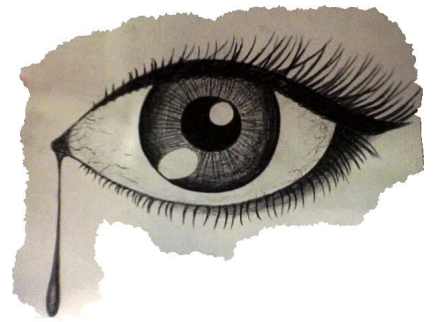
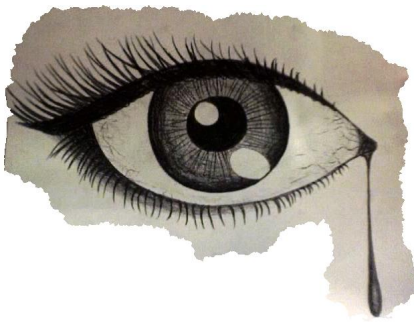
I try to say words
to shine on your wilted roots,
but nothing makes your tree bloom.

You're stuck in winter,
but around you is spring.

Years have gone by,
but your leaves haven't grown back.

It's frustrating, I know,
because my reflection has become yours.

We look the same way,
with only a mirror between us.



The College Admissions Scandal: A Breakdown

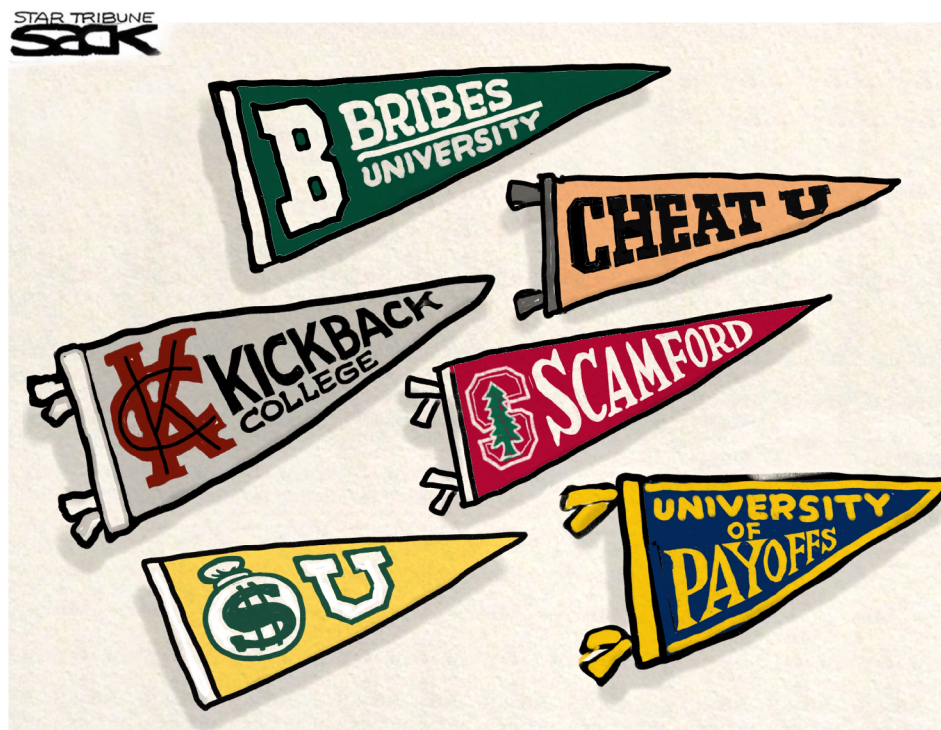
By: Avinash Kumar

For the last few weeks, the recent college admission scandal has been plastered across the front-page of nearly every major news publication. This scandal shines light on a recent development in the high school struggle, showcasing the unscrupulous tactics the top 1% are utilizing to secure college seats. Here's a look at the most important points and developments in the ongoing case, as well as implications regarding the future of college admissions.

- The U.S. Attorney in the District of Massachusetts charged 50 people in federal court as part of a long-running, nationwide conspiracy to illicitly gain admission for high school students to top colleges and universities.
- Many parents apparently paid \$200,000 and up to \$6.5 million to have their children admitted to various college and universities.
- Parents of high school students allegedly paid about \$25 million total to help their children get admitted to various colleges and universities.
- Television stars Felicity Huffman (*Desperate Housewives*) and Lori Loughlin (*Full House*, *Fuller House*) were charged as part of the alleged scheme.
- The alleged scheme has been ongoing for years, dating to 2011.
- The allegations include bribing college entrance exam officials to facilitate cheating on college entrance exams such as the SAT and ACT, bribing coaches and administrators to designate applicants as recruited athletes (when they were not athletes) to gain admission to colleges and universities, and using a charitable organization to conceal bribery payments.
- The allegations also include having third parties take classes and exams in place of students and submitting the earned grade as part of the students' college applications and submitting falsified applications for admission that contained fraudulently-obtained exam scores, grades, awards, and athletic activities.
- William "Rick" Singer, based in Newport Beach, California, is the college counselor at the center of the alleged scheme, and apparently had more than 700 clients. There is no indication that all his clients participated in the alleged scheme. Singer

operated the for-profit counseling and admissions company The Edge College & Career Network and the nonprofit organization The Key World Foundation.

- Singer has pleaded guilty to racketeering conspiracy, money laundering, tax conspiracy, and obstruction of justice. He faces up to 65 years in jail and a \$1.25 million fine.
- Singer cooperated with the Justice Department and FBI by wearing a wire, and implicating others named in the indictment. "I am absolutely responsible for it," Singer told U.S. District Judge Rya W. Zobel, according to NBC News. "I put everything in place. I put all the people in place and made the payments directly." Singer was released on \$500,000 bond.
- Among others, the Justice Department alleges that the colleges and universities impacted include Yale, Stanford, Georgetown, Boston University, Northeastern, UCLA, USC, University of Texas at Austin, and Wake Forest.
- USC announced that six student applicants in the current admissions cycle would be denied admission to USC as a result of the admissions scandal. USC also noted that any funds received in connection with the admissions scandal will be used to fund scholarships for underprivileged students.
- Two Stanford University students filed a federal lawsuit in California that alleges the admission scandal has devalued their degree and may adversely impact their career prospects



A Brief History of St. Patrick's Day

By: Rocco Tropea

When it comes to holidays in March, one of the first things that comes to mind is St. Patrick's Day, a day associated with feasts, beer, parades, and of course, the color green. But where did it all start, and who *was* St. Patrick anyway?

St. Patrick is widely venerated by the Irish community due to his work as a missionary in Ireland. Originally born into a wealthy, religious family in Roman Britain during the late 4th century, Patrick was supposedly kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland across the Irish Sea. Working as a shepherd in Ireland, it was during this time that Patrick is said to have sensed his calling from God. Legend has it that Patrick was able to return home thanks to a message from God, which told him of a ship waiting by the coast to take him away. Back at home, Patrick became a priest and returned to Ireland to act as a missionary.

It was during this period when Patrick became widely respected. As the tradition goes, Patrick converted thousands of pagan Irish to Christianity. It is said that he drove all the snakes out of Ireland and taught the concept of the Holy Trinity using a



shamrock. The date of his death, March 17th, would be celebrated by Irish as a way to honor the legendary *Saint* Patrick.

The holiday was originally seen as a calm, holy, religious day to spend time with family and honor St. Patrick, but Irish immigrants in the U.S. widely transformed the holiday over time into a more universal celebration of Irish pride and wild partying, one that was not religiously based. In fact, the original color associated the holiday was originally *blue*, but it was changed to green as a sign of Irish nationalism. Most of the characteristics associated

with the modern St. Patrick's day came from America, but they were adopted by Ireland mainly for the sake of tourists.

St. Patrick's Day celebrations in the U.S. date all the way back to the colonial era of the 1700s, with parades being held in Boston and Chicago. Cities with a large population of Irish immigrants would often hold the largest celebrations, but over time, St. Patrick's Day became a special occasion all over the country and even around the world, a day of fun for both Irish and non-Irish alike.

Whether your idea of St. Patrick's day is parades, corned beef, or booze, the holiday is certainly one that many enjoy. Even those without Irish blood partake in the festivities by wearing green every March 17th. While the holiday has been vastly transformed over the course of hundreds of years, it is still one cherished by many for its excitement, food, and folklore.



Preview of our April Edition

Quick Take: 9-1, 9-2, ... 9-3?

The administration has taken student opinion into account this year and decided to enroll an Academy high of 63 students in the class of 2023. This is an interesting move for sure. Our school seems too small to host so many freshmen. We barely have seats on half-days. Plus, how will scheduling work with three classes?

While this leaves us with many questions, it does give a sense of relief for incoming students. Small class size has generally been a concern among students at the Academy. With a larger student body, the freshmen will have an easier time finding their group of people and hobbies. What is yet to see is whether this affects the Academy family dynamic our school advertises so often.

Check out our next issue, featuring an interview with administration about the third freshman class.





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